



THE MORONGO

Official Newsletter of Morongo Old Collegians

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High-tea at Morongo!

SUNDAY 2 APRIL - AT KARDINIA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

The second Annual Morongo High Tea at Kardinia International College saw around 50 old collegians come together to reminisce and share their stories in the splendid Morongo House, and tour the grounds and school facilities.

The gathering was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated. A special mention to Morongo past students; Jane Tovey, Cherry Laurie and Margot Sanders who donated items to the Morongo collection at Kardinia International College. Beverly Boyd bought along her school hat and school photo!

These items were added to the Morongo memorabilia on display and will be shared with future generations of Morongo Old Collegians and students. Positive feedback to Kardinia College has confirmed good interest from Morongo old girls and a commitment to continue the event in April/May 2024. Further details are available from Kardinia International College Archivist and Alumni Relations Manager, Fiona Russell on (03) 52789999
Email: f.russell@kardinia.vic.edu.au





Above from left: Tracey Johnson, Lisa Beggs and Julie Clasper. Below: Sally Ellis, Miffy Stevens and Helen Motton



Below: Kate McCrae, Eve Lester. Right: Belinda Prowse, Jacqui Waugh.



Above left: Sally Turnbull and Roberta Matlock. Right: Kathryn MacInnes and Lisa Beggs.



Above left: Sherrill Harvey and Helen Motton. Right: Robyn Williams and Ruth Powell.

Below from left: Robyn Williams, Amanda Ghering, Di Gillett, Sally Turnbull and Jackie Budge



REUNION Class of 1981

40 YEAR REUNION- 15 JULY 2023

The Class of '81 gathered last Saturday to celebrate our 40-two Year reunion. Big thanks to Roberta Matlock for spurring us into action and to Sally Turnbull for finding a terrific venue (Amphlett House in Little Collins Street) and taking on the task of finalising the details. Tracey Johnson earned the most travel points, flying in from Vietnam and others travelled from interstate and country areas. We shared stories about our lives, laughed as memories of school life were recalled and did a lot of hugging. If any of our past teachers experienced a ringing in their ears, no doubt it was because we were speaking of you with fondness. I think the bar staff will still have ringing in their ears after being treated to a heartfelt rendition of the school song – even if some of us were a bit rusty on the subsequent verses. Our thoughts and love went to those who couldn't make it and to those sadly missed who have passed. We felt privileged to have been able to enjoy an evening together again and many promises were made to stay in touch.

Below right: Anne Warby, Rowena Carr. Far right: Kerry Hodge and Linda Dixon



Below left: Julie Clayton and Libby Roberts. Below right: Leonie Rooney and Di Gillett.



Above from left: Jackie Budge, Annie Warby, Tracey Johnson, Sonja Worland, Libby Roberts and Kate McCrae. Below from left: Tracey Johnson with Kate Deeley and Sue Thom. And Below that; Fiona Currie, Jackie Budge and Trudy Goodwin.



REFLECTION

Beryl Scott

OUR OLDEST COLLEGIAN AT 101

Beryl Miller Scott (nee Balfour) was 101 on 17 April 2023. She was a Morongo boarder from Gippsland, in 1934, '35 and '36 - aged 14, 15 and 16. That's a long time ago when you're 101 but, her memories of those three years are still vivid, as is her sense of humour, her thoughtful intellect and her perception of the world. For Beryl, her experience at Allity Aged Care in Lillydale, Melbourne reminds her of Morongo.

'My most vivid memory is of the gravel space in front Morongo House and the trees, and then down the hill; there were paths away from the buildings. I remember climbing trees – I climbed one particular tree to see the birds' nests. My favourite tree was across the gravel path and if nobody was looking, I could get around the back and then climb to the top - where no one could see me. I could hide up there,' she says with a smile.

'I was a little bit wild and our Headmistress, Miss Pratt called me into the office to have a serious talk. Yes, she did. She told me I was not behaving like a lady and if I didn't improve, she would have to ask me to leave the school. What I was doing was climbing trees, and Miss Pratt said, that wasn't something that a young lady should do. 'Well yes, but the trees were tempting. I enjoyed the tomboy things and at Morongo, they were trying to turn me into a lady. I didn't think my mother and father would be very pleased if I was asked to leave, so I straightened up and became a model student.'

'I remember a small space in the boarding house where a ladder went up into the roof and then, when you got up there, you could climb through and see the night sky and the bay. It was beautiful.

'Teachers and parents, they're not very brave. No. You've got to take risks sometimes and when you take a risk, it can be an important risk, and then you learn something.'

Girls were allowed to have access to their personal food hampers on Saturday afternoon. At other times, they were locked away. Beryl explains, 'we got our hampers and went down the back paddock. Mum made fruit cake and short bread and not everyone had hampers as good as mine, because mum was a very good cook and noooo, not all the girls had a hamper.' She also won a prize 'for walking' she says, with a smile. This was the Deportment prize and she explains how she was required to walk across the stage with a book on her head.

'Yes. I clearly remember. You felt your head and found the flat place and then you moved your shoulders back and straightened your spine and walked carefully across the stage. And, when you got to the other side, you dipped your head and caught the book in your hands. I got a prize for that.

Yes, I believe I did.'

'YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE RISKS SOMETIMES AND WHEN YOU TAKE A RISK, IT CAN BE AN IMPORTANT RISK AND THEN, YOU LEARN SOMETHING.'

– BERYL SCOTT



Beryl's exam results are listed in the back of The 1936 Lucernian and were exceptional. She finished her Intermediate Certificate in three years, not the usual four. In 1937, the family moved to Warragal, where Beryl attended Warragal High School and won a rare Senior Government Scholarship to Melbourne University. She was however, still too young at 16 and so she deferred her place until 1940 and studied secretarial skills in her gap year.

After graduating in Arts in 1942, and completing her Graduate Diploma of Education in 1943, she was offered a highly regarded teaching position at University High School in 1944, where worked until her marriage in 1946.

Beryl continues to speak fondly of her attachment to our school and her appreciation of the years she enjoyed there. Morongo was a world where women had authority and were in charge and made decisions - at a time when the church, most schools, universities, and workplace were dominated by men.

And what did she learn at Morongo? '... that women could be the leaders and decision makers.'

Sint Lucernae Ardentes!

Editor's Note: These reflections are delightful. We will continue this column in the next edition. Please feel free to send me any reflections you have.

Right: Elizabeth Worland (McGorlick 1958), Anne Varley (Little 1964) Una Allender (McIntyre '64) Rosemary Young (Tucker 1968) Sue White (Brown 1964) Anne Hastie (1970)



Right: Judy Dowling (Eagles 1953) Marieta Jones (Moir 1953) Robin Purdey (Urqhart 1953) Marl Ryan (Metherall 1953)



Below: Margaret McKay (Ganley 1955) Alison Griffiths (Grant 1955) Evie McEwan (Jones 1956) Di Trewenack (1956) Betty Harper (Grant 1957) Janet Walker (Ross 1956)



The annual William Angliss luncheon

WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL - AT
WILLIAM ANGLISS - MELBOURNE

Twenty-three old girls enjoyed the annual Morongo lunch at the William Angliss restaurant on Wednesday 17th April. It was a happy occasion with delicious food and much chatter and laughter.

This event is organised annually by Elaine Howden and the date for next year's luncheon will be advised early in 2024. All Morongo old collegians are welcome to attend.

Elaine can be contacted on email at: elainehowden@bigpond.com



Above: Judith Heard (1954) and Val Loughnan (Carson 1956) and Right: Judy Hyde (Lucas 1958)



Instagram at georgiegallart

PROFILE Georgie Gall

ARTIST

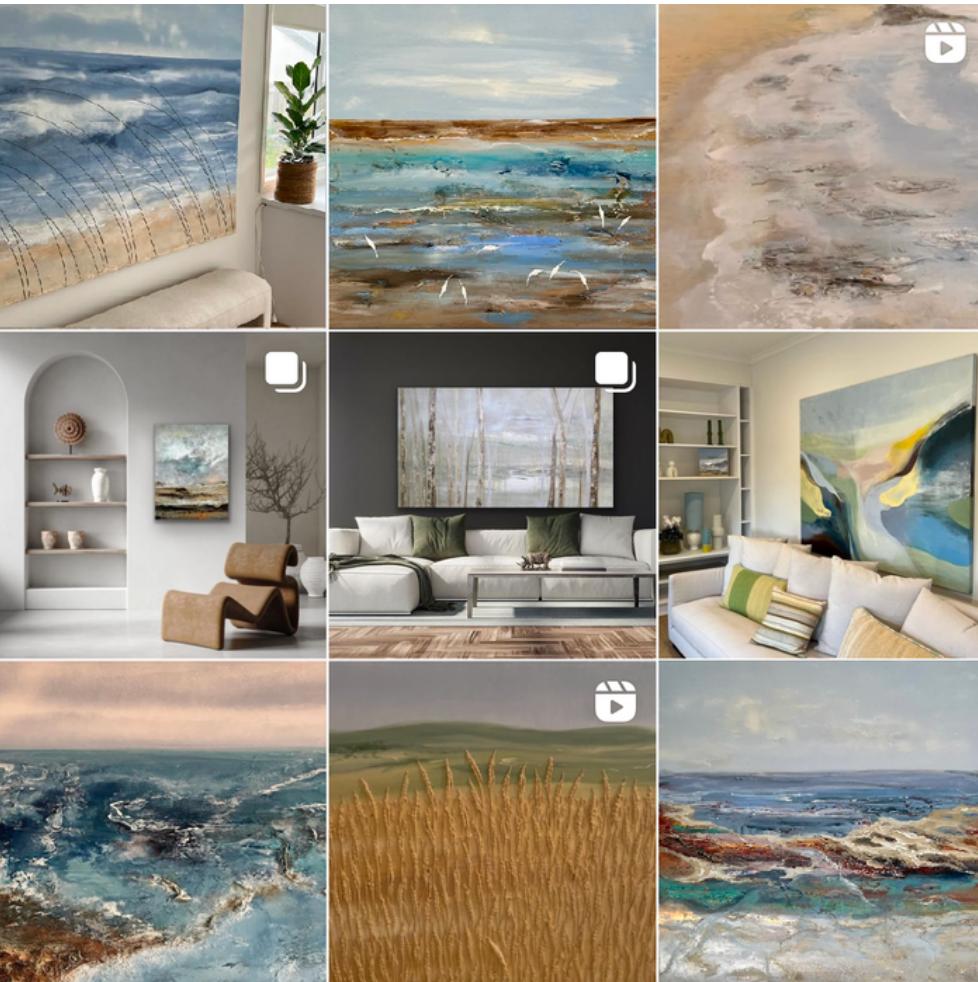
Georgie Gall (Richardson 1984) After moving to Sydney in 2000, Georgie undertook various short art courses which furthered her passion for painting. In July 2003, she wound up a 13-year corporate career to successfully pursue full-time art.

Georgie's experimentation with a range of mixed media, including acrylics, oils, watercolours, inks and glazes create a unique and rich collection of original artworks. She explores the vast Australian landscape in an original, textual and contemporary way.

It is her passion for the Australian countryside that Georgie thinks

about and attempts to infuse in her abstract paintings as she builds/subtracts layer upon layer of paint and medium. Her cool misty silver birch textual forests contrast with organic wheatfields and her textual sea grasses contrast with the red ochres of the northern territory waterholes. Birdlife is in abundance in her smoky green vistas depicting the typical Australian wetlands. The birds for example, work as Australian icons and provide movement and perspective.

Apart from being represented in many Australian private and corporate collections, Georgie's work can also be found in Singapore and the USA and in Geelong Regional Galleries, The Hive, Ocean Grove Seaview Gallery and in Queenscliff.



'IT'S MY PASSION FOR THE AUSTRALIAN COUNTRYSIDE THAT I THINK ABOUT - AND I WORK TO INFUSE THAT INTO MY ABSTRACT PAINTINGS, LAYER UPON LAYER'

– GEORGIE GALL



Obituaries

DR ALWYNNE MACKIE

Celebrating the life of Dr Alwynne Mackie (Huddleston) who died in March, 2023

Alwynne was born in Geelong on the 27th of June 1937 to Shiela and Harry Huddleston. Her father, was the manager of a golf course and unusually for the time, he believed that girls should receive a good education and be encouraged to complete their matriculation.

Her Aunt Alice ran a performing arts school teaching music, theatre and dance. Alwynne loved being on stage from an early age singing and dancing. As part of a Brownies excursion, she visited Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College. The school had boarders and to Alwynne it was like something from a storybook. Her parents, didn't think it would be possible but her Aunt Muriel who was a teacher could see that her niece was bright and had potential. She organised for her to sit for a scholarship – which Alwynne duly won.

Alwynne absolutely loved school and Morongo would set her up for life. She was determined to go to university and accepted a government scheme whereby she was bonded to the Department of Education who paid for her tuition and in return, she taught for three years after graduation. She was posted initially to Orbost and had just agreed to a transfer to Shepparton when she was involved in a bad car accident. Her injuries would leave her physically limited for the rest of her life and in the short-term meant a twelve-month stay in hospital.

Alwynne was able to focus on the positives in situations and this is a good example. Talking about the experience in later years, she spoke of her time in hospital with great warmth. Prior to the accident, she had embarked on her Masters. When the Director of the hospital learnt this, he made his office available, so Alwynne could study.

She was married twice, first to John Smart and then to Jamie Mackie to whom she had a daughter, Kate (also known as Gigi.)

Alwynne's career excelled. She lived in New York for a year while writing her second PhD, she took on extra roles, including sitting on the advisory board for the ABC, she co-presented an arts show on the television, and was a board member at Gigi's school.

During the early 60s, Alwynne embarked on an epic trip when she bought a car with three friends and drove from Europe to Australia. Having studied Philosophy, Alwynne moved on to Art History. Her two PhDs addressed the philosophy of aesthetics and art criticism of abstract expressionism. She wrote a seminal paper on Mercy while studying philosophy and for the rest of her life, she would regularly receive requests to talk on the subject.

After working as an academic in Melbourne, she landed the role of Lecturer of Art History at Canberra School of Art. She moved into administration and later moved back to Melbourne as Assistant Director at Phillip Institute of Technology, before becoming Director of the Victorian College of the Arts. She presented an extremely strong, uncompromising exterior and was able to guide the VCA through challenging times.



Retirement kept Alwynne busy. Gigi remembers her mother's deep connection with Nature, her boundless enjoyment for creating beautiful gardens, and the pleasure she got from a simple posy gathered on a walk through the neighbourhood.

Alwynne was ambitious, intelligent, capable, passionate, highly respected and was breaking glass ceilings before the concept was clearly understood. She was a complex and fascinating woman who was incredibly smart, strong, hard, fierce, courageous and driven. At the same time she was soft, sweet, likeable, chatty, cheerful and always positive.

**'AMBITIOUS,
INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE,
HIGHLY RESPECTED AND
BREAKING GLASS
CEILINGS'**

– GIGI MACKIE



SAVE THE DATE

The 10th Annual Golf/Lunch Reunion is booked for Friday October 20th 2023 at The Barwon Heads Golf Club

You are encouraged to Save the Date (we were almost at capacity in 2022)
A reminder will be emailed with all the details in late August. All enquiries to Jo Burton jojburton@bigpond.com

GV Luncheon 2024 will be in Shepperton on Sunday 5 May. The venue and details will be confirmed by email to members in early April. Sandra Macintyre: 0428 976 242 nutcundera@bigpond.com

The Morongo Old Collegians Luncheon at The Geelong College is on Saturday 28 October - 12noon. Further details from Sally Sadler Advancement Coordinator Phone: +61 3 5226 3779 sally.sadler@tgc.vic.edu.au

The Morongo Regatta is scheduled for Saturday 3 February, 2024

Obituaries

PAM CROSTHWAITE

Pam Crosthwaite (née McDonald) passed away on 10 June 2023 (aged 75) after a short battle with cancer. In 2009 she was awarded an OAM for her dedicated contribution to the Kiewa Valley and Yackandandah community where she was Director of Nursing at the Yackandandah Bush Nursing Hospital for more than 16 years, raising money for its expansion and increasing accommodation from 17 residents to 85, plus a medical centre, independent living and a facility for children. She epitomised the CARE in Aged Care.

Pam left Morongo to begin her nursing training at The Alfred in about 1964 or 1965. She was heavily involved in the local Red Cross, school groups and played golf with the local club as well as supporting her husband of 51 years, Donald (to whom I introduced her) who ran a large dairy farm, now being run by their son.
Lynne Dowling (1966)

BETTY THORNTON

We were saddened to learn of the death of Betty Thornton, on 10 June 2023. Betty was born on 8 November 1927 and lived in the Shepparton district all her life. When the Morongo Goulburn Valley Branch was formed in 1962, Betty was one of the inaugural Old Collegians.
Sandra Macintyre (1960)

Goulburn Valley luncheon



With warmth and enthusiasm, ten Morongo old girls enjoyed a luncheon at the McKinnon Centre of the Beolite Retirement Village in Mansfield on Sunday, 7 May. The venue was ideal and the event graciously organised by Merran Hall. Thank you to Merran who had prepared a welcoming and attractively presented room. All we had to do, was relax, enjoy morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea, as well as each others' company. In fact it was so comfortable and pleasant our hostess possibly thought we would be there all night!

Next year, 2024, the plan is to meet in Shepperton on Sunday 5 May. The venue and details will be confirmed by email to GV members in early April. Sandra Macintyre (nutcundera@bigpond.com / 0428 976 242)

Standing from left: Jan Hooper (Pope), Jeannette Joseph (Denhart), Marian Heard (Rowan), Merran Hall (Urquhart), Margaret Parfett (Armitage) Gwen Jensen (Bradshaw) sitting: Sandi Dohnt, Barbara Ramage (Bradshaw), Bev Purcell (Hacquoil)

**'IT' WAS SO COMFORTABLE
AND PLEASANT OUR
HOSTESS
POSSIBLY THOUGHT WE
WOULD BE THERE ALL
NIGHT!**

— SANDRA MACINTYRE



Maz and Meg's Morongo Quiz

1. The Morongo logo was designed with a lamp over a cross, What was the name of the cross?
2. Which year did students at girls school 'Roslyn', move to the Morongo Homestead site on Bell Post Hill?
3. Who made (and measured) the Morongo kilts?
4. Name the two ladies who ran the canteen.
5. Dancing classes were a Year 10 highlight. Name the couple who tried to teach us to dance.
6. Morongo had four headmistresses. Name each.
7. Name two teachers who were also old Collegians - there were a few!!
8. What was 'off limits' in the quadrangle??
9. Provide the first names of the following teachers: Mr Francis. Mr Seaton. Mr Armstrong. Mrs McNeil. Mrs Hosie. Miss Boyd. Mrs Thom. Miss Henderson. For a bonus point: what colour was Mrs McKenzie's polyester pant suit?
10. Speech and Drama was an important part of our education. Finish this:
Trifle and Ice
Cried May.
How nice.
Which would you rather
...
With special thanks to Meg Parsons and Marion Williams (1982)
Answers in the next edition.

THE MORONGO ROSE

A new plaque sits between two Morongo rose bushes outside the entrance to Mossgiel House, the girls boarding house at The Geelong College. The plaque provides information about the history of Morongo and the grafting of the rose. It was partly funded by a donation of \$100.00 by the ladies who attended the William Angliss Luncheon.



The Morongo Rose

Morongo Rose planted here is one of the many legacies of the Morongo Presbyterian Girls College. In the lead up to the 75th Anniversary of the College in 1995, the President of the Parents and Friends Association of Morongo, Mrs Jan Buchholz, decided that a rose would be an appropriate and lasting memento for Old Collegians and Friends of the College.

The Association approached Bob and Marlene Peden of Otway Roses who agreed to propagate a rose. They focused on the young women of Morongo, who they considered to be enthusiastic and possessing a strength of purpose.

Bob commenced breeding the Morongo Rose in 1990. A rose in the David Austin tradition, 'Morongo' inherits its health and robustness from Alexander and its cupped petals from Angel Darling.

This perfumed rose has a growing height of 1.2 metres with long stems, deep green foliage and wavy red petals. The soft red colour reflects the youth and vibrancy of the Morongo girls.

Unfortunately, Morongo closed in November 1994 and the roses were given to the Morongo Old-Collegians Association for distribution.

In 2019, two Morongo Roses were placed on either side of the portico of Mossgiel Boarding House at The Geelong College, directly in front of the Morongo Room.

Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College: A Brief History

The Geelong Presbyterian Girls' College was founded in 1920 by local Ministers keen to see a place for girls education in Geelong with Presbyterian ideals and traditions. It was first located at 'Roslyn', a property on the northwest corner of Elizabeth Street (now Roebuck Street) and La Trobe Terrace also incorporating the former Newtown Ladies College.

In the search for more space the College found a new home at Morongo, a bluestone homestead at Bell Post Hill. The College relocated there in 1927 where students and staff could enjoy the open space and views over Geelong and Corio Bay.

The first Headmistress of the school, Miss Gertrude Pratt, along with the College's founding Council, chose the school colours: navy blue, green and gold. 'Sint Lucernae Ardentēs' ('Let your lamps be burning') became the school motto emblazoned in the college crest.

After 74 years, Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College closed in 1994. The Geelong College is custodian of Morongo records and the heritage collection formerly held by the Morongo Old Collegians Association. Explore the school's heritage in the Morongo Room, located in the Mossgiel Boarding House foyer.

Contacts

Goulburn Valley Old Collegians

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Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953
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Ann McAllister
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William Angliss Luncheon

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Marieta Jones

For any Morongo old girls who use Facebook, we encourage you to join the Morongo PGC Social Community. This Community Group is filled with news and updates from many young and old collegians and teachers.



Morongo PGC Social Community

Public group · 602 members

Join Group



Our new Newsletter

Hello and welcome to our new newsletter, **The Morongo**. I'm our new editor and I'm excited to take over the management. I'm thinking we might do two editions: June/July and December/January. I'll see how I go and how much content we get. I was a boarder from Deniliquin for four years and completed Year 12 in 1982 during Dulcie Brookshaw's reign. I have two younger sisters, Shaunagh and Fleur who finished in 1985 and 1987.

Please feel free to send me any news about your lives since leaving school, dates for reunions, photos and reports from any reunion or

gathering and obituaries for those that are no longer with us. Please also share our Newsletter with your friends or family who are connected with Morongo. If you know an old girl without access to a computer or an email account please encourage them to enlist a partner, child or grandchild so they can receive our news.

Ann McAllister

...

For many years, Marieta Jones (Moir) has done a magnificent job gathering together news and reports from Old Collegians near and far, as well as reminding everyone of forthcoming events.

Originally these reports were posted, but they are now emailed. The job of keeping firstly postal addresses and then email addresses up to date is huge and we are very grateful to Marieta for her amazing efforts over the years. Thank you also to Marguerite (Marieta's daughter) for her help.

We now look forward to continuing our reading of Morongo news with our new scribe Annie and sincerely thank her for taking on the big task of keeping us all connected.

Elaine Howden.

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