



Morongo Newsletter

Sint lucernae Ardentes

March 2018



Dear Friends of Morongo,

Happy and Healthy New Year To You All.

Welcome to our third 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

Thank you to all those who emailed their News from 2017. Our Morongo Newsletter Community has grown to email addresses for 608 former students and friends of Morongo. 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 former collegian or friend of Morongo is more than welcome. Send us 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 to Marieta Jones (Moir) at bellposthill@hotmail.com before December 31st 2018.

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

DATES FOR YOUR 2018 DIARY

All Morongo Old Collegians Lunch - Monday March 19th @ 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

Goulburn Valley Luncheon - Sunday May 6th

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 or text in March.

For further enquiries contact *Sandra Macintyre* on 0428 976 242, 57 976242, nutcundera@bigpond.com

All Years Luncheon Reunion - Wednesday 16th May @ 11-30am

Angliss Restaurant

550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne \$40.00 per head

Contact: *Mary Moors (McGregor)* 9853 7379 OR *Marieta Jones (Moir)* bellposthill@hotmail.com

Details will be sent out mid-March to all who responded in 2017. 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

2018 Golf Day at Barwon Heads Golf Club – date to be determined late in October

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

Anyone interested in attending on the day for the first time (players or lunch only) please send an email to *Lyn Fraser (Crellin)* lynmfraser@bigpond.com for return invitation and information.

2018 REUNIONS

We haven't heard of any planned reunions for 2018.

NEWS FROM 2017 & EARLY 2018

Morongo Old Collegians Lunch March 20th 2017

Jill Thom (Hookings) reports the 2017 Luncheon was very successful with 41 attending. The new venue was very suitable - a lovely room with windows on 3 sides, on looking out to the river bank, the other one to a pool with water lilies so very pleasant. We are going to continue to organise the luncheon and will book the same venue for 2018.

All Years Luncheon Reunion May 2017

As usual, our May Luncheon was held at the Angliss Institute, situated in Little Lonsdale Street, just off Spencer Street, and very close to Southern Cross Station. This is an excellent location, both for those living in Melbourne and travelling on public transport, and those arriving in Melbourne either by train from Geelong or by airport bus coming in from interstate.

The luncheon was well attended, with a contingent of Old Collegians coming from Geelong as usual, as well as several girls coming from other parts of Victoria, and from interstate, as far away as Queensland. The experience of eating at the Angliss Institute is always an interesting one, as it is a well-known training ground for those in the hospitality industry. The food, therefore, is always at the forefront of food fashion, and is usually a learning experience for us all. Without fail, the food is always very good, but this year it was even better than usual. Perhaps that had something to do with the choice of dishes made by our organisers Mary and Barbara, but in any event, it was a special occasion.

Those who attend always seem to enjoy the occasion very much, and we are all aware that a great deal of work goes into arranging such an event. So our grateful thanks go to that hard-working pair *Mary Moors (McGregor)* and *Barbara Wilson (Wood)*.
Hope to see you at William Angliss in May.

We look forward to seeing you all again in 2018, and please try to bring someone along who hasn't been before, or for some time.

Alwynne Mackie (Huddleston)

Morongo Golf Day

Our 6th annual Morongo Golf/Lunch day was once again a huge success with 80 ladies attending, including 35 golfers and 45 for morning tea and lunch. The format for the golf was a 4 person ambrose. This proved most popular allowing newer golfers to participate without intimidation. It is also more social and relaxing. The non-golfers enjoyed renewing friendships over coffee at the Barwon Heads Golf Club before joining golfers in the Links Room for a wonderful lunch.

Our beloved school song was sung with much enthusiasm and nostalgia setting the scene for a happy reunion amongst old friends.



The team winners of the golf were left to right: Gail Rooney, Claire Heinz (Bourke) Anne Hunt (Tonkin), and Jill Darling (Fraser) all from Intermediate year 1970.

Notice of the 2018 event will be sent soon. For those interested please contact *Lyn Fraser* lynmfraser@bigpond.com

I attended the Golf Day in October. Lyn was delighted that the numbers were more than in previous years (beating The Hermitages). There were 23 from my year alone (which is actually the same year as Lyn, so many of her friends join her for the day). It was a great day, although the rain did dampen some of the golfers, but they dried off and enjoyed the luncheon. *Jenny Battye (Miles)*

We attended the annual event at Barwon Heads Golf Club in October. The organisers encouraged all years to join in so the four of us played. We were in Years 11 and 12 during the last year of Morongo in 1994. There was a great turnout! *Sarah Lamb*



L-R Prue Petroff (Waayers), Sarah Lamb, Amy Agar (Sanders), Fiona Miller (Nelson).



2017 Morongo Rowing Regatta

The annual Morongo Regatta was successfully held on the Barwon River on Saturday 3rd February for Year 9, Year 10 and Open divisions.

It is rowed mainly over 1000 metres and is open to girls from any school which rows under a rowing club banner.

The culmination of the rowing season is the Head of the School Girls Regatta, rowed on the Barwon from 16th to 18th March. It is at this event that Morongo Medals are awarded to any Year 12 girl who has rowed in this regatta for 3 or more years.

The medals are inscribed with the school's motto ***Sint Lucernae Ardentes*** and signify Morongo & Dulcie Brookshaw's contribution in instigating this important sporting event.

The Morongo Medal

Elaine Howden (Barber)

Goulburn Valley Old Collegians get together, May 7th 2017

The Goulburn Valley Morongo girls once again enjoyed a delightful lunch and catch up of news from the past year. It was held Sunday 7th May 2017 at a most congenial venue - Hill Top Golf Club Tatura.



Back row: Geraldine Gill (Vincent); Margaret Parfett (Armitage); Alison Griffiths (Grant); Mary Kenny (Agnew); Jan Hooper (Pope); Nan Sullivan (Fewtrell); Beverley Purcell (Hacquoil); Libby Douglas (McCann); Heather Lloyd (Laird); Jan Vibert (Agnew)
Middle row: Jeanette Joseph (Denhert); Isobel Symons (Hargreaves)
Front row: Sandra Macintyre (Bufton); Gwen Jensen (Bradshaw); Sue Pogue (Ballantyne); Heather McMillan (McDonald); Betty Thornton; Betty Hildebrand

In November 2017, there were several birthday functions for a stalwart of Morongo. Congratulations to *Betty Thornton* who celebrated her ninetieth birthday.

Each year we choose a venue to cater for the members who come from many districts in the Goulburn Valley and beyond. In the past five years we have visited Nagambie; Glenrowan; Bunbartha; Euroa; and Tatura. At lunch a couple of volunteers offer to search for a suitable venue and location in their area for the following year. Geraldine Gill and Gwen Jensen are likely to select something around Shepparton.

The Graduating Class of 1995 Reunion *Phillipa Ritchie (1993)*

November 2016 at Wah Wah Gee in Geelong.

We met for drinks and dinner and had a great time catching up. We haven't had this many of our year level together since our 10 year reunion in 2005.

This event was just word of mouth, by adding girls to a Facebook event. If any girls from the 1995 class, who attended or who could not make this meet up, we would all love regular catch ups and welcome anyone starting a Facebook event to get the word out.



Front row L-R: Freya Fidge, Alison Warrior, Melanie Greco (McCrae), Pia Frisby, Annabelle McKellar (Senior)

Back row L-R: Kim Goldsmith, Natalia Kellerman (Kelso), Phillipa Ritchie, Rebecca Maddern, Melanie Lee (Webster), Fiona Miller (Nelson), Rebecca Gibson, Amy Agar (Sanders), Megan Blackmore

1987 Graduating Class 30 Year Reunion Saturday 21 October, 2017

Emma Ferris (1985)

It was a superb trip down memory lane in October this year when over 40 of our fabulous girls and one of our beloved teachers from the Class of 1987 gathered for our 30-year reunion at The Boatbuilders Yard, South Wharf Promenade, Melbourne.

The net was cast far and wide and we were able to track down many girls with many coming from interstate and across the Tasman. Some of those unable to attend sent their well wishes and were all there in spirit.

We all had name tags that included a photo of ourselves from school so we could all recognise each other and a smorgasbord of memorabilia to flick through and reminisce over including copies of The Lucernian, countless photo's, Valedictory programs and even an old price list of the school fees! Thanks to Vicki Whyte (nee Meyer) for being the hoarder of all things nostalgic.

We all agreed it was a brilliant afternoon reconnecting with our year group, with some of us seeing each other again for the first time since leaving school all those years ago. As you can imagine there were lots of laughs, high pitched screams and bear hugs all round. Some of us had 10 or 30 years of catching up to do so the celebrations went well into the night. Everyone had a blast and all agreed to make the next reunion in five years instead of waiting another ten.

It truly was a special afternoon and evening that reconnected us all to a pivotal time in our lives and although the daily realities of our lives may be miles apart 30 years later, the atmosphere and spirit on that cold and windy afternoon in October was exceptional.



Top photo: Graduating Class of 1987

LHS: L-R Teri Dodds (nee Carnell), Candice Robinson (nee Whinerey) & Felicity Koch (nee Morrison)

Middle L-R Emma Ferris & (Mrs) Gael Spooner (Morongo teacher)

RHS: Georgina Lucas (nee Harvery), Kate Hood (nee Weaver) Emma Ferris, Lou Morton and Benita McGuinness (nee Smits)

1955 Reunion 24 October 2017

Robin Purdey (Urquhart)

We met for lunch in Queenscliff, seventeen of us, eighty year olds more or less, sixty-two years out, class of school leavers in 1955. Then we had a Morongo education in common. What now do we have in common? Still a Morongo education, common foundations, common ideals and common memories that bind us together now as then.

Together we laugh over stories of Fish locked in a cupboard and stories of old teachers younger than us. Together we share the sadness of random and indiscriminate gaps from earlier reunion photographs, missing girls who will not blow out eighty candles on their birthday cakes. Together we can be proud of our achievements as forward-thinking, working women, some as farmers, some as professional career women, many as mothers, making valuable contributions to the society we met head-on as we left Morongo doors all those years ago. Reasons to be proud and reasons to be thankful for our heritage and our opportunities.

We have so many different stories but so many similarities; snippets of life, of lives lived: pacemakers and Probus, children and challenges, bowls, bridge and Burma, cataracts and cancer, downsizing, dentistry and doctors, synchronicity and croquet, Jack Russells and daughters' divorces, writers' groups and retired ministers, London and lingerie, quilting, questions, golf and grandchildren, sint lucernae ardentis.

In seventeen times eighty years there are of course some heartbreaking stories but only the joy of living could be heard in this roomful of happy chatter. No mention of wrinkles, no mention of Presidents of the United States! Old Collegians travelled from Queensland, Sydney, Phillip Island and north west and north east Victoria to meet again with those who still call the Geelong region home. How special and how lucky are we?

For some, the party did not end after our long lunch at 360Q. Seven girls and two husbands met at Judy and Bill Dowling's Queenscliff holiday house for a delicious soup supper. Who knows what further stories were told over soup, or whispered in the wee small hours, or remembered over toast and marmalade next morning?



Back row: Helen Griffiths (Archer), Heather Lloyd (Laird), Nola Davies (Longwell), Ros Sinclair (Holt), Margaret Giddings (Carmichael), Kay Middleton (Stallard), Jill Morgan (Hazeldene), Bette English (Arnoldt), Elaine Wood, Rhonda Daish (Goodwin)

Front row: Marl Ryan (Metheral), Pat Noseworthy (Tymms), Faye Lee (Pope), Judy Dowling (Eagles), Merran Hall (Urquart), Robin Purdey (Urquart)



We all thoroughly enjoyed our get-together and look forward to meeting again toward the end of THIS year. Yes, we have decided to meet yearly from now on. I don't think members from our year realize how fortunate they are to still have friends at our age who still enjoy gathering together to swap up-to-date news. Due to these reunions, we know that at the end of this year, all girls who left Morongo 62 years ago, will be 80!!! A Very Happy Birthday To Each and Every One of You.

We do want to say another **Thank You** to the owner of the Restaurant 360Q, **Barry Iddles** (who just happens to be related to *Ros Sinclair (Holt)*). Barry went out of his way to make us all feel most welcome in his restaurant with the stunning 360 degree views of the arrival of the majestic Tasmanian Ferry and surrounding coastal beaches. Great sight! Helen Griffiths (Archer) arrived on the ferry when it docked at the pier following a very comfortable trip over from Sorrento. The food you prepared for us was most delicious Barry, thanks again.

The details for this year's get together will be sent out later. We all now know how old you are, so we expect the wrinkles, the grey/white hair, the occasional loss of memory, the occasional walking stick or wheel-chair and all that goes with our maturing years but we decided that we have hung on to our original mannerisms!! PLEASE do try to keep in touch, it is truly great fun. Also a big thank you Kay for giving up your time in driving us all around your beautiful new estate, loved it!! *Faye Lee (Pope)*

50 YEAR REUNION

2017 marked 50 years since we completed Matric in 1967.

A 50 year re-union was held in conjunction with the Morongo Golf Day at Barwon Heads Golf Club in October. We hope to meet again this year at the same event.



Front row: (Left to right) Virginia Smith (West); Jan Knight (Anderson); Sue Gower (Suzanne Campbell); Gillian Norris (Menzies)

Rear: (Left to Right) Sandra Lee (McConaghy); Margaret Banks (Margaret Anne Scott)

As we approached the Golf Club it was very exciting to see the Morongo school flag flying high.

The Barwon Heads Golf Club is a great venue with good food, good parking, wonderful scenery, and there was a strong sense of community seeing women from other years – both older and younger.

The event was very well organised.

This year we would encourage others from our year to attend as well.

Margaret Banks

NEWS ABOUT US

We received some interesting news from **Wendy Bate (Muller) 1960** about her family's long association with Morongo....

I had to think hard about my years at Morongo as we lost all our records in the 1969 Lara fires.

I started at Morongo in 1957 and finished at the end of 1961 after completing my Leaving Certificate.

My grandfather, John Pettitt, was one of the school founders. My mother and her younger sister attended Morongo and afterwards Mum returned as the Sports mistress. She also did a stint in the boarding house while Miss Pillow was on holidays. After I was born, she became assistant bursar and used to take me in my pram with her into the office. My two daughters also went to Morongo as did Mum's cousins, my cousins and my nieces. As you can see it has been a long association. My uncle, Neil Pettitt, was also a school councillor for a long time.

Elizabeth (Libby) Fairweather (Davies) 1949-1953, first travelled to England in 1961 on a travelling holiday and spent three years enjoying Europe before returning home. She returned to England in 1967, having fallen in love with her now husband and England!! Jim and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary next year, we have two daughters and five grandchildren, so I am well *bedded down* in this beautiful country.

On one of my visits to Australia when I was staying with my niece in Melbourne, I was able to attend a small get-together of Morongo *old girls* and also caught up with *Elaine Howden (Barber)* – we had been good friends during our school days.

If there is anyone who remembers Libby, living in the UK and would be interested in getting in touch, her email address is fairweather007@talktalk.net

The followers of AFL will be interested to know that **Jenny Pritchard's (Neale)** 1952 great nephew, Lachie Neale, plays AFL for the Freo Dockers! As she lives in WA, Jenny is able to support her nephew's home games.

Judy Bayliss (1964) writes, my severe MS means I can't work & new learning is difficult so now I travel as much as possible. In September, Geoff and I left for London where I succeeded in seeing many of the things I had not seen before like Churchill's War Cabinet Rooms, Chelsea Gardens, House of Commons and also the House of Lords. I had cocktails in the Shard. We also took train trips to both Oxford and Brighton.

We had a short 8 day bus trip around Europe. I enjoyed Amsterdam and the trip up the mountains in Switzerland. In Paris we were nearly crushed in the Louvre. The Mono Lisa room was a seething mass. Geoff and I had both seen it before. We took a nice train trip to Chartres we both found the cathedral more impressive than Notre Dame.

In mid-April I went on a nice Yarra Valley Orchard maxi taxi trip with the St Kilda MS peer support group. We discovered a delicious new apple that I have not seen it in the shops yet.

Beryl M. Scott (Balfour aged 95) writes of her memories of her three years as a boarder at Morongo 1934-1936.

My older sister, Daisy, and I lived at that time on a farm in Gippsland, which I loved, but there was no secondary school nearby. My brother, who was a 17 year-old farmer, had been at Geelong College. My father was Chairman of the Victorian Dried Fruits Board, and later a Member of Parliament in Melbourne. He came home at weekends. When it was time for Daisy and me to return to school after the holidays my poor mother shed a few tears to hear her two girls singing as they packed. She would be left with just men on the farm.

Each year at Morongo I had a bout of 'flu in Term 2. One year I was very sick and our matron, Miss Pillow, took me down to a small room beside her own room so I could have special care and special meals. I think that other boarders envied me that.

We knew our father could only afford 3 years boarding even though my sister had a small scholarship. So in my first term I realized what I knew already from my earliest schooling at St Leonard's, Brighton, before we went bush, that we needed an Intermediate Certificate to get a job in an office rather than a factory. It was, of course, during the Great Depression. So I went to the Principal, Miss Pratt, explained it all to her. This was to be a fortunate basis for my later studies at Melbourne University; however, the teachers were not very pleased that I was to be put up one class after the 1st Term holidays.

One teacher, Miss Margaret Hope Maberley-Smith, encouraged me to take study seriously and my exam marks improved. She was later to become a world celebrity when she and a Scottish ships officer were the only survivors from a small life boat. They were escaping Quetta, a British military post in the Himalayas, India, when their ship, the SS City of Cairo was sunk by a German U-boat from a range of 500 metres. The Captain on the U-boat that had torpedoed them reappeared after 2 hours and gave them the position of St Helena, then bade them farewell: "Goodnight, sorry for sinking you" he said, and his U-boat disappeared. The newly married Margaret Gordon, and her companion "Knocker" White survived 51 days in the lifeboat. As 14 other men died one by one, she comforted them in their going.



My sister Daisy, (left) and me, (right) in our school uniforms

Beryl Scott's memories continued.....

There was life apart from the school room. In the holidays Mother prepared hampers to be taken back to school. They were kept in metal boxes and at the weekends our hampers were issued and we went into the plantation beyond the sports ground, found a nice tree to sit under, and enjoyed a snack. Our mother, an excellent cook, made us rich fruit cake and Scottish shortbread for the long haul to the end of term, and put in other delicacies with shorter life span, to be eaten earlier.

As boarders it was not difficult to slip through the fence, across Ballarat Road and then across to the paddock and downhill to complete freedom – the Valley of the Barwon River. One day we met a small plane that had landed for the pilot to adjust something, and my friend and I were invited to get in and sit in the pilot's seat. We felt wonderful. Another time a farmer's wife saw us pass and ran out with a cake to help us on our way. We watched the time and were back in time to hand in our hampers and line up for tea.

I always had a friend in the kitchen and I would sit on the stone wall, just in sight of the kitchen door which was out-of-bounds. My friend would slip open the door, and I would dash over and accept a left over from the staff morning tea.

There were two cumquat trees that I liked to climb - both out of bounds - one outside the kitchen, and one in Miss Pratt's Garden. However, nothing was said about my climbing when gifts of cumquats were presented to staff and the Principal. There were a few other things I did, such as asking, and being allowed, to ring the historic school bell that had stood on Bell Post Hill to warn settlers in Geelong of possible fires or the approach of bands of aborigines.

My escape to climb the big trees in the forbidden area of the sewerage drains was discovered and not approved of. I was also discovered to have found a ladder leading to the roof of the boarding house. I liked to go up there to enjoy the view.

There were a few other little things too. Then one day I was told to report to Miss Pratt in her room. I was scared stiff. I knocked very politely and went in. She asked me to sit down near her by the fire and quite nicely informed me that if my behaviour did not change she would find it necessary to write to my father and ask him to remove me from the school. I returned to school and no-one could understand how I had become, overnight, the most well-behaved model student. A good example to all. The result of a little talking-to.

Every week we had singing classes as a group preparing for school concerts and for leading hymns in the morning assembly. Every year we were invited, if we wished, to compete for a singing prize. Because I had professional singers in my family I had secret hopes. Each contestant was privately tested. After my tests I was told very kindly that although I could not aspire to being a soloist, I could always be a very useful member of a choir. I did sing in a church choir somewhere later and was once given a small solo part.

My parents could not afford the piano lessons I would have loved. Sometimes, when no-one was about, I would have a little practice on one of the students' pianos. Teachers turned a blind eye. Dancing was a different matter. Mother thought that every girl must be taught ball room dancing. I never won a prize for dancing, though I enjoyed it and was quite good at it, but to my embarrassment won a prize for deportment and on Speech Night had to walk across the stage to accept my prize. I was so embarrassed and nervous that it was a wonder I managed it. I did it, to the amused giggles of the audience.

I attended after-school embroidery lessons conducted free by SEMCO and thus started a long and enjoyable hobby that I continue today.

Near the end of the school year some senior girls from farm properties looked anxiously in the papers for the sale price of wool and wheat crops. On those prices depended another year at school – or not.

End of year parting from friends was hard. Some lived far away and we never saw them again. Others kept in touch by letters, but a new life, a new school and new friends made Morongo days a memory

Beryl Scott's daughter, ***Margaret Banks (Scott) 1965***, has researched Miss Margaret Hope Maberley-Smith, who her mother mentioned in her memories of Morongo above. We believe she was an English teacher who may have lived in the boarding house with the boarders in the early 1930s before the outbreak of WW2. She was later known as Margaret Gordon.

Margaret Gordon's story is of compelling and utter fortitude in the face of the most desperate of situations. Never once in her ninety years did she dwell upon her ordeal. A practical, engaging stalwart of a woman; her story, which has been compiled from her personal chronicle, an obituary, and other papers left in the security of her nephew Stuart Gordon. Her amazing story appeared in the Melbourne News shortly after Margaret's death in May 1999. Definitely worth a read:

<https://holeousia.com/being/sapere-aude/margaret-maberley-gordon/>

VALE

We are saddened to hear of the following deaths;

Margaret Swann (Johns) informed us that her sister, **Pat Hall (Johns) 1936-39**, died in February 2017. Margaret added that she is now 94, is keeping well, and that there are very few of her contemporaries still left. Jean Cameron (Davidson) is still well and active and living in Perth.

Fiona Harper (Valance) 1970-77 has notified us that her mum, **Freda Marcel Vallance (Matthews-Timms)**, passed away 24th May 2017. Her years at Morongo and the friendships that lasted a life time were incredibly special to mum as are my memories of my time on Bell Post Hill

Margaret Arnoldt 4/9/1936 – 17/4/2016

Marg grew up in Kerang in Northern Victoria. Her father, Howard Arnoldt, was the Ford Dealer and her mother Louisa Penfold had come to Kerang as a manual arts teacher. Her siblings were Peter and Judy and also Bette who was her constant play mate throughout her carefree childhood.

Marg attended the Kerang Primary and High Schools before heading off to Morongo in 1952 and 1953. She loved her time at Morongo where she made many friendships and remembered well the fun times in the cubicles, the Yarra Mud and Dandruff (chocolate blamange and coconut) and the time the school bell went missing.

After Morongo, in 1954, Marg's nursing training began at the Swan Hill hospital. Through the years she nursed in several places, firstly Frankston which was a bush nursing hospital in those days. Then she went to Mornington and Albany in WA.

She enjoyed an overseas trip for two years and while there did some private nursing at the University Hospital and the Royal Marsden in London.

Marg returned to the Swan Hill Hospital and remained there until 1985. Her position there was Charge Sister of a 26 bed surgical and ICU ward. She was highly respected by all her peers. These were very happy years with a great social life and many friends. Her parties in the nurse's home were renowned. She was often left working with a mop at 3 am the morning after.

In 1985 Marg returned to her home town of Kerang to care for her elderly parents. She was an Associate Charge Sister at the hospital.

After a car accident she was unable to work in the wards and was put in charge of the pre-admission clinic where she happily worked until her retirement in 2005. Her nursing career lasted 51 years.

After retirement Marg lived in the family home in Kerang gaining much enjoyment by sharing in the lives of her sisters and their families.

Marg became quite handicapped in her latter years receiving major heart surgery but stoically retained her independence until her death on 17/4/2016.

Helen Porter (Hopkins) passed in 2017 no other details available.

We were very sad to learn of the passing of **Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ewart**. She regularly attended the Goulburn Valley reunion lunches. Lizzie was an excellent potter and many members have fond memories and pieces of her pottery. *Jan Vibert (Agnew)* has this vase.



Debra (Morwood) Gimblett (1973) passed away on 7 September 2017. She was at Morongo from pre-school (I presume Kinder) to Year 12. She was the daughter of *Joan (Oakley) Morwood* (1946) who died in 2011 and sister to *Mandy Baker* (1974) and *Lindy Phillips* (1980).

Marjorie Chamberlain (1931) passed on 25 December 2017. She attended Morongo from Kindergarten. She was 100 years old (or actually 2 days short of her birthday!!) She was the mother of *Pauline Maunsell* (1956) and *Vicki Hanson* (1961).

Barbara Schaller (Hodge) (1947)

Barbara was at school from 1946, Sub-Intermediate to 1948 (Leaving) and then went on to nursing. She was the mother of *Kathryn Schaller* (1979) who died in 2010 and *Christine Schaller* (1981).

Nancy Dohnt (Heard) (1935) passed on August 21st 2016

Elizabeth Rogers (Libby Waner) (1973) passed on October 5th 2016

Peg Royhouse (Madden) (1941) passed on November 11th 2016

Margery Rix (1939) passed on April 10th 2016

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.

In 2018, our Newsletter will continue to be emailed. If you know a former collegian without access to a computer or an email account please encourage them to enlist a partner, child or grandchild or even a neighbour to receive the Newsletter on their behalf.

Seeking to renew contact with lost friends

If you are hoping to reconnect with lost school friends, email *Marieta Jones (Moir)* at bellposthill@hotmail.com and she will happily supply you with an email address, if we have it in our records.

Morongo Newsletter on FACEBOOK - Morongo Bellposthill

We are moving with the times and dipping our toes into the Social Media pond!! It is great to hear about Year Level groups keeping in contact through Facebook and thus we have created a Facebook page (Morongo Bellposthill) as another means for sharing your news and reunions with us. If interested, please send us a friend request. As we are exploring the best way to utilise social media we will start with friends only access security settings.

Confusion with nominated Collegian Year Levels

Traditionally, Morongo students completed their secondary education in Intermediate (Year 10). So initial records of former collegians were accompanied with the year they completed Intermediate.

As time has progressed, most Morongo students now complete their secondary education at Year 12. To maintain consistency, **ALL FORMER MORONGO COLLEGIANS** are listed in our records against their Year 10 or Intermediate year. Where we use the term Graduating Year we are referring to former collegians final Year 12 year.

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

Contact Us ...

Faye Lee (Pope) 1954	5956 8411 PO Box 2241 Ventnor 3922	Melbourne contact
Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953	bellposthill@hotmail.com	Send all your news
Elaine Howden (Barber) 1952	0413 800 841	Melbourne contact
Mary Moors (McGregor) 1950	9853 7379	William Angliss Luncheon organiser
Sandra MacIntyre (Bufton) 1960	0428 976 242	Goulburn Valley Old Collegians contact
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Jill Thom (Hooking) 1951	03 5221 6035 jillthom@gmail.com	Barwon Edge Boathouse Luncheon contacts
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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.