

THE MORONGO

Official Newsletter of Morongo Old Collegians



A very successful Year 12 in 1985 - 40 Year Reunion was held on Saturday, 11 October in Geelong at the Sawyers Arms Tavern. The occasion was organised by Cath Cran (Walsh) and Lou Houlihan (Aitken) who both agreed, 'a six-hour lunch was not long enough.'

They had 10 apologies - which would have bought the numbers to 34. According to *The Lucernian*, 69 girls completed Year 12 in 1985. 'The Venue was great. Food lovely and the chatter did not stop. Lou Houlihan waved her magic with floral arrangements and organised a small

gift for each attendee. Rania Baroud and Simone Armstrong provided sweet treats to finish off. The Kahoot! Quiz organised by Sandy Kay was great fun and jogged a lot of memories. A great day had by all. We won't be waiting another 10 years for the next one!' Cath Cran (Walsh)



THE 1985 - Y12 40 YEAR REUNION

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Pictured from top left: Back Row(s) : Kate Mitchell (Royal), Alison Zehir (Shimmin), Leanne Freeman, Sue Koch (Storey), Emma Malone (Gill), Christine Honan (Henderson), Diana Hardwick (Lewi), Jane Parks (Phillpot), Cath Cran (Walsh), Wendy Venters, Heather Dempsey (Gibson), Karen Atkinson(Donaldson), Middle Row: Lisa Mayall, Amanda Courtney, Libby Preedy (Daher), Kitty Fairhall (Sullivan), Rania Baroud, Leesa Stringer (Hassell), Front Row: Melissa Sidekll (Laidlaw), Simone Armstrong, Sandy Kay (Feild), Louise Houlihan (Aitken) Taking Photo: Rebecca Courtney



1985 - 40 YEAR REUNION



A GOLDEN MORONGO LEGACY

THE MARGARET SHANNON CUP - 2025 AWARDED TO EMILY JARRATT

For a girl in Year 12, in recognition of outstanding overall service to the Geelong College community

Under lock and key at The Geelong College sits one of the most precious artefacts linking **Morongo** with Geelong College – a large and gleaming solid gold trophy, rich in history, sentiment and symbolism.

The Margaret Shannon Memorial Cup was originally presented in 1928 to the Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College, Geelong, by Alma and Herbert Shannon in memory of their daughter Margaret Alma Strachan Shannon (1913–1928), a bright, athletic student and Morongo boarder from Albury. She died suddenly at age 15. The cup was purchased using Margaret's own savings and first awarded that same year at the annual Morongo Sports Day to Lawson - Margaret's House - for success in inter-house sports. As The Lucernian noted, *'in some measure a gift from herself to the school that had loved her.'* When Morongo closed in 1994, many of its traditions and treasured stories were carefully preserved by the Morongo Old Collegians' Association.



In 2015, MOCA entrusted the cup, among many of its prized possessions, to The Geelong College where it was reintroduced as an annual award recognising a Year 12 girl who demonstrates the spirit of generosity, courage and outstanding overall service to the College community. The prize was originally funded by the Morongo Old Collegians' Association (MOCA).

Nearly a century after its creation, the Margaret Shannon Memorial Cup remains much more than an exquisite piece of goldwork. It represents the strength of community across time – from the many hands that held the cup at Morongo to the young Geelong College women of today who aspire to have their name etched alongside this historic prize. Its value lies not only in the gold locked away for safekeeping, but in the living legacy it inspires: The Cup embodies the legacy of Margaret Shannon and the long tradition of courage, generosity and service among Morongo girls.

This year's recipient of the Margaret Shannon Cup is Emily Jarrett (pictured above), a Year 12 boarder from Ballyrogan, in country Victoria. She feels a deep personal connection with Margaret and described the legacy that Morongo has inspired and provided for young women in the Mossiel Boarding House.
'Being a country girl and a boarder isn't uncommon to Mossiel. But I love knowing that before there were girls here at College, there were girls at Morongo - whose footsteps paved the way for us. Coming from far away for opportunity and education and carrying on our families' legacies, is something I'm honoured to share with Margaret.'

Emily first heard about the Cup through Mossiel staff member, Claudia Cheatley (OGC 2016) who was the first Geelong College recipient of the award.

'Every day at breakfast and dinner we sat below the portrait of Charles Shannon, Margaret's grandfather, so it is a story I was aware of. But hearing from Claudia, the story and the meaning of the award, it resonated with me. Mossiel girls always give their all. The Margaret Shannon Cup award has inspired me to make the most of every opportunity. I hope I have inspired others to try new things and to be brave too.' Emily says. 'That's what the Margaret Shannon spirit is about – giving everything a go.' Details with thanks Nicole Roache - Geelong College



Pictured from left: Livia Baggio, Louise Mayall (Grimes), Cathy MacLean, Serena Chirnside (Ramsay), Sue Monkhouse (Knight), Prue McAlpine (Robbins), Sally Dowling (English), Tina Coombs, Genevieve Newton (Martin), Deb Stewart (Lunn), Janine McKenzie, Belinda McDonald, Mardi Lloyd.



45 YEAR REUNION

YEAR 12 IN 1980

Susan Monkhouse (Knight) hosted a fabulous get-together for the Year 10 in 1978 girls at her lovely home in Melbourne on Saturday 11 October.

It was great that Prue McAlpine (Robbins) from Queensland, and Deb Stewart (Lunn) from Sydney, made the trek.

With a good representation from the boarders and the 'Werribee girls', it

was a very noisy, animated and fun catch up.

If you missed out, plans are already in the making for another reunion in two years' time. Many thanks to Louise Mayall (Grimes) for helping make it all happen and for linking us all through WhatsApp. We are on Meta (Facebook) under Morongo Yr 10 1978, please join our group. *Janine McKenzie*





THE MORONGO AWARD

HANNAH BROWN 2025

*Honouring Legacy
The 2025 Morongo Award*

When Hannah Brown learned she had been chosen as the 2025 recipient of The Geelong College's Morongo Award, it struck a deeper chord than simple achievement. For Hannah, the honour carries a family thread.

*'The Morongo Award means keeping alive my connection to my uncle's mother, Frances Ashburner (née Lowson),' she says. Frances was a formidable Morongo student—dux of Morongo in 1952, senior prefect and editor of *The Lucernian*. Her legacy is one Hannah holds in high regard, and one she hopes to reflect in her own future.*

Looking ahead to 2026, Hannah plans to study science at the University of Melbourne, specialising in health science. It's a natural progression, echoing Frances' own years at the same university where she pursued microbiology.

The Morongo Award itself has a long-standing place in the Geelong College community. Established in 2001, it is presented at the end of each year to a Year 11 student who will continue their studies at Geelong College and who has a family relationship with a Morongo Old Collegian.

Valued at 25% of Year 12 tuition fees, it recognises academic strength and active contribution to school life. Since its inception, the award has highlighted students who embody the best of both achievement and character. A full list of past recipients - announced and documented at the end of year prior and the benefit is applied during the following year.



MORONGO AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2001 – FITZPATRICK, T L (TESSA) & SIMMONDS, C E (CLAIRE)**
- 2002 – PATON, A J (ANGELA)**
- 2003 – JAMES, T D (TIM)**
- 2004 – GREEN, S J (STEPHEN) & MILL, C R (CHLOE)**
- 2005 – NAM, O J (OLLIE)**
- 2006 – JAMES, S H (SARAH)**
- 2007 – MACRAE, G D (GEORGINA)**
- 2008 – SMITH, M A (MORGAN)**
- 2009 – MALTBY, C J (CALLUM)**
- 2010 – JABLONSKY, N M (NATALIE)**
- 2011 – BIGELOW, K E (KATRINA)**
- 2012 – GEKAS, C L (CRISTA)**
- 2013 – WYLIE, A A (ANGUS)**
- 2014 – THORNE, P A (PHILIPPA)**
- 2015 – STAPLETON, M (MARDI)**
- 2016 – NEWTON, A. C. (ALICIA)**
- 2017 – PULLIN, E J (ELLA)**
- 2018 – WALPOLE, P C F (PIP)**
- 2019 – BLACKFORD, S M (SOPHIE)**
- 2020 – KOCH, H C (HARRIET)**
- 2021 – MCLELLAN, G K (GEORGIA)**
- 2022 – ROYCE, E V (EDWINA)**
- 2023 – HANNAGAN, E M (ELIZA)**
- 2024 – BROWN, H I L (HANNAH)**

Sint Lucernae Ardentes

MORONGO REFLECTIONS

WHO AM I?

I was in Steerbomb's class in 1975. I sat in the front row. Stanley and Jane Doery sat in the back row. Tinny and Huffbag sat near the door. I had short fair hair with a fringe at the time. I remember Suzanne Bell in our class, who I was sure was the most brilliant girl who ever lived! And I wanted her hair. Blonde and gorgeous! From Mrs McKinnon's class, I remember Penny Kerger and her gorgeous tan! Also Katrina McLean who was always giggling! I rode on the East Geelong bus and was friends with Katrina McLean and Jane Huffam.

In later years Audrey Brown sat at the back of the bus and I talked to her on the way home. I was obsessed with German, but not with Frau. I think she just hated everyone! I remember Sue Spencer stood up to her in our final German class. Sue was definitely the bravest girl who ever lived!

Later, I was friends with Julie Winter and Mandy Matheson, Harbo (Rosalind Harbison), Libby Warner and Kathy Venters.

Maybe I'm in the pic below?



I liked Mrs McKinnon. I had her for Maths in Form 2. She was exceedingly kind to dummies. I didn't mind Miss Botterill, though we had a bit of a blue in Form 6. But my favourite by far was Miss Gibson. She taught Modern European History. It was anything but boring! She made the lessons come alive, as she talked about truly gory things, like decapitation of queens and the burning of witches! **Answer on pg 6**

THE MARGARET SHANNON MEMORIAL CUP FOR ATHLETICS - 1928

The book, Morongo: The First Fifty Years described the award as follows: It's correct name is 'The Margaret Shannon Memorial Cup for Athletics.' Margaret Shannon was a pupil at Morongo. She had some £200-300 in her bank account and after her tragically early death while still at school, her parents bought the cup with her own money and presented it to the school in her memory. All Morongo girls know the gold cup, and it is hoped that this brief account of it will serve to remind them that it is a memorial cup to a past student who was fond of sport.'

Under lock and key at The Geelong



'In memory of their daughter Margaret, Mr and Mrs Herbert Shannon, Upper Murray, have presented a massive gold cup for perpetual competition in interhouse sports at the Presbyterian Girls' College, Geelong. The first competition for the cup took place this year, and at the annual speech day the cup was presented to the captain of Lawson House, at which the late Margaret Shannon was a student.'

December 1928 - The Australasian newspaper

Margaret's father, Herbert Strachan Shannon (1880-1955) was educated at Geelong College. Her grandfather, Charles Shannon (1841-1922) was the foundation chairman of Geelong College from 1908 to 1921.

Today, this solid-gold cup – valued at more than \$120,000 – is far too precious to display publicly. It is kept securely in the College's archives.

Given its significance, Geelong College is now exploring the possibility of creating a replica that can be displayed in the trophy cabinet in Belerren Sports and Wellbeing Centre, ensuring the story and legacy can be shared safely with future generations. A replica would be another symbol of continuity between Morongo and The Geelong College and the commitment to excellence in the education of girls.

Anyone interested in donating to this interesting project should contact Sally Saddler at Geelong College on email.

' ITS VALUE LIES NOT ONLY IN THE GOLD LOCKED AWAY FOR SAFEKEEPING, BUT IN THE LIVING LEGACY IT INSPIRES: THE CUP EMBODIES THE LEGACY OF MARGARET SHANNON AND THE LONG TRADITION OF COURAGE, GENEROSITY AND SERVICE AMONG MORONGO GIRLS.'

ORDER YOURS TODAY

THE MORONGO ROSE

Buds have been collected 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 list 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.



MORONGO ANNUAL GOLF DAY

BARWON HEADS GOLF CLUB - 2025 ANNUAL MORONGO GOLF AND LUNCH REUNION



The twelfth Annual Morongo Golf and Lunch Reunion was held on Friday October 24, 2025. A slightly overcast but pleasant day greeted the 16 golfers who teed off at 8:30am. An additional 21 joined us for lunch. Golfers played in an Ambrose Golf event and the day was a fantastic opportunity for non-golfers to catch up with old school friends over lunch. The winning team (left) was Susan Hocking (1965), Kate Emerson (1986), Dee Stewart (1986), and Melissa Suriano (Williams 1984). They will go on to represent Morongo in the WIGCCs (Women's Interschool Golf Challenge Cup) to be held at Sorento in March 2026. Three of these old girls were in the winning team in 2024. Net scores were remarkably close with only 2.625 net range in the scores of the teams. The winning score was 62.875 from a team handicap of 16.125. Susan Hocking was also the winner of nearest the pin. The feedback on the day was very positive and we were all delighted to be back in the extensively renovated Barwon Heads Club House.

All Morongo Old Collegians are encouraged to contact friends and participate next year for both golf and lunch or simply lunch.

Jo Burton (Tansley 1969)

The Perpetual Trophy (left) was donated by Lyn Fraser (Crellin 1969)



PROFILE - JANINE ROSE MOC '83

IT ALL STARTED WITH THE LOVE OF BEER

How did I go from the Morongo Class of '83 to the purveyor of spirits, gins and beer? Good question!
It all started with a love of beer.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Science (IT) I moved to Mt Isa (QLD) and embarked on a career in the mining industry. Working in the industry for about 20 years in both WA and Victoria before, by chance, purchasing a vineyard in Victoria's Otway Hinterland. The property was producing high quality cool climate fruit (perfect Sparkling wine climate) and had a very high rainfall (perfect for making beer). I had always had a fascination of some of the different beers and finally had my chance to fill a passion.

While transitioning into the beverage industry I further studied accounting and tax and found myself running and managing the winery and brewery at Barongarook. Over time we expanded to owning several hotels (Queenscliff, Apollo Bay and Gellibrand) to enable a direct to market approach to our beer, cider and wine and more recently spirits and RTD's (Ready To Drink) beverages.



With the beer process being the first step in Whisky production, our portfolio then went into making spirits – Whisky, Gin, Vodka and Cello's. Today we have a cellar door at Otway Estate and at Apollo Bay as well as selling our Queenscliff products at local markets - after selling our Hotel in Queenscliff.

Now predominantly located in Darwin, NT, I manage the businesses financial and information technology side of things. I still play a pivotal role in the business although enjoying the tropical lifestyle that Darwin offers. I still spend extended periods of time in Victoria so you might just see me at one of the many festivals and events we attend with our big black Prickly Moses bus or at our Distillery cellar doors.

If you're in Apollo Bay over summer ... come and visit me at the Great Ocean Road Brewhouse, Apollo Bay Distillery or Otway Estate. It's always so wonderful to catch up and reminisce about our wonderful time at Morongo.

Photo below - Morongo 40 year reunion with Megan MacKinnon, Susie Tucker and Fiona Ramsey.

'I HAD ALWAYS HAD A FASCINATION OF SOME OF THE DIFFERENT BEERS AND FINALLY HAD MY CHANCE TO FILL A PASSION.'



MORONGO PICNICS IN 1927-1929

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



From top left: 1929 Dromana. Edith Leigh, Margaret Salter and Mary Small. In the gardens at Morongo. A beach picnic. Above: Geelong Grammar sports day. Left: Pauli (possibly Pauline Merchant) and Cam? Margaret Salter - right in white and ?? Let us know if you recognise anyone as your great-grandmother. We'd love to know.

OBITUARIES

BETTY HILDEBRAND - 24/09/2025

It is with great sadness that I write to tell you that Betty Hildebrand passed away on Sunday 14th Sept 2025, just two weeks after her 95th birthday. Betty always enjoyed catching up with the Morongo News. A Thanksgiving Service for the Life of Betty Hildebrand was held on Monday, September 22, 2025 at Uniting Church, Shepparton. Regards her friend, Jan Le Quesne

ROSEMARY ELDER - 26/2/1935 - 1/8/2025

Passed away peacefully in Geelong, aged 90. Sister of David (dec), Alisoun (dec) and John. Rosemary was a boarder and on the Old Collegian Committee.

JENNY EKSTEDT (MCKEwan) - 30/9/1937 - 1/9/2025

Much loved wife of Dennis, mother of Lindy and Pete. Jenny was a kind, thoughtful, cheerful and generous soul. A memorial service was held at Barwon Heads Golf Club on 8 September.

VALE

KATHLEEN HOMBERG (DAVIS) 24.10.1933 - 20.02.2025

With thanks to Kathleen's son, Ross Homberg for these few words.

Kathleen Frances Homberg (nee Davis) was born in Geelong and was the youngest daughter of Frank and Kathleen Davis. Kath attended Newtown Primary School and after finishing Grade 5, she attended what was then Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College, matriculating in 1950. She then worked as a Library Assistant at the Gordon Institute of Technology – from 1951 until 1956. Kath formed strong friendships at Morongo and at work and maintained contact with many of her friends throughout her life. They had annual reunions, and many letters and cards were written.

Kath enjoyed regular swims at Eastern Beach. She played tennis and netball at Kardinia Park - and took great delight in gaining free entry at three-quarter time to the football ground. She was an avid Geelong Cats fan. Kath's greatest memories were being taken by her father to the VFL Grand Finals in 1951 and 1952 and witnessing Geelong's success in both.

Kath met Ian Homberg at the Palais Royal, a former dance venue in Geelong. They met in 1952 and were married at Ashby Methodist Church in 1955. Three of their four children were born in Geelong – Craig in 1957, Jillian in 1959 and Mark in 1961. Ian received a work promotion to manage an Insurance Office in Shepparton in 1961, and the family lived there for six years. Ross was born in Shepparton in 1963.

In 1967, following another work promotion for Ian, the family moved to Ballarat and settled in Wendouree. Sadly, Ian passed away in April 2015, four months before what would have been their 60th Wedding Anniversary. Kath and Ian cherished their six grandchildren and a year and a half ago, Kath became a great grandmother.

Life in Ballarat was busy. Kath was a member of many committees, including school committees, Scout and Guide Association committees, and Church committees. She held positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer on many occasions and enjoyed these roles.

Church was a big part of Kath's life. In Ballarat, she attended the Jubilee Methodist Church, the Wendouree Uniting Church and the Skipton St Uniting Church. She played the organ at services for 40 years (as well as playing music at various aged care homes in Ballarat.) She was a Church Elder, a member of the church Evening Group and she joined the church choir.

Kath went back to work in 1973. She was an assistant in the library at Ballarat High School for twenty-six years. After retirement in 1999, her new interests included joining a U3A Music Appreciation class and the U3A Choristers in 2002. Retirement brought more new friendships and experiences. She was a member of the Wendouree Ladies Probus Club for 20 years and enjoyed the social activities, as well as trips to Canberra, Norfolk Island, New Zealand and Tasmania. During this time, she held the Committee positions of Secretary twice and President twice. She kept fit by regularly walking around Lake Wendouree with a group of Probus friends.

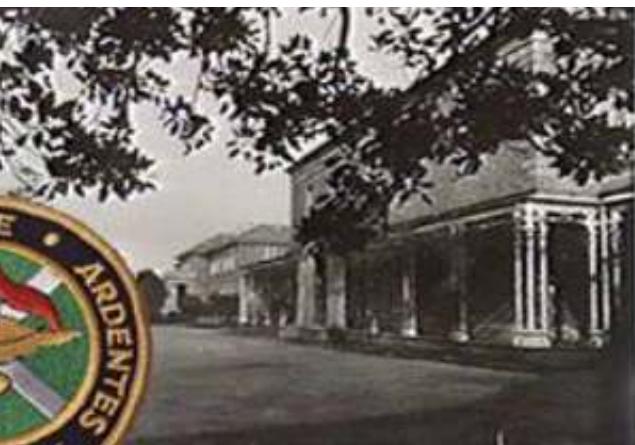


Kath was a great lover of music and derived much pleasure from listening to and playing music. She began piano lessons at the age of seven and continued lessons for ten years. Kath also learnt to play the 'cello and played in the Geelong Symphony and String Orchestras. She also played the 'cello in the Shepparton Symphony Orchestra.

Kath loved gardening. The constant bending and stretching contributed to Kath's fitness - well into her eighties. Each year, she would purchase punnets of pansies and plant them near the front door. She liked to have vases of flowers in the house, particularly roses. She also liked to visit the Ballarat Botanical Gardens during the Begonia Festival.

Ian and Kath liked to travel and completed many holidays in Australia, including four trips across the Nullarbor Desert. Kath also enjoyed cruising holidays. She had a 'sweet tooth' and loved the tiramisu, raspberry crème brûlée, chocolate soufflé and cappuccino panne cotta.





THE MORONGO SCHOLARSHIP

HONOURING THE LEGACY OF MORONGO - AN OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE

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

First awarded in 1999, the Morongo Scholarship offers a unique opportunity for a female student of outstanding academic ability to attend Geelong College. 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.

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

Background:

Following the closure of Morongo Girls College 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.

*Save
the Date*

2026 Year 12 REUNION DATES

Class of 1986 – 40 Year Reunion
Class of 1976 – 50 Year Reunion
Class of 1966 – 60 Year Reunion
Class of 1956 – 70 Year Reunion

Morongo House - High Tea at Kardinia International College

2026 will be held on Sunday 29 March 2pm-4:30pm. Details from: Fiona Russell - Community Engagement and Foundation Coordinator and College Archivist: f.russell@kardinia.vic.edu.au

The Morongo Old Collegians

Luncheon at The Geelong College. Further details from Advancement Coordinator, Sally Sadler. Phone: +61 3 5226 3779 Email: sally.sadler@tgc.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



THE LUCERNIAN

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



Portal Login



When Morongo closed in 1964 many of the girls transferred to Geelong College continuing 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.

Morongo Old Collegians

LUCERNAE ARDENTES INIS...



CONNECT TO 146 MORONGO OLD COLLEGIANS - ON THE GEELONG COLLEGE WEBSITE

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- Events



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 146 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
jojburton@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 months we will send you an email to confirm your contact details. Please help us by responding - and sharing with your Morongo friends.



MORONGO Christmas e-newsletter

Welcome to the 'Christmas' edition of The Morongo - December 2025

... chatting to 'Salty' recently and hoping she might come across from LA - where she lives - for our combined Morongo 60 birthday celebration.

Our conversations are always inspiring, reflective and sometimes intense, and hilarious. We often laugh about our years sharing a room in Year 10 and 11 in Shaw House, then in various share houses in Melbourne, and travelling together in 1989 and 1990. We were reflecting on our behaviour towards some of the Morongo male teachers including Mr Moritz who taught us Legal Studies in Year 12 in 1982. He was progressive, talented and patient (but I have no idea if he knew we were regularly flicking liquid paper on his backside.) We don't know how it was approved, but he organised for us to visit Pentridge prison to see inmates perform 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.' Then, Salty sent me this:

'... escape from Pentridge Prison in 1982 during a theatre performance of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest in the A Division Mess Hall. Armed robber Peter Patrick Clune disguised himself in women's clothes and a wig, which a friend had smuggled in for him.'

Remarkably, he walked right out of the prison. Clune was recaptured in Sydney seven months later. What the people at Pentridge don't know is that Salty, Maz and Lou were chatting to Clune during the interval - and they suggested he dress in school uniform and leave with all of us. The following night, he did just that!

Here is the link:
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=975467674271672>

Often our Morongo PGC Facebook page sees a surge of reflection on our teachers. Here are a recent few - you can log in and see the authors:

Chris 'Precious' Ingham, the English Lit teacher. Came from GC and went to Hamilton College after Morongo. He was South African, had the plaid jacket with leather patches on the elbows, loved DH Lawrence (God only knows how he got the Rainbow through our curriculum), & essays came back with cigarette ash & red wine marks on them. He was my 'Robyn Williams in Dead Poets' teacher. Made English interesting to a student who was more interested in maths. Anyone who can make a bored student love DH Lawrence is a hero in my books!



Year 12 1982 - 60 Birthday celebration above: Smarty, Meg, Kirbs, Chris, Helen, Wend, Mandy, Lou, Maz, Lindy, Fanny, Stew and Matho.

Isobel Deller...she was THE most amazing teacher and sadly she will never know how much she influenced my life....brilliant teachers who totally inspire students are not just one in a million, they are irreplaceable....I always feel blessed to have had her in my life.

Special thanks to Cosmic Cat on Morongo Facebook page for the Morongo Reflection. Merry Christmas everyone - and Happy New Year.

Ann McAllister



THE MORONGO

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