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23 DECEMBER • 2024

THE MORONGO

Official Newsletter of Morongo Old Collegians



MORONGO LUNCH

It was all smiles, hugs, laughter and plenty of conversation in the Geelong College Dining Hall as Morongo Old Collegians gathered for the annual Morongo Lunch. As a warm up, many of the women had enjoyed a tour of the new Belerren Sports and Wellbeing Centre to inspect our Morongo contribution.

Year 12 student and Morongo Award recipient, Eliza Hannagan, shared insights into her time at The Geelong College, noting that her grandmother, Helen Stuckey, had been a boarder at Morongo.

Speaker, Janet Park gave an informative talk on the VIEW Club - Voice, Interests, Education of Women.

VIEW Club is the only national women's organisation focused on supporting and advocating for the education of young, disadvantaged Australians and is a valued part of The Smith Family.

This event is an annual celebration in the Morongo calendar and is usually the last Saturday in October.



Nicky Langford-Jones and Sara McIntyre Y12 '83, Elizabeth Hurley Y10 '72, Adele Anskaitis nee Rae Y12 '62, Ann McAllister and Chris Lyons Y12 '82

MORONGO LUNCH

THE GEELONG COLLEGE DINING ROOM - SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER, 2024



1. Mandy Berry nee Cooke and Wendy Brumby Y10 '70. **2.** Diana Taylor, Chris Lyons and Joan Donnan. **3.** Susan Hurley nee Overall and Riona Overall. **4.** Barbara Morgan, Jan Duigan nee Pettitt, Judi Idle. **5.** Nicky and Sara with Heather Richmond Y12 '83. **6.** Alison Lawson, Libby and Judy Comben. **7.** Margaret Hiddleston and Christine Park-Strauch Y10 '70. **8.** Staff: Elizabeth Syle, Frank O'Neil, Bob Seaton, Judith Hyde. **9.** Hannah Lawrence and Ann Y10 '89. **10.** Jane Wager & Claire Darby. **11.** Barbara Morgan, Jan Duigan nee Pettitt, Judi Idle nee Rooke. **12.** Elizabeth Worland, Jeanette Joseph, Jan Henderson. **13.** Rosemary Millar Y10 '60, Christine O'Keeffe and Heather Lochhead Y10 '62. **14.** Janet Couchman nee Donald Y10 '69 and Christine Oughtred Y10 '68.



CELEBRATIONS

60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AND GATHERINGS

The Class of Year 12 in 1982 are turning 60. A series of gatherings and celebrations has seen Morongo women come together to celebrate. Pictured **1.** Sarah Tavaria, Belinda Cort (Richardson) and Amanda Jackman (Schooneman.) **2.** Claire Pisasale (Matheson), Julie Gazdowicz (Kirby), Di Sanders (Weaver). **3.** Chris Lyons, Julie Kirby, Wendy Hawkins, Marion Williams, Angela Smart and Ann McAllister. **4.** Wendy Hawkins, Angela Smart, Chris Lyons, Ann McAllister, Louise Allard, Marion Williams, Lindy Phillips (Morwood), Amanda Jackman and Meg Parsons.



MORONGO GIRLS AT GEELONG COLLEGE

A SEAT IN BELERREN - OPENING ON FRIDAY 26 JULY, 2024

The Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC officially opened the new Belerren Sports and Wellbeing Centre at Geelong College on 26 July, 2024.

The opening was a simultaneous celebration of 50 years of coeducation at Geelong College and recognition of the first girls enrolled at Campbell house in 1974.

At this time, a number of Morongo girls moved to be with their brothers and by 1994 when Morongo closed, there were 232 Morongo girls who had been students at both schools.

The opening of Belerren is another place holder in the history of Morongo and our community. MOC donations received have contributed to the purchase of a seat in the Belerren Sports and Wellbeing Centre. We are recognised with an engraved plaque that has been installed on courtside seating in the second row of the new facility.

This plaque will link us inextricably to the many moments that will occur within the building but more importantly, it is another physical reminder that Morongo remains an important part of the heritage of Geelong.

Belerren will be used by the broader College community and host sports training, APS and other competitions, school events and provide an additional learning space.

In the Waddawarrung language Belerren means shine. Its name honours the Indigenous history and is a reference to a hope that students will use these new facilities to reach their full potential.

**... WHEN MORONGO
CLOSED IN 1994, THERE
WERE 232 GIRLS WHO
HAD BEEN STUDENTS AT
BOTH SCHOOLS.**



Her Excellency referred to the young girls and women who joined the boys on that first day, and spoke of the significant change to make the school better for those coming after them.

‘I can imagine that being the first female students at an historically single sex school was daunting. ‘When they first joined the prep class, they were fewer than 10 joining a cohort of more than 300 boys.

‘They weren’t the only ones who were nervous about this significant change. Staff and administrators watched nervously, hoping the adjustment to coeducation would be a success. Fortunately, for all of you, it was.’

Girls were able to enrol for all year levels in 1975.



OUR OWN TikTok STAR

ACTOR GARDINER NURSE COMMUNICATOR HOMEMAKER STAR - SUZANNE BATCH



The much-loved Boarding House Captain from 1977, Suzanne Batch (Broadbent aka Broadbean), is our profiled MOC in this edition. Suzanne is a most engaging communicator. Full of fun too!

She has been a nurse for many years. She keeps a beautiful house and garden (in Open Gardens) and was busy with entrepreneurial projects during COVID - when she created home products such as bath salts.

More recently she has taken acting lessons and has been busy with work, including roles in multiple advertisements. She was an extra in the 'Love Me' mini-series and most eventfully, she was the face of Bulla Cottage Cheese and scored millions of TikTok views. She appeared in an ABC Gruen episode for the [Bulla Family Dairy | Cottage Cheese Case Study](#).

Suzanne adds vigour to her life experiences and decisions and recently attended a couple of weeks at a writer's workshop on the Greek Islands, followed by another trip to the Maldives for a holiday to an island/concert series.

Here are some links for your Christmas enjoyment:

<https://digagency.com.au/case-study/margaret-chief-cottage-cheese-officer/>

And here is Suzanne's acting profile:

[Suzie Batch - Professional Profile, Photos on StarNow -](#)



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

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>



50 YEAR REUNION

YEAR 12 IN 1974



REUNION - YEAR 12 IN 1974



THE Y12 1974 - 50 Year Reunion was held on 16 November in Geelong with 37 attending and another 12 who couldn't make it, but who are now connected back into the Year group. The celebration continued for two days in Geelong and included an additional lunch event for the boarders.

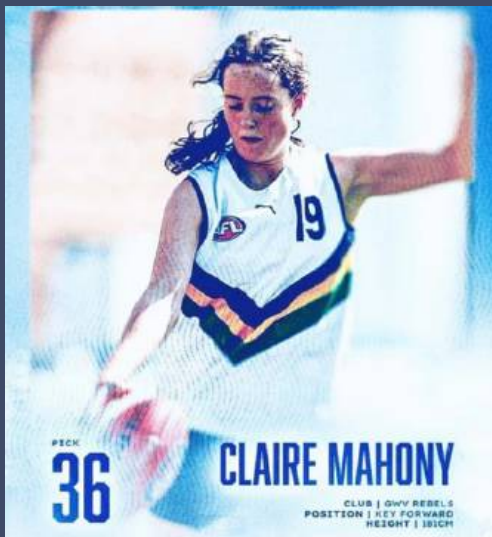
Pictured: Jane Adcock, Deb Anscombe, Libby Booley (Scott), Jenny Boyd, Anna Leake (Bramley), Debbie Starpins (Branigan) Del Brewster, Audrey Lyon (Brown), Pip Carew, Jane McMaster (Carter), Janne Burchell (Chapman), Rose Keaney (Dickins), Heather Ewart, Heather Fawcett, Diana Faizouline (Hatch), Louise Henshaw, Louise Honman, Elizabeth Hurley, Sue Dicker (Jolly), Rosemary Knight, Serena Linderman, Wendy Ainger (MacInnes), Jenny Marshall, Liz Acutt (McCann), Gillian Hill (McNaughton), Lynn MacLeod, Lindy Saler (Poulston), Jo Rayson, Cheryl Gipson (Scott), Jo Young (Scott), Jenny Smith, Tess Brown (Szmidel), Libby Thomson, Wendy Harvey (Tonkin), Jane Wager, Debbie Walker and Elizabeth Jolly (Whiteside).

YEAR 12 IN 1974 - AT MORONGO IN PRIMARY



A DAUGHTER IN AFLW

North Melbourne has selected key forward Claire Mahony with its first pick in the 2024 Telstra AFL Draft, No.36 overall. Claire Mahony is from a farm near Beaufort and the daughter of **MOC Heather McBean, Y12 1983**. Mahony caught recruiters' attention while playing for Greater Western Victoria Rebels with her strong marking and forward craft. In her first season, she kicked eight goals from 11 games and averaged 4.5 marks.



A GARRYOWEN TURNOUT

SUE RICHMOND - AT THE ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

It was always a childhood dream of Sue Richmond's (Y12 '83) to ride in Australia's most revered equestrian event, the Garryowen Equestrienne Turnout. The event marked its 90th year this year - and Sue was there!

Steeped in tradition and prestige, the Garryowen has been the pinnacle of horse ring events at Melbourne Royal Show since 1934, contested by the most decorated saddle horses and top lady riders from around Australia each year.

Named after champion thoroughbred saddle horse Garryowen, whose owner - trailblazing female jockey, hunter, and showrider - Violet Murrell died trying to save him from a stable fire.

Thirty entrants were judged on their horse's manners, paces, soundness and conformation, as well as their own riding, saddlery, and general appearance. The latter being



historically accurate riding attire from boot to bridle, including a fresh white gardenia worn in the lapel buttonhole in a mark of respect to Violet Murrell.

Next year, Sue is hoping her daughter will qualify, and join her.

MORONGO AWARD 2024

ELIZA HANNAGAN - SPEAKS TO ANN MCALLISTER ABOUT HER NAN - HELEN STUCKEY

'My Grandmother Helen Hannagan, previously Helen Stuckey and her sister Marjory both attended Morongo Girls College, while their brother John attended The Geelong College. As a boarder from South Australia, my Nan Helen attended Morongo from 1951 until 1955 (Year 7 to Year 11).

'Nan was a member of the McPhee boarding house during her school years and in 1955 she was boarding House Captain. Her School House was Roslyn and she participated in hockey and athletics.

'Nan always speaks fondly about her time at Morongo and she remembers the lovely buildings and the camaraderie of the boarders. She has very happy memories of her time at school and was very grateful for the education she received - as it set her up for a long and successful career in nursing and midwifery.'

My Nan has shown great interest and delight in my school achievements. She is very encouraging and wants me to be the best I can be. Nan has a lot of pride when talking about her time at school and although she still lives in South Australia, she has a strong bond and connection with Geelong.'

'... NAN ALWAYS SPEAKS FONDLY ABOUT HER TIME AT MORONGO AND SHE REMEMBERS THE LOVELY BUILDINGS AND THE CAMARADERIE OF THE BOARDERS.'



Eliza has actively participated in house and school events and is a proud member of Wettenhall House. Like her Nan, she has a particular liking for sports and has represented the school in tennis, netball and athletics. In the 2022 spring athletics season, Eliza broke the school record for the 90m hurdles at the APS finals and she also won the 100m hurdle event this year. She received House junior colours in 2022. She has received School colours for athletics and this year, she was a member of the Firsts netball team and received School colours for netball. Eliza also received a merit for Commerce, Business and Physical Education.



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.



THE MORONGO WEBPAGE - AND ACCESS TO ALL OUR LUCERNIANS

A Letter

Thank you for the newsletters - I always enjoy reading them and it's nice to keep Morongo students and history reunited. A small article you featured about a Morongo ring, got me searching and I found mine, it's in need of a little clean. I can remember purchasing it at the bookshop with a letter of permission from my parents so it could also be put onto their account. I also found my sugar spoon engraved 1970 for the jubilee so maybe the rings were made to commemorate that special occasion. Hope this is of some help. Julie McCall (Lohse) 1970

The Morongo webpage sits underneath the Community heading on the Geelong College website. All the Lucernians are available from 1921 to 1994. For any year group planning to organise a Year Level reunion, the subsequent Lucernian has a list of girls who completed the year prior - with results! The **link is:** <https://gnet.tgc.vic.edu.au/wiki/LUCERNIAN.ashx>

The webpage includes a brief history of Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College founded in 1920, and the name change to Morongo Girls College. The school closed in 1994 after 74 years.

You will find events, reunions (we can provide details), historical documents, history, photos and general memorabilia. Morongo Old Collegians are encouraged to provide content - and Geelong College is happy to be guided on what content needs to be amended or updated.

The Geelong College is custodian of Morongo records and the heritage collection - formerly held by the Morongo Old Collegians Association. For more historical information about Morongo - including a 'library' of current and past Newsletters. If anyone has newsletters not included, please send them to: sally.sadler@tgc.vic.edu.au

The link is: <https://www.tgc.vic.edu.au/community/morongoldcollegians>
To see a list of what else is available: <https://gnet.tgc.vic.edu.au/wiki/AllPages.aspx?Cat=Morongoldcollegians>

School Reports and Records
Morongo Old Collegians who require their school records can apply for a copy from The Geelong College Archivist by email to: caroline.stok@tgc.vic.edu.au

'Sint Lucernae Ardentis'
Let your lamps be burning



MORONGO ROSE UPDATE



A Y12 1983 Morongo Old Collegian and her husband from Beaufort have volunteered to help us propagate the **Morongo Rose**. Cuttings were collected early in December and the work has begun. We are excited to see how this project evolves and will keep you updated.

Obituary

ANNETTE COOK NEE KAYSER - 6/7/2024

Annette had Dementia for two years and nine months and was at The Alba near the Albert Park Lake in South Melbourne for her last nine. She was 82.

Bruce Cook

SAVE THE DATE

The **Morongo Regatta 2025** will be on Saturday 1 February.

Morongo House - High Tea at Kardinia International College 2025 will be on Sunday 30 March. Details from: Fiona Russell - Community Engagement and Foundation Coordinator and College Archivist. Email: f.russell@kardinia.vic.edu.au

Goulburn Valley Luncheon 2025 will be in May. The town, the venue and details will be confirmed by email to members. Sandra Macintyre: 0428 976 242
Email: nutcundera@bigpond.com

William Angliss Lunch 2025 will be in May. Further details will be provided by invitation closer to the date. Elaine Howden (Barber) can be contacted on: 0413 800 841

40 Year Reunion Y12 in 1985 - will be held next year at a date and location to be determined. Please contact Cath Cran (Walsh) on 0419 378 368 or Lou Houlihan (Aitken) on 0407 524 098 with preferences, connections and your contact details.



For Morongo Old Collegians who use Facebook, we encourage you to join the Morongo PGC Social Community.

Morongo PGC Social Community

Public group · 602 members

Join Group

CONTACTS

Melbourne

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Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953

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ormondmarieta@hotmail.com

Ann McAllister

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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

William Angliss Luncheon

Elaine Howden

Diana Trewenack (Hirst) 1956

0418 390 384

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Marieta Jones

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ormondmarieta@hotmail.com



MORONGO Christmas e-newsletter

Welcome to the 'Christmas' edition of The Morongo.

I've been charging around like a lunatic these last few months - trying to work out if I'm retiring, golfing, painting, writing or caring - and in what combinations. This Christmas, I'm reflecting on the incredible memories we created together all those years ago. Time may have flown, but the bonds we share are timeless - and they are increasingly important as the world becomes more complex, confusing and interconnected.

Morongo holds a special place in ours hearts and as we celebrate the many 60th birthdays of our year group, I'm grateful for the laughter, lessons, and friendship we shared during our school days. May this festive season bring you and your families joy, peace, and countless blessings. Here's to cherishing the past, celebrating the present, and looking forward to a bright future. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with love and happiness.

Ann McAllister

Sint Lucernae Ardentes



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[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)



SHARE

morongogirlscollege@gmail.com