



# Morongo Newsletter

Sint lucernae Ardentes

March 2017



Dear Friends of Morongo,

Happy and Healthy New Year To You All.

Welcome to our second annual Morongo Newsletter as we continue living and sharing the burning of our lamp of wisdom!

All members who have registered their email address with Marieta Jones (Moir) will receive this Newsletter early March each year. Send your email address to register at [bellposthill@hotmail.com](mailto:bellposthill@hotmail.com)

Thank you to all those who emailed us after the first newsletter last year. The response was overwhelming. We have recorded all the new emails. If we have accidentally omitted your email, we apologise, please email us again. If you have registered with your work email account, please be aware that many emails were either returned or sent to the recipient's junk folders.

Our Newsletter is an all-inclusive **MORONGO Newsletter** for all former Collegians and Friends of Morongo!

## Please Help Us

Any interesting news from any girl who went to Morongo is more than welcome. Send us articles and dates for reunions etc. Send your news to Marieta Jones (Moir); [bellposthill@hotmail.com](mailto:bellposthill@hotmail.com)

We would also appreciate being informed of recently deceased old girls, to keep our records up to date.

## DATES FOR YOUR 2017 DIARY

### All Morongo Old Collegians Lunch - Monday March 20th @ 12.00pm

Barwon Edge Boat House

40-70 Windsor Road, Newtown

Cost is \$45 and there is very easy parking (close access for those with mobility issues)

Please contact any old collegians who may like to join us.

RSVP by 13th March, with payment to confirm booking.

Please make cheques payable to Jill Thom

7 Rankin Road, Herne Hill, 3218

Enquiries Jill Thom (03) 5221 6035 OR Helen Robertson (03) 5241 8228 email: [hgrob1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hgrob1@bigpond.net.au)

### Goulburn Valley Luncheon - Sunday May 7th

The Goulburn Valley Members luncheon will go ahead on our long-standing date of the first Sunday in May. Venue to be decided. Goulburn Valley members will be invited by email early in April.

For further enquiries contact Sandra Macintyre on 0428 976 242, 57 976242 [nutcundera@bigpond.com](mailto:nutcundera@bigpond.com)

## **All Years Luncheon Reunion - Wednesday 17th May @ 11-30am**

### Angliss Restaurant

550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne \$40.00 per head

Contact: *Mary Moors (McGregor)* 9853 7379 OR *Barb Wilson (Wood)* [barbawilson@bigpond.com](mailto:barbawilson@bigpond.com)

Details will be sent out mid-March to all who responded in 2016. Please ring Mary if you have not been notified by end March. Please make cheques payable to Melbourne Bell Post Hill and send them to Mary Moors, 57 Princess Street Kew 3101

## **2017 Golf Day at Barwon Heads Golf Club - Monday October 30**

Interested players please contact *Lynn Fraser*. Phone: 0402067758, (52) 541239

[lynnfraser@bigpond.com](mailto:lynnfraser@bigpond.com) OR *Helen Richardson* (52) 442611 0417 584 363

More information will be sent closer to the date.

New players welcome, as are girls who would like to attend for lunch only.

## **2017 REUNIONS**

### **1955 Reunion**

A Reunion celebrating 61 years since leaving school will be celebrated at the holiday house of Judy and Bill Dowling (Eagles) in Queenscliff on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Further information will be emailed to all former students when arrangements have been finalized but make sure you have the date firmly noted in your diary. Some of us will be extending the event and staying in a local motel for extra talking time. See what you can manage.

## **NEWS FROM 2016 & EARLY 2017**

### **All Years Luncheon Reunion May 2016**

As usual our annual May Luncheon was held at the William Angliss Institute. The William Angliss trains people for the hospitality industry and they have a silver service restaurant open to the public for a very reasonable price. The students serve the lunch, supervised by an ever watchful manager. The menu is always interesting, provoking questions about things like shaved green pawpaw or betel leaf. The restaurant is situated in Little Latrobe Street, almost on Spencer Street, making it a very easy venue for those coming from Southern Cross Station, the several tram routes, or even the Sky Bus.

This year we had an attendance of 41, up on last year's figure of 36, with girls coming from afar, including interstate. This was heartening, as there was always the possibility that attendance might drop off, as we are no longer an association with all the associated support. However, the fact that we are now an informal social group has had the opposite effect, with old girls rallying to continue with our social get-togethers.

The May luncheon is always a popular and enjoyable occasion, and it is interesting to note that many friendships develop between girls from different years who might have otherwise had little or no contact when at school. Despite being well attended we would like to welcome more old collegians, so if you haven't been before, do try and come next year (May 17th 2017), and don't worry about coming alone as you will be made most welcome.

Organising an occasion like this involves a considerable amount of work and many, many telephone calls. Every year Mary Moors (McGregor) and Bev Skerritt (Birch) and this year Barbara Wilson (Wood), put a great deal of time into organising this event. Without them it may not have happened at all. Their hard work is much appreciated, and we thank them most warmly. We look forward to next year's luncheon, and hope to see a very large attendance.

*Alwynne Mackie (Huddleston)*

## Annual Bistro Night October 2016

Unfortunately our annual Bistro evening get together has been declining in numbers due to the evening drive. After many years, we have decided to cancel the Bistro Evening for 2017. To replace this event we can organise a Winter daytime movie and lunch at Pinewood Cinema in Mt Waverley.

Email; [bellposthill@hotmail.com](mailto:bellposthill@hotmail.com) by end of March if interested.

## Morongo Golf Day

The Morongo Golf Day was held on October 14th at Barwon Heads Golf Club.

A most successful day, superbly organised by Lynn Fraser (Crellin).

We had 24 players plus 20 more for lunch only.



Representing Morongo at the inter school challenge April 2016 from left to right:  
Susan Hocking, Sue Waldren (Schofield), Jill Darling (Fraser), Jenny Cashinella (Hobson)

## Goulburn Valley Old Collegians get together, May 1st 2016 at Euroa



**Back row (L-R)** Jeanette Joseph; Allison Griffiths (Grant); Sandra Macintyre (Bufton);  
Lyn Jagoe (Nissen); Julie Osmont (Williamson); Elizabeth Walpole; Mary Kenny (Agnew);  
Gwen Jensen (Bradshaw); Beverley Purcell (Hacquoil); Barbara Ramage (Bradshaw);  
Jan Vibert (Agnew); Heather Lloyd (Laird)

**Front Row (L-R)** Betty Thornton; Nancy Sullivan (Fewtrell); Jen Currie (Bradshaw);  
Jan Sherwin (McKenzie); Jan Hooper (Pope); Jeanette Newson (Thom); Heather McMillan (MacDonald)

## Morongo Rowing Regatta



*The Morongo Medal*

Twenty two schools, comprising mainly of Year 9 and 10 girls, competed in this year's regatta held on the Barwon River on Saturday 4 February. The weather was good for rowing and Loreto, Toorak came out on top with 17 medals.

The Morongo Medals (see photo on left), are presented at the Head of the Schoolgirls Regatta.

This year the regatta will be held from 17th-19th March on the Barwon River. Medals are presented to girls who are in Year 12 and have rowed for three or more consecutive years.

## Geelong College Foundation Luncheon

College hosted this luncheon on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Held in the Senior School Dining Hall, the luncheon was attended by approximately 40 Old Collegians, all of whom had held positions on committees during the existence of the Morongo Old Collegians Association.

We were welcomed by Mr Sandy Hutton, President of the Foundation, and enjoyed a delicious lunch. Dr Peter Miller, Principal of Geelong College, addressed the guests and acknowledged the important role Morongo had played in the heritage of Geelong College. He assured us that the Morongo Scholarship is alive, well and ongoing. He also informed us that the Shannon Cup is awarded annually to a worthy recipient and our precious memorabilia is being well cared for.

All 47 boxes of photos, newspaper cuttings and miscellaneous items are gradually being sorted and catalogued by Jeanette Joseph aided by a group of helpers. All Lucerian from 1921-1924 can now be viewed on the Geelong College Heritage website. Follow this link;

<http://gnet.geelongcollege.vic.edu.au:8080/wiki/MORONGO-PRESBYTERIAN-GIRLS-COLLEGE.ashx>

Finally Mr Con Lannin, the Geelong College archivist, took us to visit the Morongo Room at Mossgiel Boarding House. Many fond memories were stirred. It was wonderful to see the fine portraits of Miss Gertrude Pratt, Miss Lucy Shaw and Miss Dulcie Brookshaw again.

Thankyou Geelong College and all those responsible for the organisation of the day.



Lunch in Geelong College dining hall.





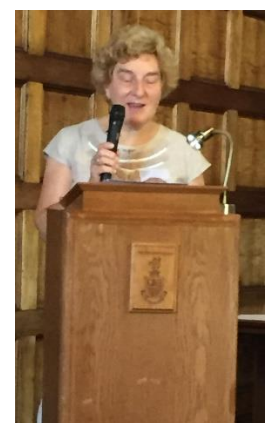
Noel Cook (Dabb) 1946 & Anne Howarth (Lindsay) 1950



Miss Shaw's portrait



Dr Peter Miller



Jeanette Joseph

## NEWS ABOUT US

### **Sue Lidden (Susan Tucker 1957)**

It was with great interest that I have read the newsletter passed on by a cousin.....another *Old Girl* It led me to dig out my old copies of The Lucerian, which somehow have survived the years and the shifts.

I was a boarder 1954-57, matriculating in 57. After school I went to Teacher's College. I taught in Hamilton and Horsham before being seconded to Papua New Guinea, where I stayed for 10 years. I returned to Australia to live in Wagga Wagga.

### **Jenny Hawkins (Sweetten 1959)**

I was a pupil at Morongo from 1947 to 1959. I met my best friend Margaret Weddell at Morongo Nursery School in Newtown.

My younger sister, Wendy Cooke, also went to Morongo as did both our daughters. I was the Kindergarten Assistant and my youngest daughter, Amelia, was in Grade 6 in 1996 when Morongo closed. Amelia remained to attend Kardinia International College in 1997.

### **Nora Sutorius-Valk (Valk Year 10 1946)**

I am honoured to have this opportunity to tell you how it all came about, my coming to Morongo!!!!

It was Nov 1945 when I arrived in Australia as a refugee from Java, Indonesia, part of the Dutch East Indies at that time. My family had been in a Japanese concentration camp for three years and on coming out of the camp, I was in an area where fierce fighting had broken out between Indonesian freedom fighters and anyone who was white or sympathized with the Dutch. I was evacuated from Surabaya on a British troop ship to Singapore. My mother had died in the camp of malnutrition, lack of hygiene and medication. My father was a POW and had been transported to Japan for three years, unbeknown to us. When he returned from Japan to Batavia (Jakarta) he searched for his wife and daughter. Through the excellent work of the International Red Cross, he learned of the death of his wife but still did not know where his daughter was. As he was still a pilot with the Dutch East Indies Air force, he was able to fly to Singapore where he was told his daughter might be held. And sure enough, he found me listed in a huge former internment camp. It was like a miracle to me. I had been there about two weeks and still had no idea where my father was. I was allowed to fly back to Batavia with him on the B25 that had brought him to Singapore.

Luckily he was allowed three months recuperation leave from the air force. As he was an officer and fighter pilot before the Japanese invaded, he could take me to Australia. It was through an Australian WAAF lady, an ex-pupil of Morongo that he was put in touch with Miss Shaw. The WAAF pleaded with Miss Shaw to take in this poor refugee. I was 15 and an only child. My father had to return to his job in Java in Feb 1946, after he settled me into the school.

Dina Cannon published the story of my arrival in the newspaper she was working for years later. I have it in my scrapbook. Everyone was curious about this girl!!! My first friend was Dot Brownlees. We remained in touch till a few years ago. A long-time friendship including many visits back and forth between Holland and OZ (Port Fairy) for our families. My grandson, Thys, was the last one who visited with Mark Grimshaw, Dot's son, and actually did some farm work on their property at Springfield! Miss Shaw was exceptional in making me feel welcome, for in the beginning I felt like I had come into another concentration camp! She gave me extra weekends away to visit my Dutch family friends in Melbourne. Eventually I did settle down and made many many friends.

I am still corresponding with, Jan Winstanley, Beverly Williams-Elshaugh, Jan Dix-Bowman, Alison Lloyd-Williams and Margeret Cottle-Welsh. These were all Day girls and had me home for many weekends, which was wonderful. Dot Brownlees used to carry notes back and forth to boys at Geelong College!! Lastly I must mention Margôt Douglas. She was famous because she had run away from school!!! Miss Shaw drove to Melbourne and found her there. Naturally I was fascinated and she was my best Boarder friend! After two years I went back to my father. The money had run out!!!!!! With much sadness I left my friends and eventually went to Holland via Batavia (Jakarta) where my father was still working. Eventually, we all were in Holland to start a new life. I married a Dutchman and we had three children.

Over the years I kept in contact with Morongo. I even organized a Reunion in London when Miss Shaw was traveling through Europe. About 10 old girls living in England got together in London for lunch. Among them was Erica Wallace. I saw Erica again last year. She lives in Tenterton, East Sussex not far from where my daughter lives. Miss Shaw visited us in Holland on another occasion when she was traveling with her sister. I also came back to Geelong for; reunions of my year, the 50th Jubilee in 1970 and finally for Miss Shaw's 100th birthday luncheon on 22 Feb 1998. I have many many photos of all these occasions!!!!!!!

I am now living in a lovely flat just outside of Amsterdam and would be happy to meet with any old collegians traveling through Amsterdam, even put them up for a few days!!!!

***My address is:***

Westelijk Halfond 373  
1183 JC Amstelveen  
The Netherlands

Telephone: +31-20-6167799  
Whatsapp: +31-630302077  
Email: ambarawa02@gmail.com

Below are a few photos from Nora, she did send more. Email Marieta if you would like her to forward Nora's story and photos in its entirety to you, [bellposthill@hotmail.com](mailto:bellposthill@hotmail.com)



Dot Brownlees and Nora Valk 1946



Jan Dix-Bowman, Jan Winstanley,  
Alison Lloyd Williams, Nora Sutorius-Valk



Nora with Miss Shaw

## VALE

*We are saddened to hear of the following deaths;*

### **Margaret Potter (Potts)**

Margaret came to Morongo as a Year 10 boarder in 1951. After leaving school, she returned home to Colac to work in her father's pharmacy. She came to Armadale in Melbourne where she worked for a cosmetic company. Margaret remained active playing tennis, golf and bowls. She was very active in her Probus Club. Margaret passed away February 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 aged 80.

## Inga Clendinnen (Jewell)

Inga Clendinnen (Jewell), born on 17 August 1934, died on 8 September 2016.

Inga attended Morongo until 1951, when she completed Matriculation. She then went on to Melbourne University where she completed an Honours degree in history, graduating in 1955. She became a distinguished historian, specialising in the Aztec and Mayan cultures. After a serious illness, she had a liver transplant in 1994, and this meant that she was no longer able to travel overseas for research purposes. Instead she turned her attention to subjects which could be studied from Australia, including indigenous history in colonial times and studies in Nazi Germany. In these areas, too, her work was significant.

Morongo was very innovative encouraging girls in the early 1950s to go on to university, and although not mentioned in her memoir *The Tiger's Eye*, she benefited from this policy. In the 1952 issue of the *Lucernian*, the School applauds her success as follows:

*Examination Success, 1951 - Inga Jewell*

*Our congratulations go to Inga Jewell upon her fine achievements in her last year at School. In addition to being Dux of the School for 1951, she obtained a Major Resident Scholarship for entrance to the University Women's College. This award was the result of a competitive examination; Inga's subjects were English Literature and Modern History. She obtained a Commonwealth Scholarship and a University Exhibition, both allotted upon the total of marks gained in the Matriculation Examination. She also shared the Cromarty Prize in English Literature, awarded by the University for second place in English Literature in the Matriculation Examination.*

*The School pays tribute to Inga's academic record, and wishes her every success in her future career.*

Source: The Age September 2016

## Karen Oppedisano (Palmer 1974)

Jill Palmer (1975) and Meren Perry (Cooper 1977) contacted us about sister & friend Karen Palmer.

Karen was a boarder during her HSC year in 1974. Sadly, Karen passed away in October 2016 as a result of melanoma. She was 60.

Karen was involved in the Tennis teams at Morongo and continued to be involved in tennis in the Warragul area. She was also a great needlewoman, and Meren feels blessed to have received one of Karen's handmade pieces. Karen worked in hospitals recording medical records for Doctors, a job she did well as she was particular about detail. Early in her career she worked for Fred Hollows. Later working in the West Gippsland hospital in Warragul and Neerim South District hospital. She was a caring and thoughtful friend who will be missed by family and friends.



## Lyn Hope (Townsend 1953)

Our dear friend Lyn died on 26th November 2016. She was so fortunate to have been lovingly cared for at home, by Noel, during the last weeks of her illness. Ten of her close Morongo friends met together with sixty or so of Lyn's wider group of friends on Saturday 10th December at Lyn's son Nick's lovely home in East Malvern. Fortunately, the weather was most accommodating and we were able to spread outside. Her four much adored little granddaughters loved having all grannie's friends together, to talk with!

Elaine Howden (Barber) whose sister Pat, (past travelling companion and very close friend) shared words of Lyn's past life's escapades as they lived together in the boarding house and later travelled the world. It was a sad but relaxed and friendly gathering. We were all very thankful to be able to say our final farewells to our darling friend. Aren't we lucky to have so many of our school friends still able to care for, and be interested in each other? We miss you already Lyn, thanks for all the fun times we spent together.

## Morongo Memorabilia

All of our precious memorabilia are stored in the Morongo Room at Mossgiel House. Mossgiel House is the girl's boarding house at Geelong College in Noble Street.

Any former Morongo girls wishing to borrow banners and/or flags for special reunions and functions may do so by making contact with Geelong College's archivist, Con Lannan. Allow a week to organise.

Con Lannan 5226 3148 email: [con.lannan@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au](mailto:con.lannan@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au)

OR Jeanette Joseph 52555623, who is assisting with the sorting and cataloguing of the memorabilia.

## PLEASE SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER .....

Please share our Newsletter with all your friends who are connected with Morongo. The more Morongo family and friends our Newsletter reaches, the wider our network becomes and the more effectively we can share news about our lives since school days.

Our Newsletter will only be emailed. For those without access to a computer or an email account we suggest you enlist a partner, child or grandchild or even a neighbour to receive the Newsletter on your behalf.

## Contact Us ...

Faye Lee (Pope) 1954	5956 8411 PO Box 2241 Ventnor 3922	Melbourne contact
Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953	<a href="mailto:bellposthill@hotmail.com">bellposthill@hotmail.com</a>	Send all your news
Elaine Howden (Barber) 1952	0413 800 841	Melbourne contact
Mary Moors (McGregor) 1950	9853 7379	William Angliss Luncheon organisers
Barbara Wilson (Wood) 1949	<a href="mailto:barbrawilson@bigpond.com">barbrawilson@bigpond.com</a>	
Sandra MacIntyre (Bufton) 1960	0428 976 242	Goulburn Valley Old Collegians contact
Lyn Fraser (Crellin) 1967	52541239 <a href="mailto:lynmfraser@bigpond.com">lynmfraser@bigpond.com</a>	Barwon Heads Golf contact
Jill Thom (Hooking) 1951	03 5221 6035 <a href="mailto:jillthom@gmail.com">jillthom@gmail.com</a>	Barwon Edge Boathouse Luncheon contacts
Helen Robertson (Hirst) 1951	03 5241 8228 <a href="mailto:hgrob1@bigpond.net.au">hgrob1@bigpond.net.au</a>	

*On behalf of all the members reading this excellent Newsletter, a very BIG THANK YOU to Marguerite Jones (Marieta's daughter) for all your hard work composing our annual newsletter again. F.L.*