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26 JUNE • 2025

THE MORONGO

Official Newsletter of Morongo Old Collegians



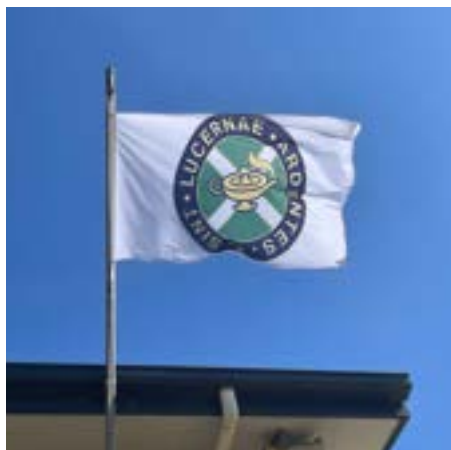
MORONGO REGATTA

BARWON RIVER - SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY, 2025

The Morongo Regatta saw another big Barwon River weekend with great weather, fantastic racing and people enjoying themselves on and off the water. There was plenty of positive feedback from rowers, coaches and parents. The Morongo flag fluttered above the Judges Box and a poster board explained Morongo heritage.

Morongo Old Collegians, Ann McAllister and Amanda Moody (Schooneman) Y12 82 presented the medals to the winners of all the A Finals. The Perpetual Morongo Regatta trophies were also awarded for the most successful school or club in the Year 8 and 9 Junior event and also in the Year 10 Inter events.

The 2025 Morongo Regatta winner was Melbourne Girls Grammar. The Morongo trophies were available for a crew photo and many of the winning teams took the opportunity to consider and hold our Morongo heritage. After three years of rowing, girls are awarded the Morongo Medal.



2025 RV Junior and Inter Schoolgirls - Morongo Regatta
Racing Distance of 1000 meters . 26 races . 1003 young women competing.



MORONGO HIGH TEA

Celebrating the school that was!

Another wonderful opportunity to wander the buildings and grounds fondly remembered as Morongo. This year, 52 Morongo Old Girls gathered for tea and cake and enjoyed the company of friends. Those who attended listed below and photos on this page and the next:

Hannah Lawrence, Fiona Robertson, Victoria Rice, Katrina Withycombe, Kath Healy, Una Allender, Susan Lidden, Robyn Farran, Kristina and Marion Galloway, Joanna Maul, Fiona Roberts, Irena Fitzsimon, Lucy Bailey, Bianca Brant, Nancy Hendy, Alison George, Kathryn Graham, Angela Smart, Christine Lyons, Penelope Plain, Ann Shoebridge, Jacqui Campbell, Susie White, Lynne Dowling, Chloe Ibbott, Heather McBean, Janine Martin, Liz Parsons, Jan Corbett, Rosemary Young, Andrea Elliott, Helen Couch, Sally Morse, Janet McVean, Dorothy Buck, Elizabeth Oliver, Dianne Jackson, Catherine Donnan, Genevieve Newton, Megan Young, Elizabeth Syle, Nicky Langford, Mardi Lloyd, Jane Tovey, Lisa McNeice, Amanda Bartlett, Susan Neilson.



HIGH TEA AT MORONGO - KARDINIA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



MORONGO SPORT IN 1927 - 1928

A PRIVATE ALBUM AND COLLECTION OF PHOTOS FROM MARGARET SALTER
SHARED WITH US BY HER GRAND DAUGHTER DEBORAH HISKINS



From top right:
Stratherne Presbyterian Girls
School tennis match 1928. Form
ball passing 1927. Two photos from
tennis at Clarendon House in 1927
and Margaret Salter above on the
left. Tennis Four in 1928. House
tennis match (left) with Nancy and
Lorna Ebbott. Racing with Harris,
Roslyn, Lawson and Ardens.



MORONGO SPORT



From left:
Sports Day sack race 1927.
Below - the Siamese game.
Owner of the album, Margaret
Salter. Three girls are Janet
Ballantyne, likely N Hamilton
and Leila Wallace. Bottom left
is the basketball team.



Who is PMW? - this photo above
includes these initials.



GOULBURN VALLEY REUNION LUNCH



The Goulburn Valley Branch of the Morongo Old Collegians has met annually for sixty five years.

Of historical interest, the Branch was inaugurated on 8 August, 1962 in Shepparton and the person elected as Treasurer was Miss Gwen Bradshaw - in the photo above! Gwen held the position continuously (except for a little over a decade in the 1970s) and she still assumes that roll today, when needed.

By 1964, the minutes record the names of Heather Lloyd and Janet Agnew, also pictured above. With such dedicated members, the Branch will hopefully continue for some time yet.

Most recently, the Goulburn Branch convened for a delicious lunch at the King River Café in Oxley on Sunday 4 May 2025.

As the number able to attend was only six - due to different circumstances - the format was changed slightly and after lunch, four members from Shepparton and Cathkin visited Jan Vibert at Wangaratta.

Prior to the lunch, Liz Walpole (Fairnie) arrived with her collection of Lucernians dated in the 1940s.

Pictured above: Liz Walpole (Fairnie) and Heather Lloyd (Laird) inspecting old Lucernians. Standing from left: Eddie Hooper, Sandra Macintyre, Heather Lloyd, Gwen Jensen and seated: Jan Vibert and Jan Hooper.

Above from left: Sandra Macintyre (Bufton), Gwen Jensen (Bradshaw), Heather Lloyd (Laird), Marilyn Miller, Liz Walpole (Fairnie) and Jan Vibert (Agnew)



NOTE: Thank you to Sandra Macintyre for providing us with the original design of the Morongo Old Collegians logo - included above.



1979 - 45 YEAR REUNION



Sally Morse and Helen Couch (Symes) organised a 45 year reunion at Little Creatures in Geelong on Saturday 29 March.

The pair are now planning their 50 year reunion in 2029 or 2030. If you were in Year 10 in 1977 (Form 4) or Year 12 in 1979 and they don't have your contact details, please email

Sally at: colsal19@gmail.com

Celebrations continued at Morongo the following day when ten of the group enjoyed High Tea at Kardinia International College.

Sally: 'It was great to see some of the old buildings still there. A great time was had by all - with lots of memories and laughter. We thoroughly enjoyed touring the school and admiring the new buildings.'



Pictured in no particular order: Sally Morse (Priddle), Helen Couch (Symes), Lisa McNeice (West), Julie Heard, Sharon Hodgson, Fiona Roberts, Janet Peart, Madge Stephen, Andrea Francis, Melissa White (who flew from Perth just for the weekend), Cendrine Beasley (Baxter), Gillian Gurtler (Richardson), Jane Tovey, Melinda Kininmonth (Bell), Kerry Gardner, Rosie Simmonds, Linda Rodgers (Bakker) & Julie Scott (Cadd).

YEAR 12 IN 1972 - CELEBRATING 70TH BIRTHDAYS

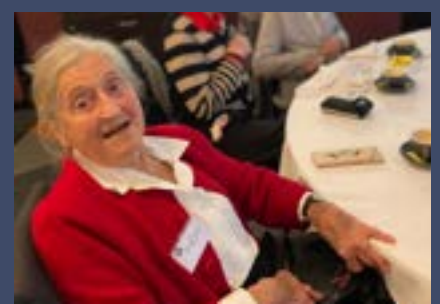


70th birthday celebrations for the Year 12 class of 1972. This event at 1915 restaurant was the first of many. Standing from Left - Susan Miller (nee Lowe), Jan Davis (nee Marendaz), Gail Rooney, Gwyneth Dickens (nee Apted) and Wendy Holdenson. Seated: Susan Morrow, Angela Herd, Lesley Constable (nee Carew)

SINCE 2002 - ANNUAL GATHERING AT ANGLISS RESTAURANT, MELBOURNE - WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025



Our annual Melbourne luncheon saw 23 Old Collegians enjoy a happy and chatty time. It was a wonderful and enthusiastic gathering. We plan to organise this lunch again next year and while we know our numbers are inevitably declining, the next generation is engaging. Thank your to Sandy Kay (Field) - with a star - who has volunteered to take over the organization of this lunch next year. Everyone is welcome.



OBITUARIES

REPORTED

Grimshaw, Jane 6/2/2024 (MOC 1972)
Hallam, Margot 12/3/2024 (MOC 1958)
Scott, Margaret (Byrne) 22/3/2024 (MOC 1968)
Winstanley, Janette Alison 27/4/2024 (MOC 1946)
Reilly, Mary (Thomson) 26/6/2024 (MOC 1945)
Cook, Annette (Kayser) – 6/7/2024 (MOC 1962)
Mary Moors (McGregor) 3/12/2024 (MOC 1950)
Toyne, Margaret (Craig) 16/12/2024 (MOC 1945)
Joseph, Beverley (Strong) 13/2/2023 (MOC 1957)
Mockridge, Norma (Devine) 22/2/2023 (MOC 1952)
Wylie, Leanne 29/3/2023 (MOC 1977)
Crossley, Rosemary 10/5/2023 (MOC 1960)
Deane, Joanna (Pyper) 16/5/2023 (MOC 1945)
Thornton, Betty 10/6/2023 (MOC 1946)
Murray, Jean 1/7/2023 (MOC 1960)
Pavia, Eathorne (Stewart) 5/7/2023 (MOC 1937)
Oriander, Sandra E (Stevens) 18/7/2023 (MOC 1957)
Lee, Faye (Pope) 28/8/2023 (MOC 1953)
Wilson, Barbra Mary (Wood) 20/10/2023 (MOC 1947)
McKay, Elaine Mary (Wills) 8/12/2023 (MOC 1950)
Gration, Marion (Chappell) 17/12/2023 (MOC 1954)
Burvill, Marlene Mary (Jolly) 20/12/2023 (MOC 1951)

MRS YVONNE FOX - 26/12/2024

From Heather Evans

Former staff member, Head of Junior and Middle School Science, Mrs Yvonne Fox died on Boxing Day 2024. There will be many former staff and students who will be saddened by the news.



FACEBOOK - MORONGO PGC SOCIAL COMMUNITY



MARION GRATION (CHAPPELL) 21/12/1938 - 17/12/2023

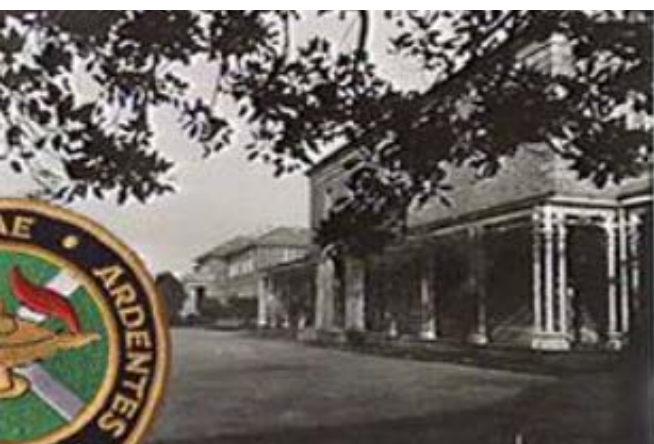
From her daughter, Felice Dinse - my dear mum, Marion passed away on 17 December 2023, four days shy of her 85th birthday. She is pictured above front right in this Prefects photo in 1956. She used to reminisce fondly of her days as a student at Morongo and then, as a teacher at Hermitage. I still have her prefects blazer.

MARGARET TOYNE (CRAIG) 11/4/1930 - 16/12/2024

From her daughter, Sally McDougall - my beautiful Mum passed away peacefully, aged 94. She attended Morongo from 1934 to 1947. RIP Mum.

MARY MOORS (MCGREGOR) 21/1/1934 - 4/12/2024

From her friend, Marieta Jones - Mary came from a farming family near Rochester, in Victoria. She was a boarder at Morongo. When she left school she trained as a nurse at the Northern School of nursing in Bendigo. She married Bob Moors who organized Moomba in the early days. She was an excellent Committee Member of the Melbourne Branch for 20 plus years and she organized many evenings in her own home in Kew. She also organized The William Angliss Luncheon when a previous member retired.





SUSAN MARGARET FALK 4/6/1940 - 5/4/2025

From her daughter, Katie Trehwella

In Memory of mum - we pay tribute to Susan Margaret Falk, née Ingpen – an alumna of Morongo Girls' College remembered for her quiet strength, generosity of spirit and unwavering grace.

Born in Melbourne on 4 June 1940, Susan spent her early years in Geelong. Her childhood was shaped by the early loss of her mother Muriel, and the care of her maternal grandparents, extended family, and a dedicated nurse named Nance. At that time, her father—a solicitor and barrister—was building his legal practice, now known as Ingpen and Bent, before leaving to serve in New Guinea during the Second World War. He later married Nance when Susan was almost six, and her sisters Joan and Pam were born in the years that followed.

At the age of nine, Susan began boarding at Morongo Girls' College—a significant transition that required courage and resilience. She found her footing quickly, gaining a sound education, treasured lifelong friendships, and the independence that would become a defining quality. Known affectionately as “Ink,” Susan often reflected on the strong foundations laid at Morongo and her later time at Invergowie Homecraft Hostel, where she learned that there was no place for mediocrity—a lesson that stayed with her for life. After completing her nursing training at Geelong Hospital, Susan worked as a staff nurse at Kardinia House. Around this time, Graham Falk—whose family had long known hers—reappeared in her life. Friendship quietly turned to romance, and they married in December 1962. Susan and Graham set up home in Point Lonsdale. She taught art and craft at St Andrew's Private School before stepping away from work to raise their children, Katie and Anthony. She affectionately described this time as “twenty years of maternity leave.”

When the time felt right, Susan returned to nursing – this time in aged care at Queenscliff Nursing Home. What began as a tentative re-entry became a deeply fulfilling second chapter in her career. Her empathy, sense of humour, and attention to detail made her a cherished colleague. She told many funny stories from work—not to mock, but to celebrate the humour and humanity of everyday life.



The birth of her grandson Benjamin in 1999 brought deep joy, and Susan embraced the role of grandmother with warmth and quiet pride. Just weeks later, Graham passed away unexpectedly. It was a profound loss that marked the beginning of a new chapter shaped by both love and grief. The arrival of her granddaughter Anna in 2003 brought another treasured gift and further enriching the close bonds of her family.

In retirement, Susan rekindled her passion for painting, established a home studio, and joined the local bowling club, where she embraced the social side as much as the sport itself. It was there she met Kevin Lyons, who became a valued companion in her later years. Together they navigated the challenges of the COVID period, sharing joy, support, and companionship.

Susan found contentment in the simple things – playing music at her piano, chats over tea, time in her garden, and conversations with her children and grandchildren. Her love for family remained at the centre of her life. She never needed acclaim – she simply lived with purpose, stayed true to her values, and left people better for having known her.

**'KNOWN AFFECTIONATELY
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THE MORONGO ROSE

ORDER YOURS TODAY



For those eagerly awaiting the opportunity to purchase a Morongo Rose, Advancement Coordinator at Geelong College, Sally Sadler has good news.

'I'm pleased to share that the project is progressing well. Although our initial attempt to propagate the rose at the end of last year was not successful, we are now working with Treloar Roses in Portland.

'Buds will be collected later this year for grafting and if all goes according to plan, we expect to have rose yearlings available for sale in Winter 2026.'

Anyone interested in ordering a Morongo Rose can add their name to the waitlist at:

sally.sadler@tgc.vic.edu.au.

The expected price per rose will be \$50. All proceeds will go directly to support The Morongo Scholarship Fund at The Geelong College.

We extend our sincere thanks to Morongo Old Collegian, Kate Blood (MOC Y12 1983) for her invaluable support and guidance throughout this process. Kate's horticultural knowledge has been instrumental and we can all be truly grateful for her generous assistance.



*'Sint Lucernae Ardentēs'
Let your lamps be burning*



Year 12 in 1985 - 40 Year Reunion - will be held on Saturday, 11 October in Geelong at the Sawyers Arms Tavern. 2 Noble St, Newtown. Please contact Cath Cran (Walsh) on 0419 378 368 or Lou Houlihan (Aitken) on 0407 524 098 for more details.

Year 12 1980 - 45 Year Reunion - will be held on Saturday 11 October from 2-5pm. If you don't have an invitation and you are in this year group, please contact Sue Monkhouse (Knight) 0418 393 410 or Louise Mayall (Grimes) 0425 726 598 for Melbourne venue details or further information.

The Morongo Old Collegians Luncheon at The Geelong College will be on Saturday 25 October 2025 in the Dining Hall. Further details from Advancement Coordinator, Sally Sadler.

Phone: +61 3 5226 3779 Email: sally.sadler@tgc.vic.edu.au

Golf Lunch Reunion 2025 - 12th Annual Morongo golf day at Barwon Heads Golf Club will be on Friday 24 October. Further details from Jo Burton on email: jojburton@bigpond.com

Morongo House - High Tea at Kardinia International College 2026 will be in March. Exact date to be confirmed. Details from: Fiona Russell - Community Engagement and Foundation Coordinator and College Archivist. Email: f.russell@kardinia.vic.edu.au

Goulburn Valley Luncheon 2026 will be on 3 May at a Shepparton venue. Members on the current email list will receive details directly. Please let Sandra Macintyre know if you do not wish to remain on the email list: nutcundera@bigpond.com or 0428 976 242



From Morongo PGC Social Community on Facebook from Sue Younis (Spencer) HSC III in 1975 in front of the Library. Thanks Sue.



Morongo Old Collegians

When Morongo closed in 1994 many of the girls transferred to Geelong College cementing an ongoing relationship between the two schools. The College is the custodian of the Morongo archives and works closely with the Old Morongians to continue to keep the Morongo spirit alive.



ACCESS TO ALL OUR LUCERNIANS - [HTTPS://GNET.TGC.VIC.EDU.AU/WIKI/LUCERNIAN](https://gnet.tgc.vic.edu.au/wiki/lucernian)



THE MORONGO SCHOLARSHIP

HONOURING THE LEGACY OF MORONGO - AN OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE

In 2024, when The Geelong College celebrated 50 years of co-education, the school marked a significant milestone in its commitment to providing an exceptional education to both boys and girls.

Geelong College has continued to affirm its dedication to the education of young women through the Morongo Scholarship—a lasting legacy of Morongo.

Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College was established in 1920 and was a distinguished girls' school that educated generations of young women. Morongo was known for its strong academic tradition, Christian values, and the development of confident, capable young women. It held a unique place in Geelong's educational landscape - and in the hearts of its alumnae.

Following its closure in 1994, the surplus assets of Morongo Girls' College Ltd were placed in trust. An agreement dated 31 January 1998, approved by the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria, established that these funds would be used to generate income for scholarships supporting female students at The Geelong College.

First awarded in 1999, the Morongo Scholarship offers a unique opportunity for a female student of outstanding academic ability to attend TGC. It is open to girls seeking entry from Year 7 to Year 12 and provides the value of three terms' tuition fees, tenable for up to six years. The scholarship is awarded every six years or when the recipient graduates, maintaining its prestige and selective nature, with recipients chosen at the discretion of the Principal.

Through this scholarship, the legacy of Morongo continues—not just in name, but in the lives and achievements of the young women it supports. Recipients have been among the school's highest VCE achievers and include former College Captain Izzy Greer and Taylor Miller (right) who both went on to study medicine.

In 2026 TGC will welcome Daisy Courtney from Camperdown into Year 9 as a boarder. Daisy says she is looking forward to challenging herself academically and in her sporting endeavours.

'I have a huge range of interests - from basketball to the arts and debating.'

Your gift to the Morongo Scholarship Fund will give the opportunity of a liberal education to a young woman who would otherwise be unable to attend The Geelong College, and will honour the enduring values of Morongo and its former students.

This Scholarship provides a powerful way to leave a legacy and support future generations. If you are inspired to donate, please visit:

<https://www.tgc.vic.edu.au/giving/annual-giving-2025>

If you are considering leaving a bequest to the Morongo Scholarship Fund—please contact Nicole Roache at: nicole.roache@tgc.vic.edu.au or call (03) 5226 3106



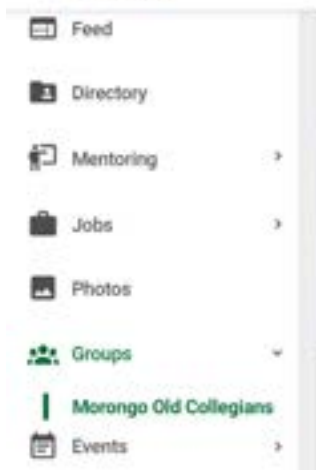
THE CLASS OF Y12 1978



A photo from Yvonne Armstrong:
Back row from left. Heather Beggs, Donna Elliott, Yvonne Cook, Angie Pigdon, Carol Baillie, Helen Jamieson, Belinda Holloway, Jenny Murray, Tracey Dyke, Rebecca Mahar. Middle row: Tracey Jerram, Jo Charter, Wendy Larcombe, Simone Jerram, Debbie Williams, Jenny Pigdon, Chrissie Harvey, Helene Cameron, Inara Coates, Clare Drinnan, Jane Cook, Heather McNaughton. Front row: Belinda Robertson, Robyn Garrard, Sally Toyne, Dizzy Heard, Jane Dennis, Dianne Solomon, Alison McLean and Sally Egan. Apologies if I have any wrong!



CONNECT TO **140 MORONGO OLD COLLEGIANS** - ON THE GEELONG COLLEGE WEBSITE



Morongo Old Collegians

Use the Directory to connect with Morongo Old Collegians and, see what they have been up to, and stay in touch. Enhance your Professional Development and help each other with opportunities for learning and personal growth, mentoring and networking. Connect directly with alumni anywhere in the world with email or video chat. Here is the link to 140 Morongo Old Collegians: <https://tgconnect.com/groups/5/members>

CONTACTS

William Angliss Luncheon

Sandy Kay (Field)
sandy@radiantpantry.com.au
Elaine Howden (Barber) 1952
0413 800 841
elainehowden@bigpond.com

Goulburn Valley Old Collegians

Sandra MacIntyre (Bufton) 1960
0428 976 242
nutcundera@bigpond.com

Barwon Heads Golf

Jo Burton (Tansley) 1967
0439500150
jojbarton@bigpond.com

Melbourne

Elaine Howden (Barber) 1952
0413 800 841
elainehowden@bigpond.com
Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953
(03) 9802 7006
ormondmarieta@hotmail.com
Ann McAllister
0416 012 536
morongogirlscollege@gmail.com



NOTE - We are updating the Morongo database. This is an important and significant task and the first time it's been looked at properly for many years. We are linking the emails we have with the Year level lists from The Lucernian. This is giving us a good indication of who we are missing. During the next few weeks we will send you an email to confirm your contact details. Please help us by responding - and sharing with your Morongo friends.

Save the Date



12TH ANNUAL MORONGO

GOLF / LUNCH
REUNION

FRIDAY
24 OCTOBER 2025



THE MAGNIFICENTLY, TOTALLY RENOVATED
BARWON HEADS GOLF CLUB



MORONGO Winter e-newsletter

Welcome to the 'Winter' edition of The Morongo - June 2025

I've been fascinated by the photos generously shared by Deborah Hiskins from her grandmother, Margaret Salter's photo album. Embracing the opportunity to use AI, I asked ChatGPT what a girls' boarding school in Australia might have been like in 1927 ...

School Environment

Strict and Formal: Discipline was strict, with an emphasis on good manners, neat appearance, and obedience.

Uniforms were typically worn, often including hats, gloves, and long skirts.

Segregated by Gender: Being girls-only, schools reinforced the belief that boys and girls required different types of education – girls were often not encouraged toward higher education or professional careers.

Religious Influence: Many girls' schools were affiliated with religious institutions (Presbyterian, Anglican or Catholic) and included religious instruction in the curriculum.

Curriculum

Traditional Subjects: Girls studied core subjects such as English, history, geography, arithmetic, and science (though often less advanced than what boys were taught).

Feminine Skills: A strong focus was placed on domestic science – cooking, sewing, etiquette, and child-rearing – in preparation for future roles as wives and mothers.

Arts and Culture: Music, singing, drawing, and elocution were commonly emphasized as "refined" pursuits suitable for young ladies.

Social Expectations

Limited Career Opportunities: While some girls went on to become teachers, nurses, or secretaries, many were expected to marry and manage households.

Pressure to Conform: Individualism was discouraged. Girls were expected to be modest, reserved, and well-behaved at all times.

Role Models: Inspirational female figures were typically queens, saints, or missionaries, rather than scientists, athletes, or leaders.

Facilities and Daily Life

Boarding Schools: Some girls attended boarding schools, especially in rural areas. Life there was regimented, with fixed times for waking, classes, meals, prayers, and lights out.

Limited Sport: Physical activity was encouraged but typically limited to genteel sports like tennis, croquet, or calisthenics – no rough or competitive games.

Social Life: Interactions with boys were minimal or closely supervised. Social events, if any, were formal and controlled (such as school dances with brother schools).

Broader Historical Context

Post-WWI Era: Australia was recovering from World War I.

Patriotism, loyalty to the British Empire, and conservative values dominated education.

Women's Suffrage: Women had gained the right to vote federally in 1902, but social equality was far from achieved.

Emerging Change: Some progressive schools or educators were beginning to encourage intellectual ambition and independence, but this was still rare.

Ann McAllister



THE MORONGO

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