

# INFORMATION EXCHANGE



**MELBOURNE  
GIRLS GRAMMAR**  
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL

WINTER 2017





# CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL



## **Lots has been written about wellbeing. It's a bit of a buzz word actually. But what does wellbeing really mean and why do we care?**

In thinking about this article I asked dozens of people in the Melbourne Girls Grammar community what they thought wellbeing meant to them. The answers were many and varied. Some talked about spending time with those they loved, others about feeling connected to nature. Many described feeling wellness while doing yoga, meditating or through spiritual reflection. Some described satisfaction through a job well done or through the pleasure of planning something purposeful in their future. Personally I feel a sense of wellbeing when I am working with a diverse group of people in harmony for a common cause. However, it is very clear that wellbeing means different things to different people.

So in the context of education how can we define, foster and encourage a sense of wellbeing in the girls in our care? The dictionary describes wellbeing as a state of health, happiness and a sense of prosperity. Just as health is no longer defined as the absence of disease, wellbeing is a rounded concept that includes more than just a

current state of being but a sense of hope and possibility for the future. A society peopled with citizens who are present, engaged and actively contributing to improving both themselves and the lives of others is a well society.

Every parent and every teacher knows that a bright child distracted by anxiety, depression or lack of engagement will never reach their full potential. The pressures to perform are universally rising as students vie for ever more competitive post-school positions. So at MGGS we are actively engaging with these issues and putting health and wellbeing very firmly at the centre of our educational intent. Our Principal, Catherine Misson, and her team have built an exciting and forward-thinking Senior Years Program that has its physical incarnation in the newly opened Artemis Centre. This program is preparing them to be academically, emotionally and socially ready for the pace and complexity of their post-school lives.

Our current Year 9 girls are part of a progressive, preventative and education-based wellbeing program that empowers them to understand what underpins good health, so that they set and pursue goals to ensure their wellbeing is a priority. Importantly our girls are learning to take responsibility for their wellbeing and developing the skills to manage their own healthy life program after leaving school. School is an important place to learn – but at MGGS we believe that preparedness for life beyond the school gates involves more than just academic pursuits. That is why girls who graduate from MGGS continue to be ethical women of action. We are excited that we continue to strive to give them the best and most well-rounded start to their careers ahead. We believe that the lifelong gift of an MGGS education will help foster health, happiness and prosperity now and into the future.

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

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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL



**One of my favourite activities is gate duty in the mornings. Girls come scurrying or leisurely to school, managing to balance multiple bags with coffees or milk shakes they picked up at Domain on the way. Parents smile, wave and sometimes have a quick minute to stop for a chat. I get to hear what's on, what's not so hotly anticipated, and even what went wrong on the way out their door that day.**

There is perfect uniform, the misplaced white or brown sock brigade, the blazer is in my locker crew, and the sporty legion coming off the Tan or from Fawkner Park rushing for showers and period 1. All in all, it's a rumbling, humanly diverse, and ever interesting community of people entering 86 Anderson St for another day together. I always walk back to my office energized by the wonder of all of us choosing to be here at Melbourne Girls Grammar.

Choice. That freedom within boundaries that engages the mind and heart of a young person. To authentically have choices gives respect to a young person, acknowledging they have agency to influence their experience. "Choice and Challenge" is the mantra that guides the design of our wellbeing program – and for us, the academic program sits within our wellbeing framework. If our girls feel confident, have strategies to navigate and cope with setbacks and disappointments, and feel a sense of connection and belonging, then they will persist with their learning and be ready to take up opportunities wherever they find them.

When designing the Artemis Centre, this question of choice was paramount in our dreaming. How could we facilitate "choice" for

the older girls within this new environment? How could the offer of choice draw girls into the Centre making engagement with the physical, social and learning domains of Artemis a highly valued experience? What would this look and feel like for a girl? If we could create such an environment then the experiences within Artemis would nurture a girl's sense of agency, and agency is the source of robust wellbeing, for it sustains a young person's sense of confidence in their capacity to influence their own outcomes be it in the moment or in the future.

As we prepare to open Artemis in Term 3, I am optimistic that this experience will be achieved. Our Senior girls are able to choose from an extensive program of "Fit for Life" activities that are hosted throughout the day within Artemis, booking online at a time that suits their daily or weekly schedule. Once in Artemis, they can choose to follow a yoga session with a snack at the café then move onto the Learning Commons up on the second floor to finish that English essay before returning to class for period 6. If they bump into their Wellbeing Coach, they might stop for a 5 minute catch up or let them know they will get online and book a coaching session for the end

of the week, because they want to strategise about their stress levels prior to a significant assessment task. They also love seeing their teachers enjoying the Artemis environment, and the girls might sit with their teacher, who has just arrived for a coffee at the café, to let them know they are struggling a bit with the project task and ask for a bit of guidance before they get moving to that Period 6. The girls have a bar code that they use to swipe into Artemis and out, letting us know where they are and when. That is their responsibility and they are very conscientious because they value the freedom within boundaries that we have created for them within Artemis.

The girls are bursting to get into Artemis and make the most of every opportunity that awaits them. Artemis has environments for all our girls, from our Early Learners having recreational gymnastics program and swimming through to Middle and Senior girls participating in sport, movement, fitness and recreational options. It is going to be a very busy place and within months I am sure we will wonder how we ever did not have Artemis!

**Catherine Misson**  
Principal



# SENIOR YEARS WELLBEING

## RAISING RESILIENT GIRLS

**Melbourne Girls Grammar (MGGs) Principal Catherine Misson is accustomed to researching globally and implementing change locally. Some nine years ago, Mrs Misson reviewed worldwide data derived from leading researchers in adolescent health and development and this sparked the genesis of a reimagined Senior Years Program.**

“I wanted our girls to be better equipped to not only understand what wellbeing comprised but to acquire an effective repertoire of skills and strategies to proactively manage themselves,” Mrs Misson says. “We needed to re-design the experience of schooling so that our Wellbeing Program wrapped around and enhanced our academic and co-curricular programs.”

Wellbeing is best defined as striking the right balance between mental, emotional and physical aspects of one’s life. According to Mrs Misson, a girl is empowered with positive mental health and relationships when she feels confident, capable and able to positively influence her context. Armed with these attributes, Mrs Misson says girls will be better positioned to persist with their learning, to navigate their friendships and to meet daily physical goals.

Artemis Centre represents the hub of “community life” at MGGs. “Here, Senior girls will experience a depth of varied and diverse opportunities spanning academic, social and physical programs,” Mrs Misson explains. “An engaging experience of community life at MGGs is the foundation for all these aspects of living and learning for our girls.”

Artemis Centre’s design deliberately comprises transparent and open environments, framed by walkways and glass, with very few walls and doors. Students and teachers mix naturally at the café, in the physical zones and within the learning commons. “Already, Artemis Centre is fostering a bubbling and autonomous community,” Mrs Misson says. “The energy and happiness within the Centre is palpable.”

Recognising and respecting that adolescent girls need to feel in control of their lives and the way they learn has influenced the architecture of schooling for our Senior girls. “We chose to break away from the tyranny of time that characterises current experiences of secondary schooling and instead place the student at the heart of the design of learning and community experiences,” Mrs Misson explains.

Challenge and choice are evident throughout the Senior Years Program. “We offer girls multiple ways to access their learning, including mastery tasks taken at point of readiness, use of flexible class time, and fitness coaching tailored to their personal needs and goals.”

“This new model of schooling is expansive and responsive, and the girls co-construct their individual trajectory, guided by their teachers and coaches,” says Mrs Misson. Consistent and enduring support structures help scaffold girls’ independence throughout the four-year program. “We diversified our workforce to enhance our capacity to provide targeted and personalised support and encouragement for the girls,” Mrs Misson explains.

Girls have access to a team of expert teachers, academic coaches and fitness coaches. Importantly, each girl works one-on-one with a Wellbeing Coach. From assistance with timetabling to highlighting imbalances in study or recreation, these student-led sessions give girls an outlet to discuss any issues impacting their wellbeing.

“The ultimate goal is for girls to be equipped to flourish in current and future life contexts,” Mrs Misson says. “We want girls to feel in control of monitoring and maintaining their own wellbeing.” Whilst these skills will surely aid their learning, Mrs Misson believes these are lifelong capacities from which MGGs graduates will benefit long after graduation.

**Read on to meet our Wellbeing Coaches, overleaf.**







# MEET OUR WELLBEING COACHES

## SENIOR YEARS PROGRAM

**Weekly, one-on-one wellbeing coaching is a vital component of the Senior Years Program. During these sessions, girls are empowered to identify their values and to learn how to effectively balance all aspects of their spirituality, health, learning and relationships.**

The MGGS Wellbeing team brings together a group of five remarkable professionals from diverse backgrounds including counselling, elite sport, psychology and education. Here, we share their stories and their strategies for giving girls the gift of wellbeing.



**Emma Grant**

Former Professional Road Cyclist and Australian National Champion Rower, Emma Grant is well placed to share with our girls the link between mental and physical endurance. An OG (1991) and former MGGS Physical Education and Science Teacher, Emma's resume also includes a lengthy tenure as the National Manager of Coaching and Workforce Development at Cycling Australia. In 2015 she obtained a Master of Education (Student Wellbeing) from the University of Melbourne.

*“ Sport has taught me valuable lessons about commitment, perseverance and coping with adversity. By sharing my experiences, I hope to inspire girls to be proactive about their wellbeing and their dreams. ”*



*“ It's a lofty goal but I want girls to manifest a life that's in line with their values. The process starts with empowering them to prioritise their wellbeing – just as they prioritise their academic pursuits. ”*

**Jarod Kaplan**

Jarod has more than a decade of experience working in the areas of wellbeing and counselling with adolescents. A former secondary school student counsellor, Jarod has also worked within the not-for-profit sector. He is an accredited mindfulness meditation teacher and an experienced case manager, group facilitator and counsellor to adolescents and families. Jarod is passionate about helping adolescents to recognise their strengths and flourish.





### Meg Viney

A highly accomplished life coach and professional development specialist, Meg has extensive experience helping teenagers and adults balance their physical and emotional wellbeing. Her previous appointments include a lengthy tenure as a fitness professional at Vision Personal Training. Meg has also attained Levels 1, 2, and 3 in Wellness Coaching from Wellness Coaching Australia.



### Meg Donnelly

Drawing upon more than 10 years of experience working in independent schools, Meg is passionate about positive psychology in education. This new role follows on from a four-year tenure as VCE Academic and Assessment Co-ordinator and VCE Administrator at MGGS. Throughout her career, including a period as a Learning Development and International Baccalaureate® Administrator, Meg has enjoyed mentoring and guiding students.



### Rose Jost

Rose was previously deployed by St Vincent's Hospital to research, develop and facilitate its Optimal Health Program (OHP) to empower individuals to improve their holistic wellbeing by addressing stressors and developing sustainable strategies to build on their strengths. She is also a qualified Pilates instructor and has developed wellness programs and worked with clients to reconstruct and maintain their physical wellbeing. Rose is currently undertaking her Masters in Clinical Psychology.

“ When our girls graduate, I want them to feel excited about their futures and have confidence to live by their values and strive for what they really want to achieve. ”

“ My work with the girls is collaborative as I work alongside them to help them in identifying their values, establishing their identity and negotiating their transition towards independence. ”

“ During the teenage years, parents begin having to relinquish some elements of control as their girls gain more independence. It can be a stressful time for all involved. I provide a totally neutral space where girls can talk openly about any issue. ”





# EARLY LEARNING

## MOVE YOUR BODY

**In the Early Learning Centre (ELC) at Melbourne Girls Grammar educators believe that the outdoor environment is vital to promote children's physical, emotional and spiritual health. Educators seek to create flexible and vibrant outdoor spaces that support and enhance each child's learning through positive relationships and effective communication.**

Our playground is a sensory rich environment that challenges our girls to explore, investigate, imagine, create and experiment. Natural materials abound and the girls are invited to collaborate, negotiate and compromise with peers as they construct their learning. In the spontaneous creation of 'games', peer interaction is required to establish rules of the game and participants are required to regulate their emotions in a social setting. This free, unstructured play is complemented by an outdoor sports program which allows our girls to explore and develop their physical capabilities and skills.

In weekly sports sessions provided by the team at 'Ready Steady Go' our 4 year old girls experience 10 different sports which build their sporting knowledge and enhances their gross and fine motor skills. Through the program, the girls build confidence in their own physical abilities, which leads to increased self-esteem and a powerful sense of achievement.

Our 3 year old girls participate in weekly sports sessions designed to develop locomotor skills such as gliding, galloping, skipping and hopping and they develop coordination skills by using a range of sporting equipment.

Obstacle courses help to develop listening and concentration skills and teamwork is encouraged throughout the program.

In his book, *Last Child in the Woods*, author Richard Louv points out that time spent outdoors helps develop skills in problem solving, critical thinking and decision making. He suggests that childhood experiences outdoors stimulate creativity. Other research affirms the positive impact on physical and mental health such as better concentration, increased memory skills and positive social and emotional outcomes.

Outdoor spaces such as the Jesse Bage lawn and the front garden provide opportunities for challenging and adventurous play and to move and act freely so that our girls have a chance to try new things, to test out their ideas of what they can do and gain confidence and resilience.

Our close proximity to the Royal Botanic Gardens enables educators to plan weekly visits for our 4 year old girls. As our girls run and explore the beautiful grassed areas, fossick for natural materials and climb trees, they are exercising their physical muscles whilst at the

same time developing a close relationship with nature. By exploring and learning about the natural world, they develop a deep awareness and respect for the environment.

Educators are aware of the benefits of yoga as another way to enhance the physical and mental health of our girls. Yoga sessions help the girls to improve their flexibility, sense of balance, muscle strength and tone. It has a huge overall impact on the children's health and general wellbeing.

As Anna Puchalski pointed out, "Children develop such an awareness of their body parts and the different things that their body can do during yoga sessions".

As the girls in Mitchell room said, "We need to exercise to give us energy and grow muscles. Then we can grow and keep our bodies healthy and strong."

The educators at the Early Learning Centre are committed to providing opportunities for the girls to exercise their physical muscles and to develop a positive attitude to physical play.

**Margaret Sellar**  
Head of Early Learning







*As the girls in Mitchell room said, "We need to exercise to give us energy and grow muscles. Then we can grow and keep our bodies healthy and strong."*



*Our close proximity to the Royal Botanic Gardens enables educators to plan weekly visits for our 4 year old girls.*



# JUNIOR YEARS

## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

**At Morris Hall we are fortunate to have beautiful, inspiring learning environments. Over the past few years our team of passionate educators have developed an outdoor program to enhance learning opportunities for girls whilst they play. Our girls wonder, explore, create and imagine in environments designed to invite curiosity.**

In late 2015 the Morris Hall team undertook a review of the outdoor experiences for the girls, and we asked them for feedback about improving their play experiences. A group of interested staff came up with a proposal. Rather than the traditional view of recess and lunchtimes as ‘breaks’ from learning, we wanted to embrace these times as valuable learning opportunities for the girls. Together we came up with some ideas that all agreed would improve the experiences outside:

- A consistent staffing model
- Zoned areas – catering for passive play through to very active play
- Engaging and interesting materials to inspire play
- Respectful use of resources

First we decided on the zones. We used feedback from the girls, along with what we already knew about the way they were using the spaces. We have active play areas where girls might be swinging from the monkey bars, turning cartwheels on the oval, or playing a game of netball on the courts.

Girls may be playing a game or relaxing in our beautiful treehouse, or they may be digging, mulching and learning about sustainability in our Kitchen Garden.

Open-ended experiences are provided for the girls on the Peaceful Patio, where you will find girls from all year levels engaged in creative activities. This is an area to go to if you are seeking some quiet time.

In our Imagination Zone girls cook up a storm in the Mud Kitchen, or engage in dramatic play in the cubby houses. In the sandpit the girls use their physical and mental muscles, doing things like using PVA pipes to move water from one side of the sandpit to the other, or creating a mini city using sand, water, sticks and leaves.

We decided that the key to success would be a consistent team of people who know the girls and the areas well. Each day our Learning Assistants support and guide the girls during their time outdoors. They have a deep knowledge of our girls, of their likes, dislikes and strengths. It allows them to be there to help the girls when they need it – to assist the

girls to manage conflict in a friendship group, or to be that ‘someone’ to go to on a day when things do not seem to be going your way, or someone to respond to the call of ‘watch me, watch me’! They encourage the girls to use the resources respectfully and to take care of our spaces, just like they would indoors.

The girls are as engaged, motivated and creative outdoors as they are when they are indoors! At recess and lunchtime they choose where they want to play, building their learning power and exercising not only their physical muscles but their intellectual and emotional muscles as well. Staff are there to scaffold and support the girls as they practice vital skills in real-life scenarios.

Since the program began in 2016, we have seen a significant decline in the number of social problems that escalate into larger issues. The Learning Assistants have a deep understanding of each child, and can support and guide the girls as they navigate the social landscape.

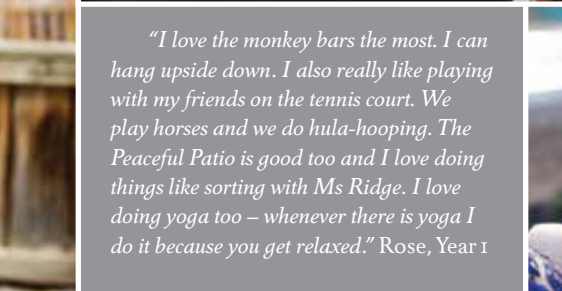
**Kellie Morgan**  
Director of Early Learning and Junior Years

*“I like the garden because if you feel worried about something you just go in and you just relax. When you go in there you feel happy because there are no friendship fires in there. Mrs Edwards is very kind and helps us sort it out if something is happening in your life. She talks to you and you feel much better because you don’t have to worry about it anymore.” Charlotte, Year 3*





*"You feel free outside. Every time I am outside and I hear the wind and see the birds... oh they just make me feel like singing! Sometimes I like to be by myself – you know when you just want to. So I go to the cubbyhouse or climb up the tall tower. If you want to play with lots of people I would go to the sandpit."* Alana, Year 1



*"Ever since our new program happened it is really great outside...it is hard to explain but it kind of feels more open and welcoming. We actually really want to go outside now, because there is so much to choose from. The Peaceful Patio is good for so many people so many girls go there from every class. The pipes in the sandpit have made it so much fun. It is really interesting now. I think having the same teachers to talk to means they are familiar with us so it is not so hard to go and ask them for help."* Ruby, Year 4

*"I love the monkey bars the most. I can hang upside down. I also really like playing with my friends on the tennis court. We play horses and we do hula-hooping. The Peaceful Patio is good too and I love doing things like sorting with Ms Ridge. I love doing yoga too – whenever there is yoga I do it because you get relaxed."* Rose, Year 1



# MIDDLE YEARS

## EMERGING CITIZENSHIP JOURNEY TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

***"This experience has been grounded in empathy. We have woven our cultures together like a basket."***

These poignant words were shared during our reflection evening at the conclusion of the 2017 Emerging Citizenship Journey to the Northern Territory. In the final weeks of Term 2 the Year 8s embarked upon the inaugural MGGS cultural immersion program in North East Arnhem Land, facilitated by Culture College. The week provided students with the opportunity to interact with Yolngu culture and people, experiencing contemporary Indigenous Australia in an authentic and meaningful way.

For seven nights, 95 students and 11 MGGS staff were based at Gulkala, the site of the annual Garma Festival. The site is of significance to Yolngu people as it exists as a space for knowledge sharing and breaking barriers between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, thus providing the perfect setting for our week of two-way learning.

Camping with us were families from three homelands in North-East Arnhem Land, Bawaka, Nyinyikay and Bukadal. On day one, we were welcomed to Gulkala in a traditional ceremony in which clay from the region was placed on their forehead; from this moment it was clear that this would be a camp unlike anything the Year 8s had ever experienced. Each day the students would engage in activities with the families, including learning Yolngu Matha (language), Gurrutu (law), basket weaving, jewellery making, Bungul (dance) and Yolngu ecology.

Students also travelled into Yirrkala, the historically significant site of the Bark Petitions; we visited the bilingual community school and the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Arts Centre, where we witnessed famous Indigenous artists at work. The learning was challenging at times – Yolngu law and culture is certainly complex and dense – however, the Year 8s were impressive in their curious and eager approach, immersing themselves in an attempt to understand as much as possible, withholding judgement and using empathy to build connections.

***"For the families the purpose of this week is to build a bridge, share our culture so that we may have a better understanding of one another, and a better future."***

Marcus from Nyinyikay was able to express the significance of the cultural exchange from the perspective of the families. Whilst the formal moments of learning were imperative to an increased understanding of Indigenous Australia, it was the informal moments where the Year 8s connected with the local people that were most illustrative of Marcus' vision. During down time at Gulkala, the Year 8s could be found playing soccer or cards with the young children, or sitting on a mat with the ladies, sharing stories and weaving baskets.

In addition, the Arnhem Sports Carnival was held during our camp, in which over 100 young people come together from all over Arnhem Land to compete in athletics events. The fortuitous timing of this carnival meant that our students were able to participate, which resulted in exhibition games of volleyball and basketball, and even more opportunities to connect with young Indigenous Australians.

The Year 8s valued the opportunity to hear stories of what life is like in remote communities in Australia, stories from a life that at first seemed vastly different from their own.

***"I feel connected; connected to my peers, my country and the history of the land."***

On listening to students' reflections at the conclusion of the experience, it was abundantly clear that the week had been about more than cultural learning.

For the Year 8s, this camp was a formative experience, individually and for the group. By learning about an ancient culture that exists within our own country, students were able to consider their own cultural identity, as well as their identity as a year level.

Far from home and their comfort zone, the girls were able to take care of themselves and each other, creating a sense of home and community at Garma, and displaying the maturity and tenacity they will need for the Senior Years program at MGGS, and indeed, for life beyond the red brick walls.

**Katherine Barton**  
Year 8 Co-ordinator



Image credit: Culture College





Image credit: Culture College



Image credit: Culture College



Image credit: Culture College



Image credit: Culture College



Image credit: Culture College





# SENIOR YEARS

## SACRED HEART MISSION

**Community, Action and Service (CAS) was first established as a leadership position in the Student Executive Council (SEC) in 2011, though Melbourne Girls Grammar students have been involved in fundraising, community service and charitable activities from the time of the School's inception in 1893.**

Today CAS remains an integral part of our School community, encouraging our girls to engage in social action through awareness initiatives and an array of fundraising efforts. Furthermore, it exposes MGGs students to the 2017 SEC's chosen charity, Sacred Heart Mission, and the challenges faced by their clients. The work done by Sacred Heart Mission to combat homelessness in Melbourne is truly phenomenal and as a School we are proud to support such a fantastic organisation.

A fundamental aspect of CAS is about giving back to the community and connecting our girls to the world beyond our red brick walls. As well as supporting the charity through SEC events, many MGGs girls participate in a number of volunteer opportunities, including the annual Year 10 Urban Camp at the Brotherhood of St Laurence, St Kilda Mums

and Second Bite groups, to name but a few. In our role as CAS Captains this year, we hope to encourage the service aspect at MGGs, and provide a range of opportunities for all girls to get involved.

This year, little things really matter at MGGs and this mantra is reflected across the important work carried out by Sacred Heart, who work every day to support some of the most disadvantaged in our community to rebuild their lives, with many services such as their Dining Hall, Women's House and Aged Care, as well as smaller scale programs like their GP Clinic and Hairdressing service.

This year we launched our charity campaign and were privileged to be addressed by Carolyn Clark (Sacred Heart Board Member, Chair of Women's House Fundraising Committee and volunteer since 1993). In her engaging speech, Carolyn

highlighted the immense need for support services in Melbourne and the big difference MGGs girls can make with small actions and choices. Inspired by the call to service, our community sprang into action – determined to make a difference in any way we could. So far this year, we have managed to raise over \$7000 for Sacred Heart through events ranging from a summer themed casual clothes day, a Shrove Tuesday pancake sale, sunglasses, hats and summer clothes drive and participation in the Walk for Women event, with a huge turn out from MGGs girls!

Dine with Heart is the Mission's annual fundraising event held throughout May. Each year, restaurants from across Melbourne host a series of gastronomic events in honour of the 400 meals provided to the most vulnerable in Melbourne each day in the Mission's Dining Room. In support of the cause, the SEC





hosted their inaugural MGGs equivalent – Culturama, an international food festival showcasing six food stalls, celebrating the diverse cultures we have here at MGGs. Each meal was \$4, the amount it costs Sacred Heart Mission to produce a meal in their dining hall. All of the food on offer was homemade and inspired by the cultural heritage of the girls. The experience of creating the menu and making the food was certainly a highlight of the event, but the thrill of seeing the involvement by girls from all year levels was an unexpected pleasure. It really was a true community event.

At MGGs we value the importance of compassion towards each other and throughout our wider community. Through volunteer work and SEC-officiated events, CAS hopes to give MGGs students further opportunities to be involved in such worthy events and to give back to the community. This year has already been a huge success for CAS, with girls from every year level taking part in fundraising and raising awareness for Sacred Heart Mission. We look forward to our upcoming events and the spirit of collaboration, both old and new.

**Jemima Allen and Alexandra Roger**  
Year 12 CAS Captains



*Thank you to photographer Bec Walton for taking photos on the day.*

*Pictured: Culturama Food Festival for Dine With Heart*

*Left: Jemima Allen and Alexandra Roger*



# BOARDING

## A SUPPORTIVE, EMPATHETIC ENVIRONMENT

**Nurturing the wellbeing of our boarders is an integral part of the Boarding House experience. Once girls feel comfortable and confident in the Boarding House, they are poised to thrive and make the most of every opportunity at Melbourne Girls Grammar.**

When families entrust the Boarding House team with the duty of looking after their daughters, they are assured of a combination of support from within both the boarding community and the wider School community. Within the boarding environment, girls are able to come together and share the achievements and challenges they face as young adolescents. The connections they make with one another, and their understanding of the world, fosters a feeling of empathy that is unique to boarding.

We are proud of the ownership the girls take over the privilege of being a boarder and their willingness to give back to the community that has supported them. This strong sense of connection, belonging and purpose allows the girls to thrive in communal living – an environment where girls support each other and learn from one another.

The Boarding House Council illustrates just how effectively our girls work with one another. This is a group of girls from Years 7 – 12 who are recognised by their peers as advocates who are sympathetic and kind members of the Boarding community.

**Boarding House Council members are responsible for:**

- listening to different perspectives and voicing opinions
- making the Boarding House a better place for everyone
- organising events that foster the spirit of boarding
- empathising with each other as they face similar challenges

**The Boarding House Council recommends:**

- taking part in a variety of activities
- engaging with a wide range of girls and supervisors
- eating at set tables to get to know each other
- sharing a room and forging friendships with roommates
- providing feedback to supervisors to ensure issues are promptly addressed

Captain and Vice Captain of the Boarding House are two key positions within the boarding community. Here, our 2017 Captain and Vice Captain reflect on their paths to leadership.

**Laura Daley**  
Director of Boarding

**Ruby Yates**  
Boarding Captain

*I wanted to have the responsibility of being Boarding Captain. I love being a boarder and I wanted to represent the Boarding House. My mother was also the Boarding House Captain during her time at MGGS and I am proud to continue this legacy. I wanted to be involved in the culture of including one another and encouraging girls to sign up for activities.*

*My role consists of organising activities and being a friendly face for others around the House and the School. It requires me to know the 87 boarders and be able to represent them in the Boarding House and the SEC.*

*The transition of new boarders is an important time and my role allows me to run activities and games to help involve and get to know all the new girls. A big part of being Captain is checking in with one another and I keep my door open for girls to come and chat at all times. It is also about being a strong role model for my peers and for the younger girls.*

**Jordyn Ah Mat**  
Boarding Vice Captain

*When I first arrived in Year 9, it was the Boarding House Captain at the time who inspired me to want to nominate myself for Boarding House Vice Captain in Year 11. I was inspired by the way she was so involved and enthusiastic in the role of Captain. I remember she would always make us feel so welcome and made daggy things a lot more fun to be involved in!*

*She had an effect on me that I hoped to have on younger girls once I was a senior girl. When I then nominated myself for the role I was incredibly nervous. But I thought to myself there is no harm in trying. Once it was announced that Ruby and I were the Boarding House Captains for 2017 I was over the moon with excitement. This was now my chance to make an impact on younger girls, just like the previous Captain had done for me.*

*My role as Boarding House Vice Captain consists of, alongside Ruby, organising events and activities not only within our Boarding House but also other schools. We have the very exciting job of organising Boarders' Week, which consists of many activities in the Boarding House and the day School. I have also had the pleasure of reflecting on my experience in the Boarding House at the Boarders' Valedictory. I also have the opportunity to be a leader to not only younger girls in the Boarding House but also my younger sister in Year 8.*





ABOVE: Boarders in the Student Executive Council: Claudia Calvert, Hensley House Vice Captain, Jordyn Ah Mat, Boarding House Vice Captain, Ruby Yates, Boarding House Captain, Tamia De Araujo, Sports Vice Captain.



LEFT: Boarding House Council





# PARENTS ASSOCIATION

## SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

### **Social connectedness, belonging, community ... these are all words that resonate deeply with me.**

I came with my family to Australia in 2013. Our first visit was our first day in our new home. We knew no one, and had to rely on our lovely collection of Australian friends who were expats in our Canadian home for a crash course in this diverse and beautiful country. But despite what we knew about where to get the best avocado on toast or how to order a flat white, or which beach had the best surf conditions for beginners, we knew nothing about how to navigate daily life in a new city.

As someone who has moved quite often, both as a child and as an adult, I knew how to tackle this issue – find a place to belong. As we began to immerse ourselves in the Melbourne Girls Grammar community, we began to feel at home. It was the Whole School Cocktail Party where we had our first volunteer experience. There is no better way to introduce oneself to

new people than by offering them something from a tempting tray of canapés, so I signed up to carry a tray! From there the path was clear. In order to thrive, I needed social connectedness; to find that, I only needed to look as far as our daughters' School. I attended PA meetings, joined committees, went to the Navy Blue Lunch, volunteered at the swap shop, and helped at the cake stall at the Harvest Fair. We got to know the parents of our daughters' friends and started to find our place.

Now, nearly four years later, Melbourne is our home but MGGS is our community. It is where we have found our friends, and it gives me a profound sense of wellbeing to know that if I have a need, I have a support network.

It is my hope that the MGGS Parents Association can provide this sense of community and wellbeing for all of us, and

that I can find a way to give back to a place that has welcomed our family and has cemented its place in our hearts.

A special testament to the vibrancy and commitment of the families of Melbourne Girls Grammar is their contribution to the new Artemis Centre. The Merton Hall Foundation has chosen to honor the many parents who have contributed to this cutting edge wellbeing space by naming the amphitheater outside of the pool the "Melbourne Girls Grammar Parents Association Amphitheatre". I hope that this will remind families for generations to come that this is a place built by many who believed in the vision and who felt a keen sense of belonging and community.

**Lisa Beaumont**  
President of the Parents Association

The Parents Association of Melbourne Girls Grammar 14th Annual  
**NAVY BLUE LUNCH**  
MELBOURNE GIRLS GRAMMAR  
*Celebrate Wellbeing*

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2017 @ LEONDA BY THE YARRA

An annual celebration of friendship for the MGGS community including all parents past and present, Old Grammarians and MGGS friends

**TICKETS ON SALE** 9.00am Thursday 03 August · **TICKETS** \$125 each or tables of 10 \$1,250 · [MGGSnavybluelunch@gmail.com](mailto:MGGSnavybluelunch@gmail.com)



# JUNE FOWELL DINNER

THURSDAY 4 MAY



**It seems like only yesterday that our girls started high school. The years have flown and 2017 is a chance for us to savour the last special School moments with our Year 12 girls who have grown into self-assured, mature and focused young women.**

The June Fowell Memorial Dinner is one such 'not to be missed' occasion on the School calendar. This very special evening was a truly unique time to celebrate the wonderful relationships between mothers and their Year 12 daughters, a time to acknowledge the many and varied friendships forged during the years at MGGs, between girls, mothers and teachers, and a time to reflect on the legacy of high calibre teachers and educators such as June Fowell.

I was particularly moved by this evening as June Fowell taught me during my years at MGGs. She was a vibrant, fun, inspirational role model who adored her teaching career, imparting wisdom and teaching girls to engage in life, and it was wonderful to reflect on my School years while enjoying the warm, happy mood of the evening.

Our speaker for the dinner this year was Dr Chantel Thornton, a world leading breast cancer surgeon who shared many of the same characteristics as June Fowell. Chantel generously, and with much animation, shared her fascinating life story and urged the girls to follow their passions and maximise their VCE scores while enjoying as many life experiences as possible. Chantel's speech generated enormous interest, resonated with both girls and their mothers and added a depth of experience and warmth to a very positive night. I can highly recommend this event to all future Year 12 mothers and their daughters.

**Anna Permezel (Johnson, 1981)  
MGGs Parent and Council Member**





# ELC MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFASTS

THURSDAY 11 AND FRIDAY 12 MAY



**The Early Learning Centre girls were delighted to welcome their mothers and friends to a special breakfast celebration in their honour on Thursday 11 May (3 year old) and Friday 12 May (4 year old).**

Guests were welcomed by Director of Early Learning and Junior Years, Kellie Morgan and Head of Early Learning, Margaret Sellar.

Following a delicious breakfast on the deck, the girls entertained their guests with songs and stories in the learning studios and presented their mothers with thoughtful, handmade gifts.

Events like these build the strong sense of community that is present in the Early Learning Centre and accentuate the partnership between home and School that is essential to develop each child's sense of belonging and identity.





# MORRIS HALL MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

TUESDAY 16 MAY



**The Morris Hall Mother's Day Breakfast is a much loved annual event and is a fabulous opportunity for our community to gather and celebrate our wonderful mothers and the special women in our lives.**

We were welcomed by Director of Early Learning and Junior Years, Kellie Morgan, as the Year 3 and 4 choir delighted us all, singing *Isn't She Lovely* to a crowd of loved ones.

Thank you to the Community Office, staff and Parent Representatives for making this morning so special.

**Annabel Banks**  
Morris Hall Parent Representative  
Coordinator



Prior to Mother's Day, the girls were asked to share their thoughts on their mums and the women in their lives. Here are just a few fun snippets:



*"She is so special because she does almost everything for me."* Andrea, Year 1

*"My favourite thing about her is that she is herself. She looks beautiful when she wears make-up too."* Emma, Year 1

*"She is special because when I am scared she closes my eyes."* Coco, Year 1

*"The best time with her is when she reads a book before bed, because she reads thousands of pages."* Mehak, Year 1

*"She is special because she is my Mum and no one else ever could be."* Chloe, Year 1

*"She cooks pancakes and makes smoothies on Sundays. I love spending time with her."* Coco, Year 1





# SCHOOL CONCERT

THURSDAY 25 MAY

**The Merton Hall School Concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) was a wonderful celebration of creativity, collaboration and community. The MRC has become quite a “home away from home” for our musicians, and there is no doubt this magnificent venue inspires the girls to great musical heights and allows us to showcase a tremendous range of ensembles and music styles.**

This year’s program was challenging to stage because of the diverse, but also specialist, nature of many of the items, not least a virtuosic work for two pianos performed by Angela Gong and Rebecca Wang. It was a pianistic ‘tour de force’ featuring the music of Paganini, Guastavino and Piazzola, which the girls crafted especially for this concert as a musical gift for the Melbourne Girls Grammar community.

This feature work was balanced by another piano masterpiece later in the program – the final movement of Mozart’s Piano Concerto in C major K467, performed by Hannah Shin with the Merton Hall Orchestra. One of the most difficult of all Mozart concerti, Hannah’s commanding performance left us in no doubt as to why she is regarded as one of Australia’s finest young performers.

The soprano aria is a jewel in the operatic crown, and *O mio babbino caro* is one of the best loved of all. VCE Music Performance students Julia Bowes, Georgia Fitzpatrick and Isabella Sharard paired this Puccini favourite with the *Barcarolle* from *The Tales of Hoffman*. The girls sang with passion, tenderness and great beauty, demonstrating the power of the human voice to console, inspire and enchant.

Stage Band and Senior Strings showcased their expertise in separate items before

combining to present an instrumental arrangement of *It Don’t Mean a Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing)*. Their joint performance was filled with the musical energy you would expect when two accomplished ensembles collide.

Concert Band had toes tapping on stage, backstage and in the audience, performing highlights from *The Jungle Book* and a Beatles medley which featured four of the band’s greatest hits from their 1964 album *Meet the Beatles*.

Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Roy Theaker in his first MGS concert, performed music from the world of ballet and opera. The feuding Montagues and Capulets of Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet Suite* provided a dramatic contrast to the fun and frivolity of Mozart’s Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Fiddle Fusion, augmented by Harpists, Guitarists and Merton Chamber Voices, were as smooth and as stylish as James Bond himself, performing the title tracks from *Skyfall* and *Spectre*. There was not a spare inch of stage to be had, and every year this ensemble is a remarkable celebration of collaboration and creativity.

These themes were also present in the contemporary piece performed by Wildfell Choir. In their Music Performance lessons,

students experimented with melody, rhythm, timbre and texture to ‘grow’ a piece from three main musical ideas, augmented by body percussion patterns.

Students in Merton Chorale (Years 5 and 6) and Merton Singers (Years 7 and 8) were invited to join Senior Choir, performing music from Karl Jenkins’ landmark *Adiemus* catalogue. Merton Chamber Voices sang the hauntingly beautiful *Weep No More* which is a modern setting of a poem by John Keats. The singing continued until the last note of the concert, with every musician on stage to sing a reprise of *It Don’t Mean a Thing (If It Ain’t Got That Swing)*.

Thank you to our hard working musicians for the time they put into rehearsals and for their dedication to Music. They are well led by our Music Captains, Rebecca Wang and Georgia Fitzpatrick, and they are very well supported by the talented team of Music staff who do so much behind the scenes to make it all possible.

Final thanks must go to the parents and friends who were able to join us on the night. The girls take great pleasure and pride in preparing the music for this event and your support is very much appreciated.

**Elizabeth du Blêt**  
Director of Music







# ELC GRANDPARENTS' MORNING TEA

TUESDAY 6 JUNE AND WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE

**Our 3 year old and 4 year old students welcomed some very special visitors to the Barbara Tolson Centre on Tuesday 6 June and Wednesday 7 June.**

After enjoying a delicious morning tea, our visitors joined the girls in a sport lesson and spent time exploring, creating and discovering in the learning studios. Observing the adoring expressions on both grandparents and their granddaughter's faces reminded us all how special these relationships are.

*"It takes a village to raise a child"*  
African proverb







# MORRIS HALL MUSICAL PRODUCTION GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

THURSDAY 22 JUNE



Term 2 has been a big term for our Years 3 and 4 girls as we prepared for our performance of Roald Dahl's *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Roald Dahl is of course synonymous with whimsy and humour and his *Revolting Rhymes* presented us with an opportunity to showcase this childhood favourite.

The girls developed a great sense of independence and self-direction throughout the rehearsal and production process. They were instrumental in bringing on parts of the set and props and creating a production that was wholly theirs. It was hugely inspiring to see the girls develop and hone their stage and musical technique throughout the 15-week process.



There was an enormous amount of behind-the-scenes work that contributed to the success of the production. We are hugely grateful to the endeavouring spirit of our STEM teacher, and evidently, master seamstress, Mrs Wendy Johnson, who designed and sewed the costumes. We were lucky to acquire the artistic talents of Jessica Lee, who designed the projections for each scene and Amy Arnott, a Merton Hall teacher, who choreographed the whole show. The girls have enjoyed the whole process thoroughly, for many it has been their first experience as part of a musical.

Alex St Vincent Welch  
Morris Hall Music Teacher





## ARCHIVES

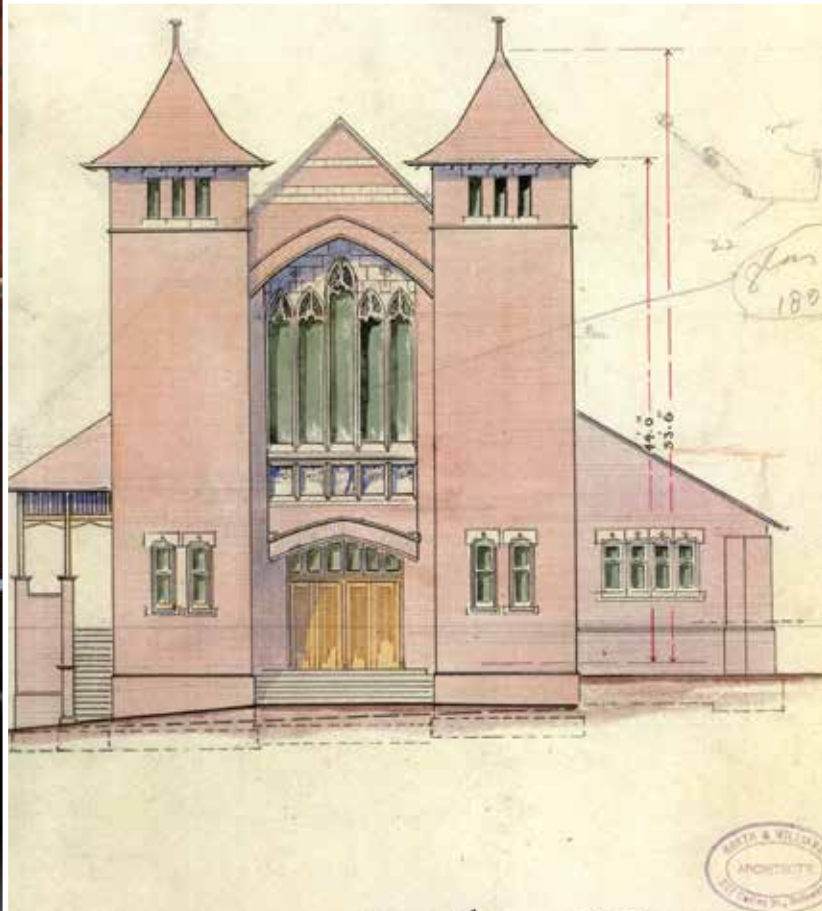
### THE STORY OF OUR CHAPEL, 1967 - 2017

#### The Chapel Fund – 49 Years of Fundraising

Miss Gilman Jones, Headmistress 1916 – 1938, was an ardent supporter of the need for a School Chapel. When the School Council failed to find the funds for the proposed Chapel, she stated that a chapel should be “built by the girls, not the Council, as their gift to the school”. On 25 April 1918 the School Chapel Trust Fund was officially opened. Thus began 49 years of fundraising for a Chapel. Generations of girls were familiar with the blue pockets which were circulated at assembly, gathering weekly donations. When Miss Gilman Jones retired in 1938, she said “her biggest disappointment was her failure to persuade the Council to build a school chapel”.

#### The Creation of a Chapel

Miss Mountain, Headmistress 1958 – 1974, believed a Chapel was “the focal point of the school”. The Council decided in 1963 that a portion of the money raised in the major building fund appeal, should be used for a School Chapel. The Council had been investigating the idea of using the entire School Hall, but asked the architect, Louis Williams (a partner in the original firm who designed the Hall), to meet with Miss Mountain and discuss an alternative proposal of a two level structure with a horizontal division within the Hall. This design was accepted and construction was completed in 1966. Thus a “beautiful modern place of worship”, as described in the 1967 School Magazine, was created.





## Opening of the Chapel

The Chapel was dedicated by the Archbishop on 15 April 1967. The School staff and visiting clergy processed in, led by the School Captain, Anne Richardson. The Archbishop delivered the sermon and the Chapel Fund Book, with its many signatures of donors over 49 years, was presented as part of the service [sadly this book was lost sometime before 1996].

### Chaplains

The Reverend Stuart Blackler  
1967 – 1992

The Reverend Geraldine Nixon  
1990 – 2003

Father Walter McEntee  
2003 – 2012

The Reverend Denise Nicholls  
2012 – current

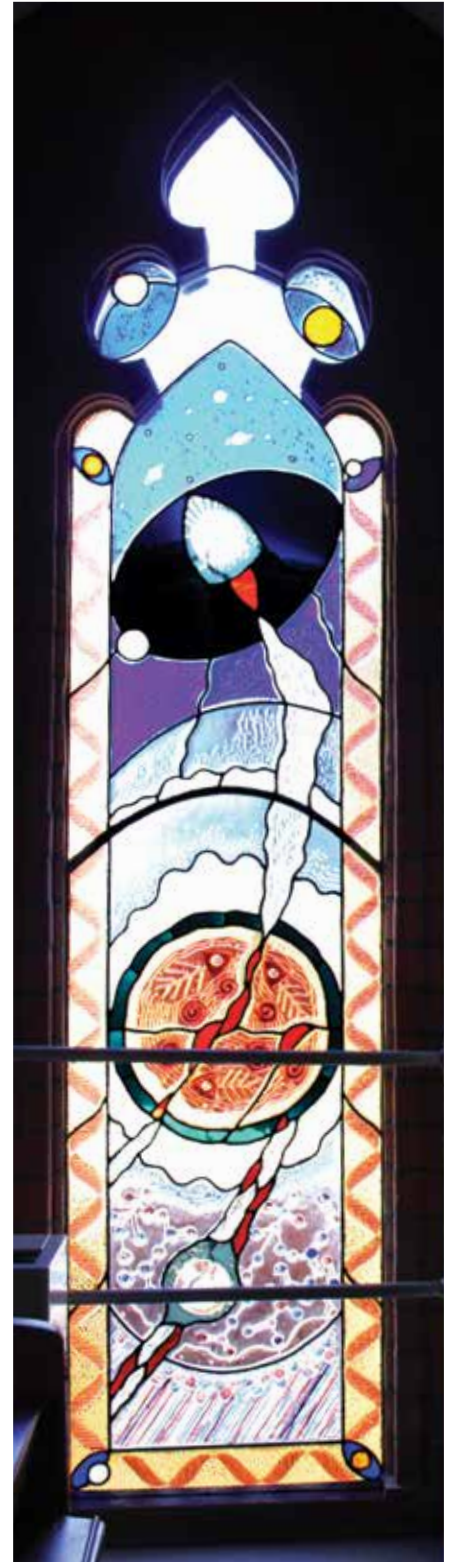
## Chapel 1967 – 2017

The Chapel was first used on 2 March 1967 when the Dean of Melbourne, Tom Thomas, took the School Service. The Old Grammarians attended the Inaugural Evensong on 20 April 1967 at which their members were able to view the large stained glass window, their donation to the Chapel. The silver winged ox, emblem of St Luke, was dedicated on 17 April, 1968. This was a gift from the Old Grammarians in honour of Miss Gilman Jones, who had started the Chapel Fund so many years earlier.

The Chapel quickly became a focal point in the life of the School and regular services of morning worship, Eucharist services and Evensong, Confirmation and other special occasions services are held there. For many years, a choir, the Chapel Chanters, was organised specifically for Chapel services. In 1968, the Drama Club was given permission to stage their religious play, *Boy With a Cart*, the first of a number of plays performed in the Chapel. The Old Grammarians hold a special service in the Chapel each year prior to the Anniversary Luncheon. By 1988, weddings of Old Grammarians were being held in the Chapel, quickly followed by baptisms from 1990, as well as memorial services.

Two stained glass windows have been dedicated in memory of past Principals, both designed by David Wright. The first in memory of Miss Edith Mountain, 1958 – 1974, was dedicated in 1989 and the second, in memory of Miss Nina Crone, 1975 – 1994, in 2014. Both were gifted by the Old Grammarians.

Pip O'Connor (Farrer, 1965)  
Multimedia Historian



FAR LEFT: Nina Crone window  
MIDDLE LEFT: 1915 Drawing by Alexander North, Architect for the School Hall  
LEFT: Old Grammarians window  
RIGHT: Edith Mountain window  
TOP LEFT: Chapel Fund Collection Pocket  
TOP RIGHT: 1967 New Chapel



# PHILANTHROPY

## BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN PEOPLE



TOP: Pat Tulloch at Doncaster, 1943  
ABOVE: Rosemary Mailer and Pat Tulloch, 1943  
LEFT: Pat Holdenson, 2017

**Patricia Holdenson (Tulloch, 1944) has fond memories of an education that, despite some adversity during the war, led her on to “bigger and better things”.**

In 1942, three years into the Second World War, and with London still recovering from the Blitz, the sudden departure of Melbourne Church of England Grammar School (MCEGGS) senior girls from South Yarra to Doncaster left many students to complete their final years of schooling in changed conditions. However, it also left them with a life-long sense of resilience and many enduring memories.

Pat was one of those students who suddenly found herself with more than an hour’s commute to school each day.

“I had to catch two trams, a train, and then a bus from Box Hill station.” Pat remembers. “If you missed the bus, you had to walk the rest of the way – and believe me, if you missed it once, you never missed it again!”

Despite the threat of war, she remembers her time at Doncaster fondly. There was a relaxed feel to the School, and having grown up in the suburbs, Pat found the then rural surrounds of Doncaster a welcome change of environment.

“We loved it ... the freedom, the orchards all around. We were in the great outdoors.”

The orchards were a particular temptation: Pat remembers scaling the grounds’ fence with four friends to help themselves to apples from the orchard next door ... until shouts from an irate farmer sent them flying back to the School.

Although relaxed, it wasn’t all easy – Pat

remembers several classrooms in the golf club and science experiments in the kitchen. “The limited resources made learning difficult, but we ended up doing really well. I truly believe adversity brings out the best in people.”

Pat studied English, French, German, History, Biology and Geography, wanting to work in either nursing, diplomacy or journalism. Pat’s mother was a nurse, and dissuaded her from that career, so after leaving school she took up a cadetship at the Argus newspaper. Here, she was fortunate to learn from an array of writers, including George Johnston, author of *My Brother Jack*. She also spent time on the social pages, enjoying the chance to attend functions with the paper’s photographers.

Although she enjoyed journalism, Pat put her career on hold while she raised her three daughters, all past students of Melbourne Girls Grammar, and then embarked on a second career as a tour leader. Those 56 trips turned Pat into an avid traveller, having since tallied up 109 overseas trips – and still counting!

In amongst all the travelling, Pat has made time for a remarkable amount of charitable work, for which generosity she received an OAM in 1991. She has dedicated over 40 years to the charity Berry Street, an organisation that helps vulnerable children and families. “They do wonderful work for children – including providing foster care services, educational

programs with regional schools and outdoor adventure camps ... it opens up a new world for these children”.

This belief in the importance of opportunities in childhood is reflected as well in her continuing involvement and support of Melbourne Girls Grammar today.

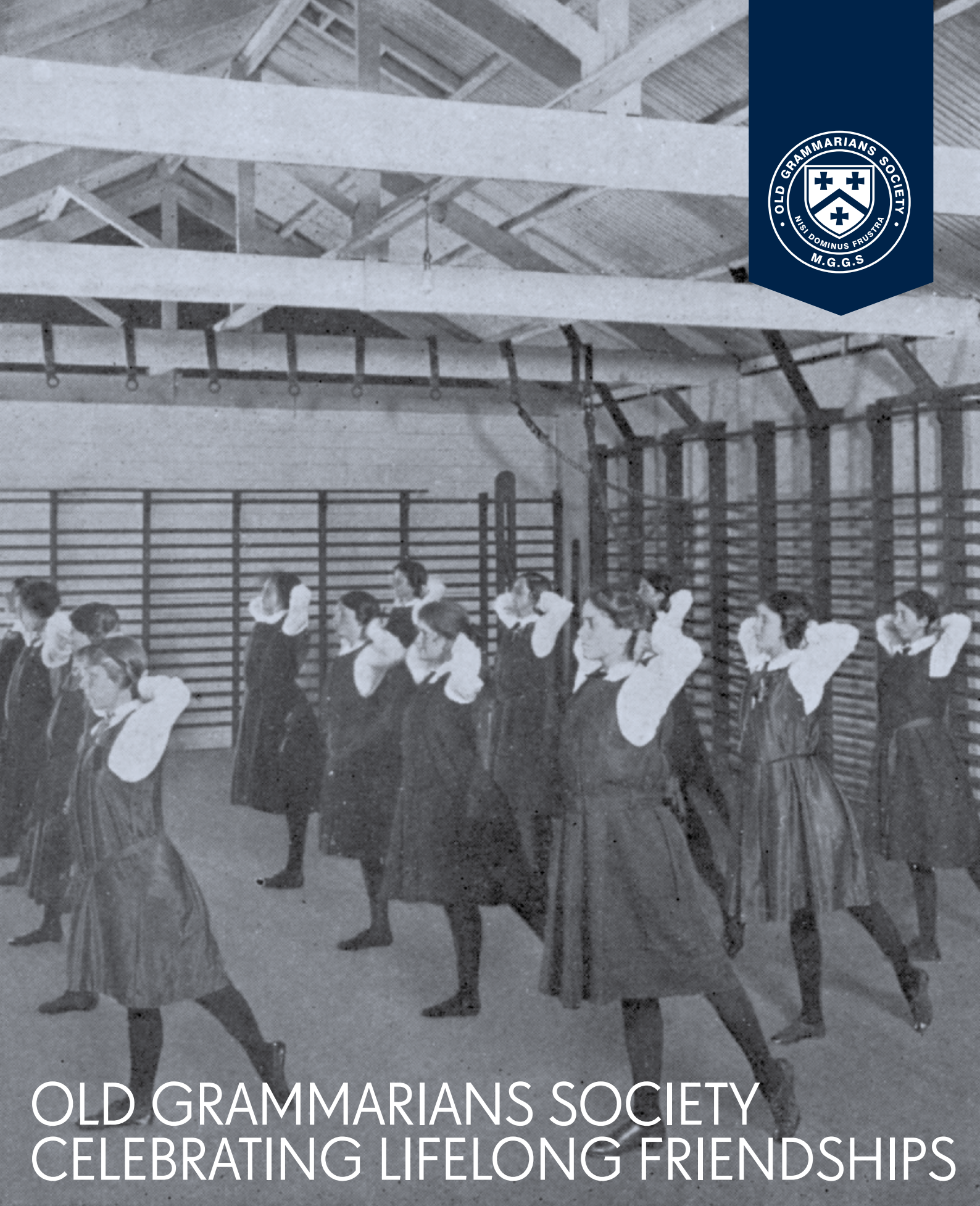
Pat has seen her three daughters, and three granddaughters attend the School – her great granddaughter Emily will be the fourth generation.

“I was fairly shy as a young person, but I think I developed a lot – taking the groups overseas, I was in charge of a lot of people. I feel that it was my experiences at school that did that for me. And I’ve gone on to bigger and better things,” she says.

She has been a generous donor in the past and has made a bequest to the School in her will, in the hope that future generations can enjoy what she and her descendants have.

“Not just me, but my children – and their children – have done extremely well. All have University degrees, and I believe it’s because we’ve had a wonderful education.”

Pat is a member of the School’s Nisi Dominus Society. To find out more about bequests at MGGS, please contact Kathryn Austin, Director of Development on 03 9862 9271.



# OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY CELEBRATING LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

1909 Swedish Gymnastics in gymnasium



# OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

REPORT BY TRUDIE HORSFALL, PRESIDENT

**The Old Grammarian Society (OGS) of Melbourne Girls Grammar has kindly elected me to be their next President. I have accepted with a little trepidation, having to fill Judy Wilkinson's shoes.**

Judy has worked tirelessly over the last seven years in representing the Old Grammarians in and out of the School. During her tenure, the OGS has:

- Held a Boarders Reunion in 2011 which highlighted Pip O'Connor's film *The History of Boarding*
- Published Old Grammarians history books, *Gilman Jones Scholars – A Reflection on Lives of Service, Memories of Doncaster – MCEGGS, Memories of Marysville – MCEGGS*
- Launched Young Old Grammarians Society (YOGS)
- Inaugurated the International Women's Day Breakfast which is now an annual event
- Introduced the 60 Year Reunion as part of the Annual Anniversary Luncheon
- Re-established the Old Grammarians Choir
- Planned and financed the Nina Crone Stained Glass window in the Chapel of St Luke
- Installed a permanent display cabinet in the library where archival items can be seen by the girls and others in the School community
- Supported the creation by the DJ Ross Trustees of the DJ Ross Oration, which is now an annual event
- Provided financial assistance to the School archives to keep digitalizing valuable historical documents
- Donated the Honour Board for Captains and Vice Captains of Boarding pre 1960 to complete the record on the wall in Gilman Jones
- Pledged \$100,000 from the Old Grammarians to the Artemis Building Project
- Strongly supported the DJ Ross, Gilman Jones and Old Grammarians Scholarships
- Supported Pip O'Connor's work in keeping Old Grammarian history alive with films, photos and interviews.

Thank you Judy, for the many years and tireless efforts.

## Stay connected

Delving into the OGS committees past and present, there is a wealth of knowledge of the School, its past students and annual traditions that draw Old Grammarians back inside the red brick walls with their recollections, photographs, memories, and life stories. I would like to acknowledge and thank all previous past presidents and their committees for their time and counsel that has been passed down through the generations.

With the assistance of the School's Community Office, we are continuing to bring our traditions and events to you, the Old Grammarians of Melbourne Girls Grammar, and are looking forward to engaging with you all whether it be School reunions, OG Branch functions (local, state and overseas), the annual Golf Day, lecture series and milestone events.

Our calendar of events can be found on MGGG Connect and the School's website. I encourage you to view them.

## Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 26 April

This year's Annual General Meeting was well attended. The President's Report, Principal's Report, Treasurer's Report and the Audited Accounts were presented. We remain in a healthy financial position thanks to good fiscal management by Margaret McNaughton (Atkins, 1955) who represents the OGS on the Merton Hall Foundation, and Honorary Treasurer, Meredith Windust (Carison, 1964).

Reports were also noted from the Life Members Trust Fund, Old Grammarians Scholarship Fund, DJ Ross Memorial Fund and the Gilman Jones Scholarship. As in previous years, the OGS has remained committed to contributing financially to our three scholarships and I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the OG Scholarship for a student entering Year 9 in 2018 is Isla Tremlett, daughter of Arabella Gibbs (1987).



In addition, the OGS is pleased this year to make its final instalment of \$25,000 to honour its pledge of \$100,000 to the Artemis Project.

At the meeting, office bearers for 2017 were announced: President: Trudie Horsfall (1976); Vice Presidents: Athena Kellis (Scotis, 1965), Emma Harrison (Gourlay, 1983); Secretary: Robyn Fergusson (1972) and Treasurer: Meredith Windust (Carison, 1964)

## DJ Ross Oration, Wednesday 10 May

The Trustees Louise Gourlay (Holmes, 1955), Venetia Patchett (Streeton, 1965) and Merial Clark (1978) were pleased to present Janet Hailes Michelmore (Kay, 1971), Executive Director and Head, External Relations of Jean Hailes for Womens Health, to deliver the oration titled 'DJ Ross and Jean Hailes – visionary women and their legacies for women's education and health'.

**Dr Dorothy Jean Hailes AM (1943)** was a passionate, caring Australian general practitioner. A visionary in the field of women's health, Jean identified a gap addressing the health needs of menopausal women. In 1971 she established the first women's health clinic in Australia – one of the inaugural menopause clinics in the world – dedicated to midlife and menopause.

Founded in 1992 in honour of her mother, Dr Jean Hailes, Jean Hailes - for Women's Health reflects the enduring legacy that she made to women's health. Jean had a far-sighted vision to improve the quality of women's lives and give them practical information based on the best available evidence. She is credited with being the pioneer of menopause management in Australia.



**DJ Ross Oration**

FAR LEFT: Louise Gourlay (Holmes, 1955), Janet Hailes Michelmore (Kay, 1971) and Venetia Patchett (Streeton, 1965)

LEFT: Cleo Westhorpe and Julia Hare (Gillespie, 1971)

BELOW: Janet Hailes Michelmore

**Miss Dorothy J Ross, Principal, Melbourne Girls Grammar (1939 – 1955),** was a progressive educator who created a school that was different from many of its era. She introduced curriculum reforms, focused on individual learning and progress rather than competition, introduced democratic governance to the girls and focused on attracting teachers who could implement her ideals. Affectionately known as DJ, she knew every girl in her school and endeavoured to help each one to reach her potential and find the key to a purposeful and satisfying life. She is much-loved by her generation of Old Grammarians, who generously supported the establishment of a scholarship in her memory and continue to support it to this day.

Louise Gourlay (Holmes, 1955) acknowledged retiring Trustee, Julia Hare (Gillespie, 1971) for her contribution to managing the DJ Ross Memorial Fund and as the instigator of the DJ Ross Oration which has become an annual event on the OGS calendar and is always worth attending.

**50 Year Reunion for 1967 Leavers, Saturday 3 June**

Members of the Class of 1967 attended their 50 year reunion at the School on Saturday 3 June.

School Captain, Anne McCutcheon (Richardson) was unable to attend and Sally McBride (Vear) spoke on behalf of her year level and gave the toast to the School.

Pip O'Connor (Farrer, 1965) once again put together a slideshow of photos to the Class of 1967 and also a 'Then and Now', showcasing the changes of buildings and rooms in the School since the 1960s. The School was almost unrecognisable to most of the visiting cohort with versions one, two and even three of some buildings keeping the same names! Fond memories and reflections were heard throughout the School tour and Sally Garnsworthy was pleased to see 'The Garnsworthy Centre for Computer Studies' plaque still remaining on a red brick wall in recognition of her father's contribution to the Computer Centre of that era.



1967 graduates were leaving school into a world of social and political upheaval both in Australia and overseas. A timeline of 1967 historical events was mulled over as Jeanette Lewis, Editor of the 1967 MCEGGS School Magazine, read sections of her editorial, which was as relevant today as it was 50 years ago.

The 1967/50 year cohort coincides with other significant 50-year milestones within the School. They are:

- The Chapel of St Luke dedication by the Most Reverend Frank Woods, Archbishop of Melbourne, Chairman of the School Council
- Formation of the Chapel Chanters, a small choir of boarders trained by Miss Bazeley, was formed
- Introduction of Debating, Drama and Music into the House system



**Wangaratta Gathering**

ABOVE: Katie Dugdale (Blair, 1965), Dee Hurst (Goldsmith, 1965), Judy Wilkinson (Rutty, 1965), Libby Finlay (Hays, 1965)

BELOW: Honey (Helen) Murphy (Archer, 1965), Sue Gall (McKernan, 1965) and Heather Clarke (1965)



LEFT: Sally Anne Kennedy (Garnsworthy, 1967) beside the plaque marking the dedication and opening of the Garnsworthy Centre for Computer Studies in May 1992.





# OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

REPORT BY TRUDIE HORSFALL, PRESIDENT

## MGGS Country Luncheon, Albury, Friday 2 June

Many North Eastern members of the School community enjoyed a lovely luncheon at the Albury Club, organised by a team of OGs and the School Community Office. Doris Mohrhardt, the Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, represented the School and spoke of current events and ongoing engagement activities with OGs.

We were fortunate that Old Grammarian, Anna Bull (Porter, 1999), generously gave her time and enthusiasm to organise the Club and the catering to provide a luscious meal and to place vases full of beautiful roses from her garden on the tables. Thank you, Anna.

Professor Katie Allen (Stephens, 1983) was the special guest speaker. Katie is Chairman of School Council and it was particularly special to have her with us, as she had been a boarder at the School. Her family, also originally from Albury, consists of four generations of OGs.

Thank you also to our Old Grammarian representatives for the North East, Sue Read (Purbrick, 1965) and Honey Murphy (Archer, 1965), who rallied many OGs to attend so that much catching up and reminiscing took place.

Every effort was made to contact all OGs living in this area. If you did not hear about the event, we are sorry to have missed you. Please contact the Community Office at [community@mggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:community@mggs.vic.edu.au) to have your name added to this group as we do intend to have future functions in north eastern Victoria.



### Albury Country Lunch

1. Katie Allen (Stephens, 1983), Chairman of School Council, and Lisa Dixon
2. Julie Hope (Sloane, 1971), Penny Evans (Anderson, 1965), Judy Wilkinson (Rutty, 1965) and Libby Finlay (Hays, 1965)
3. Annabel Dixon (2011) and Lisa Dixon
4. Edwina Willett (Bugge, 1999), Kaye Corbett (Symons, 2000) and Jacqui Snow (Stephens, 2002)
5. Barbara Ramsden (Barbara's mother and grandmother were OGs) and Rachael Baker (McCathie, 1985)
6. Mark Wettenhall, Laura Daley, Director of Boarding and James Mullins
7. Honey Murphy (Archer, 1965), Anna Bull (Porter, 1999) and Sue Read (Purbrick, 1965)





**NSW Branch Gathering**

Anni Rowland-Campbell (1977), Katrina Weir (Mills, 1979) Rosie Humphrey (Wilmot, 1959)



Rosie Humphrey (Wilmott, 1959), Sue Goldstein (Lewin, 1959), Felicity Read (McBean, 1962)



Anni Rowland-Campbell (1977), Trudie Horsfall (1976)

**OGS Geelong Branch Annual Luncheon, Monday 1 May**

Louise Gourlay (Holmes, 1955) generously opened her beautiful home at 'Oak Tree Hill' on the Bellarine Peninsula to a gathering of OGs on a brisk autumn day. A delicious basket lunch catered by Sarah Roe (Beggs, 1984) who was assisted by Georgie Scarborough (1983) was enjoyed by all. Doris Mohrhardt, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, represented the School and gave an update on current school activities and the upcoming completion of Artemis Centre. Barb Ashby (Farrer, 1963), Geelong Branch representative, did a sterling job in bringing the group together.

The Geelong Branch Luncheon is open to all Old Grammarians in the Barwon and South-Western District. Please ring the School or email [community@mggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:community@mggs.vic.edu.au) and add your name and contact details to the Geelong Branch data list so that you can receive notification of the event.

**New South Wales Branch News**

NSW Old Grammarians at The Queen's Club, Sydney, tucked into chicken sandwiches and champagne for their branch's autumn/ winter meeting.

Quite a few apologies led to a smaller attendance this year. Rosie Humphrey (Wilmot, 1959), Sue Goldstein (Lewin, 1959) and Felicity Read (McBean, 1962) presented their annual review of NSW activities and news.

The NSW Branch has a lovely tradition of donating a book to the libraries of Melbourne Girls Grammar (Junior and Senior Schools) in memory of Old Grammarians from their branch who have died. With a dedicated bookplate, *My First Gardening Book* has been gratefully received in memory of Elizabeth Mary Davis (Crockett, 1945) and *The Magic Flute* in memory of Elaine McClellan (Jolley, 1937).

This year's guest speaker was Anni Rowland-Campbell (1977) who took the group on her life journey so far, with a presentation entitled *Life in the Interstice*, interspersed with pictures of defence force family life, growing up in Government House, NSW and snapshots of her professional life. To read Anni's bio, follow the links in [www.intersticia.com.au](http://www.intersticia.com.au)

An informal event is being planned for November. The details and date will be sent out when confirmed. The NSW Branch of the Old Grammarians Society is open to all OGs in Sydney and NSW. Please ring the School and add your name and contact details to the NSW Branch to ensure that you are notified of their plans.

**Trudie Horsfall (1976)  
President of the Old Grammarians Society**



**Geelong Branch Luncheon**

LEFT: Jenny Tilleard (1965) and Anne Gourley (Elder, 1976)

CENTRE: Trudie Horsfall (1976), Barbara Ashby (Farrer, 1964), Emma Harrison (Gourlay, 1982) and Doris Mohrhardt, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement.

RIGHT: Louise Gourlay (Holmes, 1954) and Barbara Ashby (Farrer, 1964)



# OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

## NEWS



### WA Branch

#### Introducing new branch coordinator, Alison Walker

Alison Walker (Patchett, 1991) has recently undertaken the role of WA Branch Coordinator. Alison moved to Perth in 1996, shortly after graduating from the University of Melbourne with a degree in Chemical Engineering. She has lived in the West ever since, persuaded to stay by the terrific job opportunities, fabulous weather and the great Perth lifestyle. She is now married with children, and back working in the oil and gas industry after a career break. Alison enjoys remaining connected with the School and its community, as does her mother, Venetia Patchett (Streeton, 1965).



Alison is hoping to reconnect WA Branch members across the generations and is planning a weekend daytime event for October this year. If you would like to be kept informed of such an occasion in WA, please make sure your contact details are updated with the School by emailing [community@mggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:community@mggs.vic.edu.au). Any comments, ideas and suggestions for an occasion are most welcome. Alison would love to hear from you. Email her at [mggsogswa@gmail.com](mailto:mggsogswa@gmail.com)

### Pam Payne (1971)

Pam Payne recently rode her folding Brompton bicycle 1800+ km in 17 days from Land's End to John O'Groats on a tour supported by Cycling UK. It has been 40 years since she earned her Queen's Commission in the Army Reserve and it seemed like an appropriate challenge to mark the anniversary. Well done Pam, what an adventure! (pictured above left)



## 69th Annual Old Grammarians Golf Day

The 69th Annual Golf Day will be held at the Sorrento Golf Club on Monday 11 September 2017.

This day is a lovely opportunity for our OGs to get together and each year we get a wonderful turnout. The occasion will start with a dinner at the Sorrento Sailing Club on Sunday 10 September at 6.30pm, with golf commencing Monday at 8.00am for an 8.30am hit off. For those who would prefer to play bridge, this will be held at the golf club from 9.30am on the 11 September. Lunch will be held at 1.00pm for anyone wishing to join.

Anyone interested in playing either golf or bridge, or just joining us for lunch, must register for the occasions via this booking link: [www.trybooking.com/QKPW](http://www.trybooking.com/QKPW)

Look forward to seeing a crowd on the day. Any enquiries can be directed to Liz Tronson (1965) on 0417 866 816.



### Fiona Smith (1975)

Congratulations to OG Fiona Smith (pictured above) for her inclusion in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Fiona received an AM for her significant service to the community as an advocate for human rights and social justice issues.

Fiona has served on numerous boards. She was Chairperson of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission from 2003 - 2008. She has served as a Board Member with the Brotherhood of St Lawrence, Yooralla, School of Business at Monash University and the Victorian Guardianships and Administration Board. She has also been strongly involved in disability services including being a member of the Victorian Branch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Implementation Task Force.



### Rosie Yates (2014)

Congratulations to Rosie Yates (pictured below), who has been accepted to study a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama at The Juilliard School in New York. The audition process included various live and recorded performances, improvisation, interviews and essay writing. The Juilliard School provides the highest calibre of artistic education for gifted musicians, dancers, and actors from around the world, and we wish Rosie all the best in her studies!



### Georgie Howe (2012)

Congratulations to Georgie Howe who has recently graduated from Princeton University in the United States as Captain of the Rowing Team and with a Bachelor of Arts with a Classics major and Medieval Studies minor.

Georgie was among the first female rowers from Australia to make the trip across the Pacific for both academics and rowing when she started her freshman year at Princeton University in September 2013. Georgie was a part of three Ivy League Open Women rowing championship titles in four years and in her final year, was awarded post season 2017 honours to the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association All America 1st Team. This award recognises the outstanding performances of rowers and coxswains on the U.S. National level in women's collegiate rowing.

Georgie says, "I hope that myself and other graduates, many of whom I'm lucky enough to call friends, can inspire more schoolgirls to achieve their goal of being a student-athlete at the top tertiary institutions in the world. It was an experience unlike any other. The US system allows for a marriage of academics and sports - in fact, it encourages it. I will be forever grateful for my experience, the education and the appreciation and importance of team culture I received at MGS and for the connections that I've made beyond the gates of Anderson Street. I am looking forward to returning home at the end of June."





# OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

## REUNIONS



5 Year Reunion



50 Year Reunion



# *OG Anniversary Chapel Service, Luncheon & 60 Year Reunion*

Saturday 9 September 2017

Artemis Tours - 10.00am, see details below

Chapel Service - 11.30am, Chapel of St Luke

Luncheon - 12.30pm, Dining Hall

All occasions will be held at 86 Anderson Street, South Yarra

Tickets \$55 per person

Please book online at [www.trybooking.com/ONPH](http://www.trybooking.com/ONPH)  
or phone Reahn Aitchison on (03) 9862 9221.

Bookings requested no later than Sunday 3 September

This year, prior to the luncheon, we will be opening our new  
**Artemis Centre** to our Old Grammarian community.

**Please join us between 10am - 11am for your chance to see  
this phenomenal new wellbeing centre.**

**We suggest allowing 30 minutes to tour the facility.**



# OLD GRAMMARIANS SOCIETY

## VALE

### Ellis-Ann Rothenburg (Becher, 1953)

### Margaret Sloan (Bott, 1949)

### Sheila Allen (Ulbrick, 1936)

Sheila Allen (Ulbrick) came to Merton Hall in 1932. She was the daughter of an Old Grammarian, Circe Warr, who had started at the School as an 8 year old in 1906, leaving in 1917. Sheila's admiration and respect for her headmistress, Miss Gilman Jones, was well known and she was frequently heard to describe her as 'the greatest lady' she had ever known. Sheila loved her time at school, often recalling with fondness her enjoyment of tennis, her gym classes and particularly the music classes with Dr Floyd. Sheila was active in the school guide group and remembered being involved in fundraising for the Chapel Fund and the Red Cross.

On leaving school, Sheila threw herself into a very active life of service in Melbourne, fundraising for the Red Cross, the Children's Hospital, the City Free Kindergarten and The Mission of St James and St John among others. She was also active in the life of the Old Grammarians' Society. Marrying Murray Oswald Jacobs in 1944, Sheila and her husband eventually moved to live in Adelaide. In 1951, Sheila organised a gathering of Old Grammarians and thus began the

re-emergence and continuing existence thereafter of the South Australian Branch of the Old Grammarians. Sheila was a vital force in organising meetings and activities in those years. The SA Branch lapsed somewhat in the 1960s when Sheila, after the unexpected death of her husband, threw herself into a new career involving travel and eventually some years in Melbourne.

However, in 1984, Sheila married her childhood sweetheart, Peter Allen, and returned to live in South Australia. There, with the encouragement of Christine Briggs, she restored the SA Branch to its former strength and continued to be a vital part of that group for many years. In 1997, her service to the School was recognised when she was made an Honorary Life Member of the Old Grammarians' Society. In 2011, Sheila was honoured by the SA Branch during their 60th Anniversary celebrations of the SA Branch and she remained an active member of this group, almost to the end of her long life.

Sheila's granddaughters, Rebecca Marshall and Tiffany Goldsmith (Marshall) both attended the School for a period of time, until a move to SA meant a change of school for them.



Sheila was a treasured Old Grammarian, who never forgot what the School had given her as a student. She regarded herself as 'the luckiest person' to have been at Merton Hall, especially under her beloved Miss Gilman Jones. In her long involvement with the Old Grammarians Society, she epitomised the notion of service to the School.

### Joan (Jill) Loton (Kemelfield, 1947)

Jill joined the school halfway through 1942 and was immediately part of the group of girls evacuated to Marysville. She left school in 1947, matriculating with honours in English and passes in French, British History and Music.

While at Melbourne University, Jill was a member of Janet Clarke Hall, an institution with which she retained close links. Following her graduation with a Bachelor of Arts, she worked in the Department of Defence, becoming Personal Assistant to the Permanent Head.

Jill married in 1956 and she and Brian had four children. Once her children were older, she took an active role in a myriad of boards and committees. In this very busy life, in 1989, Jill founded and chaired the BHP

Network Group, which was set up to provide care for BHP families, particularly for those transferring interstate or overseas, and which now has branches throughout Australia and overseas.

Her interests were diverse and she supported many organisations related to music and theatre, medical research, the Australian Tapestry Workshop and the Australian Ballet School. Jill took a keen interest in her school throughout her life and, only last year, was part of a small group of Old Grammarians, who came to visit their old school. Jill is survived by her four children, twelve grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Her daughters, Virginia and Carolyn, both attended the school until the family was transferred to NSW and her granddaughter, Jacqueline graduated in 2012.



## Can you add to the collection?

The Archives department is always delighted to receive offers of donations of School memorabilia. If you wish to donate items to the Archives, please contact Mrs Helen Moylan or Mrs Philippa O'Connor on +61 3 9862 9200.

## miggsconnect.com.au

MGGS Connect, a new networking platform designed to provide our Old Grammarian community with unprecedented engagement opportunities, enables you to:

### > RECONNECT

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.

Join this vibrant and dynamic online environment and reconnect with hundreds of other OGs today at [miggsconnect.com.au](http://miggsconnect.com.au)



# 2017

## OLD GRAMMARIAN EVENTS

### Saturday 9 September

OG Anniversary Chapel Service, Luncheon and 60 Year Reunion

OG Artemis Centre Open Morning

### Monday 11 September

Old Grammarians Golf Day

### Friday 15 September

Navy Blue Lunch

### Saturday 16 September

30 Year Anniversary of the Merton Hall Rowing Club and the 2017 President's Cup

Invitations will be sent approximately four to six weeks prior to each occasion. Dates were correct at time of printing and may be subject to change. Please visit our website and MGGS Connect for event details or contact the Community Office at [community@miggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:community@miggs.vic.edu.au) or 03 9862 9200.

## 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MERTON HALL ROWING CLUB



Saturday 16 September 2017, 10.00am

Melbourne Rowing Club, 8 Boathouse Drive, Melbourne

Families are warmly invited to share in a day of celebration and reflection.

Join us from 10am for the Annual President's Cup Race, followed by a boat blessing, and special presentations for the MHRC.

This is a free event, however for catering and event safety, we do ask that you make a booking.

Book now at [trybooking.com/QWHL](http://trybooking.com/QWHL)



# INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**Principal**

Mrs Catherine Misson

**Senior Years****Middle Years**

Merton Hall

86 Anderson Street

South Yarra Victoria 3141 Australia

**Junior Years**

Morris Hall

100 Caroline Street

South Yarra Victoria 3141 Australia

**Early Learning Centre**

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