



Morongo Newsletter

Sint lucernae Ardentes

March 2021



Dear Friends of Morongo,

Happy and Healthy New Year to You All.

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

The COVID virus made 2020 a very difficult year with particularly when the whole of our Victorian State was shut down completely. Many of our luncheons and reunions were cancelled.

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 2020. Our Morongo Newsletter Community has grown to email addresses for 700 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.

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 2021.

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



At the end of this Newsletter you will find information inviting you to join Geelong College Connect. The website is a platform set up to connect Morongo Old Collegians.

DATES FOR YOUR 2021 DIARY

All Morongo Old Collegians Lunch Monday March 29th 2021@ 12.00pm

MORONGO OLD COLLEGIANS LUNCH



MONDAY 29TH MARCH 2020

Time: 12 noon
RSVP: Wednesday 24 March
Venue: Barwon Edge Boat House
40-70 Windsor Street, Newtown
Cost: \$45.00
includes 2 course meal,
pay for own drinks

For more detail contact:
Di Sprague, 0458194416; disprague7@gmail.com
Alison Lawson, 0439925525; ajlawson@bigpond.com
Prue Mason, 0409510646; ylime77@iinet.net.au
Sandra Oriander, 0408367490; bill.oriander@bigpond.com

Payment can be made by:
Direct transfer to: E & MJ Joseph
BSB: 083-515 Acc. No: 40-818-1255
(please quote your name)
For cheques/cash, please contact one of the organisers.

Dietary requirements?
Please let us know, we will do our best to cater for you.



**MORONGO
OLD
COLLEGIANS
Reunion**

—
**Old Collegians
from all years
welcome**
—

**Please let your
friends know**
—

**We look forward
to seeing you
there**

**Di, Alison, Prue or
Sandra are happy
to help with
further details**

Goulburn Valley Luncheon - Sunday May 1st 2021 at 12.00pm

The Goulburn Valley Members luncheon will go ahead on our long-standing date of the first Sunday in May. This year's venue for the Goulburn Valley Morongo girls is;

Lake Cafe and Deck

1 Irvine Parade

Yarrawonga, Victoria (Dependant on Covid-19 conditions at the time)

This cafe is beside the information centre, which is on the left as you drive onto the bridge to drive over to Mulwala, NSW.

The venue is closed now so I can't ring to check their price, I think the venue is more important for you to have. I will add price on the invitation I send to the members who usually attend.

For further enquiries contact;

Sandra Macintyre on 0428 976 242, 57 976242, nutcundera@bigpond.com

All Years Luncheon Reunion - Wednesday 19th May 2021 @ 11-30am

We have made a booking at William Angliss. Hopefully with the vaccination we may be able to attend.

Angliss Restaurant

550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne

Details will be sent out in April, please email Elaine, Di or Marieta if you don't receive notification.

For more detail contact:

Elaine Howden (Barber) elainehowden@bigpond.au

Marieta Jones (0490 175 962)

Di Trewenack (Hirst) 0418 390 384 diana@trewenack.com

Payment can be made by:

Direct transfer: Melbourne Bellpost Hill

BSB 704 191 ACC: 255905 (please quote your name)

Cheques can be made out to Bell Post Hill and sent to Marieta Jones,
35 Rob Roy Street, Glen Waverley 3150

2021 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.

Anne Hastie (1970) Art Exhibition

My next solo exhibition will be held at

Red Gallery

157 St Georges Road

Fitzroy North

The exhibition opens on Wednesday 5th May 6pm - 8pm and runs from Thursday 6th to Sunday 23rd May, 2021.

Gallery opening hours are Thursday to Friday 12:00pm – 5:00pm and Saturday and Sunday 12:00pm – 5:00pm.

If old collegians, family and friends would like to meet the artist at the gallery, please contact me at annehastie@fastmail.fm

To get a sense of what my work is like, please go to annehastie.com.



2021 REUNIONS

HSC Class of 1981 40 Year Reunion

We invite all members of the year level (inclusive of girls who didn't do year 12) to join our messenger group: **Morongo Class of 81**.

Roberta Matlock (1979)

NEWS FROM 2020 & EARLY 2021

All Years Luncheon Reunion May 2020

Our 2020 luncheon at William Angliss Melbourne, was cancelled.

See you all for our 2021 luncheon on Wednesday May 19th, COVID permitting.

Morongo Golf Day

Sadly, like most other events for 2020, our golf day was cancelled.

The Inter School Challenge Cup was also cancelled.

Hopefully we will have a better year in 2021.

Lyn Fraser (Crellin)



2021 Morongo Rowing Regatta

The sun shone for the Morongo Regatta on Saturday 30th January. Hosted by Rowing Geelong, the races were held over 1000 metres.

There were 39 events with a total of 1,092 athletes competing on the day.

The year 10 girls rowed in the morning session with the year 9 girls beginning after the lunch break. All crews rowed in a heat and final with many events having enough crews to hold an A, B and C final.

Firbank Grammar won the Year 10 Division 1 Female School Coxed Quad Scull and Geelong College won the Year 10 Division 1 Female School Eight.

Loreto-Ballararat rowed the quickest time in the Year 9 Division 1 Female School Quad Scull.

Spectators and athletes were asked to comply with the DHHS COVID-19 requirements and as such were kept separate in two different zones. This was the first regatta for many rowers after the long break and everyone appeared to be enjoying getting back to racing and doing what they love.
Lucy Pring

Goulburn Valley Luncheon Sunday 3rd May 2020

Sadly, our luncheon was cancelled due to the COVID virus.

Sandra Macintyre did write to Jan Vibert as the Shepparton area has many members who see each other regularly. Jan's reply was;

"Among the MOCA girls here, we have all come through the long Covid months very well. Several of us have visited each other in their homes. Also there have been some major surgeries done and that includes one new knee and one new shoulder, no names, no pack drill. That some have had to forego their anticipated trip to the outback or a South Pacific cruise has been hard to bear! However, we are all hail and hearty and hoping the scheduled reunion will be attended by all of our usual happy crew."

This article came from the Geelong Advertiser 2020

Our Morongo School Bell was stolen again, from Kardinia International school in 2009, it was lost for 10 years.

It was returned to Kardinia International School in June 2020.

Some girls may remember in 1953, our bell went missing. After one week it was found buried in the school oval. Miss Shaw thought it was a prank from some College boys.

The History of The Bell.

In 1836, the bell was brought to Melbourne from Tasmania, where it served as a ships bell. Later settlers, Anthony Cowie and David Stead, relocated the bell when they formed Victoria's Second Settlement in Geelong.

Legend has it that the bell was lost again, and not found until years later, when a fisherman dragged it out of The Moorabool River near Geelong.

The bell was exhibited at The National Museum Melbourne for many years before being presented to Morongo Girls College in 1927.

NEWS ABOUT US

For the AFL footie fans.

Jenny Pritchard's (Neale 1952) grandnephew, Lockie Neale, played for Fremantle WA. He moved to Queensland to play with the Brisbane Lions in 2020. He won the Brownlow Medal in 2020.

Lockie's grandfather, Max was an old Geelong College boy in the late 1940.

Wendy Holdenson (1961-72)

Just as I finished HSC at Morongo, a new Asia-centred life and career was about to begin. It all happened by accident, not design.



My first day in Japan

I took up a one-year Rotary Club exchange scholarship to study at a Japanese high school before going to Melbourne University. Just before submitting my top country preferences to Rotary – namely Canada, then South Africa, then Japan; I decided to reverse the order.

So, I landed in Japan. My first memory is of being bewildered by the huge number of people everywhere! It only got more bewildering. After checking into a Tokyo hotel, I switched on the TV to find a sumo wrestling match in progress. With zero knowledge of the Japanese culture – or its national sport; I wondered what I had signed up for.

Without any language, I simply observed customs in the early days. My observation skills let me down badly, such as when I swallowed a large lump of *wasabi*, thinking it was curried egg!

I attended an agricultural high school. So began my enduring love affair with Japan, and decisions which saw me enrol in university and start working – first at an English newspaper company, then at camera manufacturer Canon where I immersed myself in the Japanese work ethos to work hard and long hours.



Fast forward 30 years: As Australian Consul-General and Trade & Investment Commissioner in Japan, I took every opportunity to speak to groups about Australia's road to gender equity. I led *all-male* business missions down to Sydney, too. I recall on one such mission: it didn't seem to matter which meeting – the host was *always* a woman: Governor of New South Wales, NSW Chief Scientist, Director of NSW Trade & Investment, CEO of a cancer research institute.

Such was the surprise of participants that some commented how they wanted to stay on in Australia to set up a new agency to protect the interests of men here!

Another issue of deep interest to me is our ageing societies – perhaps the result of my experience in the 70s living with a *four-generation* Rotary Club host family in Japan.

Today, more than 67,000 people in Japan are over 100 years old. Wherever I went there I met centenarians, and I would always shake their hands because there's a saying that one's own life can be extended that way! Japan's deep respect for the elderly, and the ways in which seniors keep themselves active and relevant, spurred me on to consider launching an NPO focused on older Australians here.

Just as I prepared to register my "Ageing Made Fun" NPO, I learned that Maggie Beer, Australia's Senior Citizen for 2010, was planning to launch a similar charity. So, we decided to combine forces – and I joined the inaugural Board of the Maggie Beer Foundation.

We're driving research to prove that healthier, attractive meals for aged care residents boost their wellbeing. We've trained hundreds of cooks and chefs to be more creative, and even got food onto the agenda of the Royal Commission into Aged Care.

But back to my career. In 2014, I joined the executive of Japanese investment conglomerate Mitsui Australia where I'm leveraging my government and corporate career.



One particular lesson I learned in Japan that still serves me well in Mitsui is my 'no surprises' approach – consulting people early on and avoiding knee-jerk reactions. It calls for much self-control because I am naturally gregarious. Adopting that same mindset in communication with my own children, holding back from saying everything I want to say, pays dividends!

I've been involved in large and small in-bound investment deals, which have

helped the Australian economy, but I still laugh about the fact that the local business community thanks me most for bringing some great Japanese restaurant chains to Sydney and Melbourne!

I've worked on behalf of women, older Australians, and the public and private sector. Recent activity with young people brings me full circle: since my exchange student days.

At Mitsui, I'm a trustee of the Mitsui Educational Foundation which awards scholarships to Australian under-graduates to travel to Japan on a study program. Many of the 400 alumni are today's captains of industry and government. And in my own time, I mentor high performers at UNSW's Business School. In this era of 'reverse mentoring', I learn much from my mentees.



Australian Embassy in Tokyo, meeting former Ambassador Richard Court AC

When I left Morongo, I didn't set out to become an Asiaphile. Unknowingly, over five decades I have experienced a Japanese concept *called ikigai*: intersection of my passion (what I love doing); my mission (what the world needs); my vocation (what I can be paid for); and my profession (what I'm good at).

I never dreamed I would influence Australia's student mobility or the Diversity and investment agendas of Mitsui or share best practice in Japan's aged care sector to boost the quality of care here. In the space of my lifetime, Asia has transformed Australia – and me.

Margot Sanders (Templeton) 1969

Margot is a member of AHVISE (Aussie Helpers Volunteers for Isolated Student Education) and writes;

We live in regional Victoria - Gisborne, and have not been greatly impacted by the COVID lockdowns – in fact we are keeping fit and getting plenty of little jobs done around home. We are just missing the warmth of that northern winter!! Yes – those outback families will be needing a break and help.

Vanderlin Island Adventure

How do you really find out about or appreciate the issues facing regional and remote Australian families?

One way is to live with them and understand their individual situations. However, you can't exactly just knock on the door of the cattle station owner in central Queensland and invite yourself in!!

As I wrote in a previous newsletter, my husband and I volunteer to tutor School of Distance Education students. A wonderful side benefit is that we gain a greater understanding of the issues those families cope with on a daily basis. We travel to their home and generally live with them for 6 – 12 weeks.

In 2019 we were privileged to be able to stay on Vanderlin Island – Aboriginal owned land in the Gulf of Carpentaria, for 3 months. We chose to travel from central Victoria via Adelaide, Alice Springs and Daly Waters, where we headed east to the fishing community of King Ash Bay. There we left the 4WD and caravan in the care of the service station owner.

The father of the 3 children we were to tutor collected us there in his big boat and we travelled 80 kms east to Base Bay situated on the NW side of the island. In the boat were 3 adults, 3 children (they had been to school camp on the mainland), food and supplies for a month along with horse, pig and chook food in large drums. With our luggage as well, you could say the boat was crowded.

Infrastructure on the island comprised of the family home, a well-appointed beach house, our cottage and a large shed – all built by dad. Power was supplied via solar panels or a diesel generator and fresh water came from the nearby lagoon or the sky into tanks.

The mother of the 3 children was Aboriginal (or Traditional Owner as she preferred to be known), born on the island and had spent the majority of her life there.

During the week our school hours were 7.30am – 2.30pm and we covered the full range of Primary School subjects from English, Maths, Science, History and Geography through to Design and Technology, Media Studies and Health.

After school and on weekends the time was our own – although it often included one or more of the family members. We assisted dad with the building of a shed extension, mum with construction of a horse stable and yard as well as fishing and mud crabbing with the 13yo or playing hopscotch on the beach with the 6 yo.

We did a lot of day walks, we would set off with our backpacks, supplies and walkie talkies (in case we became lost), to explore various parts of the island. As the family of 5 are the only inhabitants on the island, it was an amazing pristine environment.

We observed turtles mating on an easterly beach, climbed massive sand dunes, watched Jabirus and Pelicans stalking their lunch, rock wallabies scampering over huge multi-coloured sandstone headlands and black tipped sharks and stingrays swimming in areas of shallow water. Walking on long stretches of uninhabited beaches was a treasured experience.

We were invited to dig for turtle eggs and in finding a recently laid batch, reluctantly took one each.



Digging for turtle's eggs

These were boiled in sea water and they had a VERY rich egg flavour. We also ate dugong and a wide variety of freshly caught fish.

During our time on the island my husband contracted a very heavy cold that became quite chesty. As a remedy the mother dispatched myself and the 13yo to collect some leaves from the *medicine trees*. We headed off on the quad bike to an area of low scrubby eucalypt trees and picked a container full of leaves. These were then boiled up and we put the brew into a bath for my husband to soak in.

It made him sweat profusely and as of the next morning the cold was gone. Not unlike going for a solid run and sweating it out. These medicine leaves were used on several other occasions - namely to clear up skin boils one of the family seemed to suffer from.

One morning our school routine was interrupted by the landing of an Agricultural Department Biosecurity helicopter on the beach. It was on a biannual trip to check on the health of the cattle that grazed on the island.

The dad also conducted several *cool burns* while we were there to help regenerate areas of vegetation.

Were there any major issues for this family? They seemed to be content with their chosen lifestyle, they always had a project to be working on. Isolation? Some people may find this an issue, however, the children were connected to their teachers every school day and they did attend mini-schools and camps on the mainland during the term. Thanks to several satellite dishes the internet worked well and a landline phone was always operational.

As this settlement was classified as an Aboriginal outstation there was an emergency phone situated near the beach, which could also be used by fishermen if they experienced any mechanical troubles. Online purchases could be picked up in Borroloola when dad went to the mainland once a month to do the food shopping. Cousins and friends from the mainland also visited from time to time. Maybe isolation is not such a negative thing given the recent Covid-19 situation from 2020.

An observation by us was that the Traditional Owners have a very REAL connection to their country and have excellent eyesight. I guess living in and with nature heightens those senses. Time on the island gave us an appreciation of another remote area of this diverse country and how some people choose to live.

If you want to pursue such an experience, please log on to the Aussie Helpers website, find the AHVISE (Aussie Helpers Volunteers for Isolated Student Education) tab and register.

Hopefully we will read about your amazing volunteer placement next year 😊



Barbara Cove



Beach Activities

Margaret Fargie (1944) was at Morongo from 1944-1948

Jonnie Mander (1949) wrote to us about her sister's life achievements....

Margaret contracted poliomyelitis when she was 7 years old and spent her primary school years confined to her bed. She was still wearing an upper-body splint when she came to board at Morongo in Intermediate year (Form 4). It was only because of the wonderful level of care and support that Margaret received at Morongo that she was able to accomplish this transition and to continue her good academic record.

In the following year Margaret's family moved to Geelong and she became a day girl. Though she was soon able to manage without splints she was still handicapped in her movements but filled the roles of Lucernian Editor and Prefect and became equal dux in her final year.

Margaret's preference was to study law, but she was advised that it was not a suitable career for a woman so instead she undertook a Bachelor of Arts degree at Melbourne University. She subsequently worked as a librarian at CSIRO in Geelong then as a governess at a property near Lara, before becoming a law clerk at Wighton and McDonald in Geelong.

In 1967 Margaret became a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives-Victoria before deciding that she should become legally qualified, studying at first by correspondence but later taking long service leave to attend full-time at Melbourne University. She was awarded the Supreme Court Exhibition in the Law of Conveyancing in 1974 and graduated with Honours.

Margaret was admitted as a partner in Wighton and McDonald (now Wighton Lawyers), the first female to do so.

Outside her work Margaret was an active member of the Geelong Repertory Society for 25 years, serving as Secretary and President and becoming a Life Member. She also served on the board of the Geelong Association of Music and Art, was a member of the Regional Council for Technical Education and Matthew Flinders Girls School Council, served as president of the Geelong branch of Soroptomist International and was treasurer of the Barwon Region Girl Guides Association.

When Margaret became Chairman of the Barwon Building Society she was probably the first woman in Victoria to hold such a position.

Margaret engaged in all these academic, professional, social and community activities while never being really strong. She could not lift her arms above her head or hold her arms up without support and had very limited lung capacity.



Margaret is 3rd from the right in the back row.



VALE

We are saddened to hear of the following deaths;

Una Mary Trigg (Richie) November 1929 to September 2020

Una was a Deaconess in the Methodist Church. She was also a gifted teacher at Methodist Ladies College and Morongo Girls College. A rich life full of kindness, creativity, music.

Susan Golland (Menzies) 1968

Very sadly, Susan died on 30 April 2019. Susan maintained frequent contact with a number of her classmates, as well as a keen interest in Morongo. She looked forward to receiving the newsletters.

Mary Mitchell (Cattanach) 1949 January 18th 1933 – May 2nd 2020

Mary was always a friend and helper, her contribution extended across kindergarten teaching, Probus, Smiths Beachcomber Association, Conservation Society, Foreshore Committee, Friends of Churchill Island, music groups and more. Her generosity and spirit will be dearly missed.

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.

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.

Moronggo 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, Caroline Stok. Allow a week to organise.

Caroline Stok 5226 3148 caroline.stok@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au

Invitation to join Geelong College Connect...



Dear Morongo Old Collegians,

I graduated from Morongo in 1989 and recently joined the Old Geelong Collegians' Association (OGCA) as the Morongo Old Collegian representative.

Together with the OGCA, I am excited to invite you to join Geelong College Connect – a platform to connect Morongo Old Collegians. The website page provides Morongo alumni with an exclusive platform to:

- stay connected with one another,
- offer help through mentoring,
- post stories or news on the feed,
- promote Morongo events,
- publish photos,
- post any archival material.

*Please note the Events tab has not been populated at this stage due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

I invite you to sign-up at <https://geelongcollegeconnect.com/>

The 'Morongo Old Collegians' Group can be found under 'Groups' in the left hand menu column. You can access the 'Feed' which will be updated regularly by myself and College Archivist, Caroline Stok. All active members can post in the 'Feed' too. You have access to the 'Members' directory to connect directly with Morongo alumni and we can also send a newsletter directly from this platform.

I can be contacted with any news at georgie_fidge@hotmail.com

Please contact The Geelong College Community Relations office at communityrelations@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au to update your contact information or if you have any issues signing-up.

I look forward to connecting with you on Geelong College Connect.

Warm regards,
Georgie Fidge



+61 3 5226 3123



Alumni

department: communityrelations@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au

Technical support: support@geelongcollegeconnect.com

Contact Us ...

Faye Lee (Pope) 1954	5956 8411 PO Box 2241 Ventnor 3922	Phillip Island
Elaine Howden (Barber) 1952	0413 800 841 elainehowden@bigpond.com	Melbourne contact
Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953	(03) 9802 7006 bellposthill@hotmail.com	Melbourne contact Send all your news
Elaine Howden (Barber) 1952	0413 800 841	
Diana Trewenack (Hirst) 1956	diana@trewenack.com 0418 390 384	William Angliss Luncheon organisers
Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953	(03) 9802 7006 bellposthill@hotmail.com	
Sandra MacIntyre (Bufton) 1960	0428 976 242 nutcundera@bigpond.com	Goulburn Valley Old Collegians contact
Lyn Fraser (Crellin) 1967	52541239 lynmfraser@bigpond.com	Barwon Heads Golf contact
Alison Lawson (Laird) 1959	0439925525 ajlawson@bigpond.com	
Sandra Oriander (Stevens) 1956	0408 367 490	
Di Sprague 1959	0458194416 disprague7@gmail.com	Barwon Edge Boat House Luncheon
Prue Mason (Gilmore) 1960	0409510646 ylime77@iinet.net.au	