



Under the Peppercorn Tree

OLD GIRTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2008

It's Back!!!! The Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship



Sandra Hamilton (President) Phalen Taylor (12 Aherne 2007) Winner of inaugural Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship

From the earliest days of the OGA, it has been a tradition to provide scholarship funds to assist students in furthering their education. It is with respect and gratitude for those who have gone before us, that the current Old Girtonians' Association is eager to continue this time honoured tradition.

At Speech Night 2007 Phalen Taylor (12 Aherne) was honoured the inaugural Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship by OGA President Sandra Hamilton.

The OGA Executive was very impressed with Phalen and the calibre of all the applicants last year. It is with great pride that we announce the continuation of the OGA Scholarship.

The Scholarship is open to current Girton Grammar School Year Twelve Students who meet the following criteria:

- Life Membership of the Old Girtonians' Association.
- Have demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm to all aspects of their curriculum.
- Have demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm in co-curricular activities.
- Have demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm to community service activities.

The successful applicant will receive the Scholarship funds of \$2 000 to be used for activities that relate to further education, professional development, travel, volunteer abroad programmes and Gap Year programmes. The Scholarship will be payable to the provider of the goods or services not given directly to the recipient.

Joellen Jan (Griffin) (Alumna 1986)

Committee Member

Name Change

After many years of being called the Old Girtonians' Association "Annual Newsletter" it is time for a name change.

Those of us who attended the 2003 Speech Night were impressed by Julia Brown's (12 Frew) (House Captain) speech about the old peppercorn tree. Julia's speech brought back wonderful memories to us all. Therefore we, at the Old Girtonians' Association felt it is very fitting that our newsletter be named "Under the Peppercorn Tree".

Wendy Meehan (Pilcher) (Alumna 1980)

Committee Member

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Julia Brown (Alumna 2003)

The Peppercorn Tree

It has stood the test of time that old peppercorn tree, standing gracefully at the heart of the campus, its solid trunk symbolising strength and continuity. It has remained strong and constant throughout the many turbulent years of Girton's history. At times, it became stressed, dropping many leaves, its shade becoming thin. Then, miraculously, the tree was restored, and became strong again. What secrets has that tree heard? What tales could it tell?

A gathering spot for informal sharing, the peppercorn tree is a place where students and teachers can chat together. The heart of our school allows constant interaction. "See you at the peppercorn tree!" is a common phrase for Girtonians. In Junior School, I loved to venture past the tree into the heart of Senior School, searching for familiar faces, as I carried the lunch order box to the Canteen. If a senior student waved to me, my face would light up. Now, I have moved up through the ranks of the school. Names have become blurred, and I no longer can proudly say that I can name everyone in my House, or even the entire School. Instead faces remain important, and the bond shared between those who gather under the peppercorn tree still remains.

That tree has played varied roles in our lives. We have sat on the steps, under the leafy canopy and twisted branches, wondering whether this adventure will ever end. We have played under the tree as Junior School children, eating lunch, joining in tug of war, playing poison ball. As the years passed, we have stopped playing and become more dispersed throughout the grounds. But the tree has remained a buoyant, buzzing place, as other students have filled the seniors' shoes. It truly is the hub of the wheel of Girton.

Value the heart of Girton, the old peppercorn tree. Its thousands of images of people who have come and gone, make up the history of our School. It is that "joy and friendship", so clearly seen under its leafy branches, that will truly make Girton "stand forever".

Julia Brown (Alumna 2003)
"The Girtonian 2003"

Welcome List of Life Members joined 2007

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1947 Grace Kentish (Enders) | 1986 Tonya Eishold (Crow), Catherine Goss (John), John Jordan, Susan White (Roberts) | 1998 Sarah Fotheringham, Catherine Street, Aaron Sudholtz, Emma Tracey, Alida Turnbull, |
| 1955 Johanne Hunt (Hall) | 1987 Danielle Horvath, Angela Mansbridge, Megan McKinlay, Kirsten Parris, Simon Wright | 1999 Jessica Denney (Fuller), Michelle Duke (Naunton), Kendyl Hopley, Kate Jelliff, |
| 1959 Susan Nuttall (Watson) | 1988 Greg Bickley, Dougal Newman, Jeffrie Trika | 2000 Elise Bateman, Nicholas Pease, Chris Price, Laura Street, Andrea Turnbull |
| 1960 Glenys Gill (Weeks) | 1989 Rochelle Brammer, Tara Green (Wade) | 2001 Sheree Ballinger (Naunton), Jessica Hartland, Todd Smith, Olivia Sudholtz |
| 1963 Faye Jones (Learmonth), Loris Perryman (Mitchell) | 1990 Pippa Rorke (Cayley) | 2002 Julie Bateman, Jessica Lowe, Sam Malone, Tricia Maugher (Lerk), Robyn Seto, James Westblade |
| 1967 Julie Burnett (White), Rosemary White (Hann), William (Hunter Gill), Heather Prichard (McCready) | 1991 Nardine Ralph (Smith) | 2003 Amedla Cox, Anthony Pease, |
| 1971 Lorna Reynolds (White), Rika Southcombe (Birrell) | 1992 Emma Finch (Lonnie), Sunshine Miller, Elli Monro, Scott Pratt, | 2004 Alyce Job |
| 1972 Meryl Leppard (Cohn) | 1993 Nicole Hayes (Craze), Simon McWaters, | 2005 Michelle Bateman, Renee Considine, Alexandra Smith |
| 1973 Elizabeth (Janie) Gillespie, Merril Griggs (Old), Raelene McGrath (Robinson) | 1994 Robina Nankervis, Niomi Pratt | 2006 Ashlee Strachan |
| 1974 Joy Jago (Friswell) | 1995 Marnie Bowles (Cavallaro), Luke Tracey | 2009 Erinn Arnel |
| 1975 Lindy Baxter | 1996 Meredith Cox, Ross Guinan, Carlie Mason, Elizabeth Rooney, Carlie Sutton | Associate Life Members |
| 1976 Toni Muse (Viol), Allyson Page (Fox), Susan Pignataro (Wade) | 1997 Rachel Canfield | Rodney Goold, Max Schibrowski, Colin Tracey, Mitch Trevena-Vernon |
| 1977 Johanne Slaviero (Wade) | | |
| 1978 Jan Baxter | | |
| 1980 Jane Petch (Morton), Diane Pollard | | |
| 1984 Heather McNamara (James) | | |

Through hardship to the stars

The Centenary History of Girton College, Bendigo 1884-1984
Keith Cole

This important publication is for sale at the OGA Cottage (Tuesday and Wednesday) Business Office and MacKenzie Street Reception at a reduced price of \$5.00 for a short time only - this is your School's history and should be read and enjoyed by all.

OUR NEW ADDRESS - 30 CREEK STREET, BENDIGO

Please feel free to call in – enjoy a cuppa if you are in town or if you have some spare time available we would appreciate assistance with our Archives.

The cottage is open on Tuesday & Wednesday between the hours (8.30am – 1.00pm) (2.00pm – 5.00pm)

Telephone (03) 5441 7974 or Email oga@girton.vic.edu.au

2007 President's Report



What an amazing year we have had as the new committee. Six of us, stepped forward to take on the rather daunting task of leadership from the previous committee, supported by the very competent Helen Wood, Alumni Officer and Mitch Trevena-Vernon, Community Relations Manager. Our job was to continue the excellent work of the past committee.

We commenced the year working on a new format for the annual newsletter. It is now produced in colour with features such as the 'where are they now' stories. New colour letterhead and stationary has been printed to further reflect the changes to the OGA. Items and news of the OGA is a regular feature of the school e-link and we are currently discussing the development of the web to be used as a tool for past students to stay in touch with each other and the developments of Girton Grammar School. In an attempt to find past students there have been items of interest about the Old Girtonians' Association published in local, regional and national newspapers throughout the year. These have reaped some very interesting stories.

The Annual Reunion Dinner held in May 2007 coincided with the Schools' celebration of Foundation Day. It was a wonderful evening with over 100 members and guests attended the evening. On the following day tours of the School were conducted by Mr Jones, the Headmaster, concluding at the Old Girtonians' Association Cottage where many stayed on to look at photos and catch up for a chat. Owing to the immense success of the weekend we are intending to conduct the Reunion Dinner to coincide with the Schools celebrations' again in 2008.

A concerted effort was made to increase membership prior to the June 30 increase in fees. To date there have been 148 new life members this year (52 year 12's 2007, 92 other, 4 new associate members). A further initiative to increase membership and fellowship of our younger members was the introduction of the 'Back to Drinks' for past Year 12 students of the previous year. The evening was well attended and a brief report will appear later in this newsletter.

A major achievement of 2007 was the reintroduction the Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship to a current Year 12 student who is a Life Member of the Old Girtonians' Association and who has demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm in all aspects of their curriculum, co curriculum activities and community service. Together with the Melbourne Branch, the Old Girtonians' Association proudly continues to provide funding for the Speech Night awards.

We have been immensely grateful for the grant of \$5000 generously provided by the School to purchase archiving equipment. Archiving boxes and acid free albums have been purchased to assist with the proper storage of our precious items. A new display cabinet has also been purchased for the Christopher J. Morey Building. It will display items from the OGA collection for all who use the building to view and appreciate the rich history of the School.

In November the OGA Cottage was relocated to 30 Creek Street owing to the construction of the new Performing Arts Building extending from Vine Street through to Wattle Street. I am assured that the Creek Street location will be the home of the OGA for a number of years. It is quite spacious and light allowing for a little more display space, an archiving room, a trophy room, space for the nursery suite to be displayed and a meeting area. It is hoped that OGA members will take full advantage of the welcoming atmosphere and drop in from time to time.

The committee has continued the tradition of an OGA stall at the Annual Girton Fair selling memorabilia and conducting a hamper raffle. Thank you to all who made donations to the hamper and to those who assist on the day

It was with much pleasure that Wendy Meehan and I attend the Valedictory Dinner in late November. We presented 52 life memberships to new members of the Old Girtonians' Association. Their names will be listed in the Welcome List in this newsletter. This year the committee decided to give every departing Year 12 student a gift of an OGA inscribed coffee mug as a memento of their final year at Girton Grammar School.

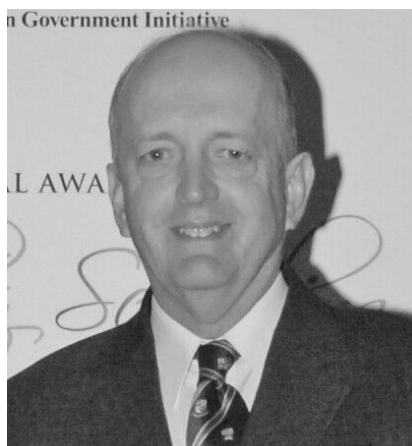
A number of changes were passed at the final AGM. These related to rights of Honorary Associate Life Membership and Honorary Life Membership. We look forward to presenting a number of Honorary Associate Life Memberships to past and present staff, and Board Members at our Reunion Dinner in May 2008. (Please note copies of the Constitution incorporating the new changes are available by request at the Alumni Office).

The OGA will play a significant role in supporting the School to celebrate the close of boarding this year. Please encourage all who were a part of the era of Girton's boarding to contact the Alumni Officer and assist us in celebrating this significant milestone in the history of the School.

Whilst our work has commenced in earnest there is still much to be achieved. I sincerely thank and acknowledge the work of my fellow Committee Members, Rebecca Paton, Anne Johnson, Joellen Jan, Wendy Meehan, Sallyann Pescott, Helen Wood and Mitch Trevena-Vernon for their commitment throughout the year. I wish to thank the past committee members for their continued support and guidance during this eventful year as we all learn the ropes. I also would like to acknowledge the School for their continued support and generosity towards the Old Girtonian' Association. I look forward to another very productive year as we focus our attentions on the close of boarding and further extending our membership and fellowship of those who have been a part of Girton over the decades.

**Sandra Hamilton (Pollard) (Alumna 1978)
President Old Girtonians' Association
2007**

Headmaster's Report to the OGA



2008 sees Girton with 1038 students (289 in Junior School, 749 Seniors), the first time in its 124-year history it has over one thousand Girtonians. It is also the year when our nineteen boarders will be the last to board at the School. In October, there will be a celebration of that proud history of boarding.

The VCE results were stronger than we expected and were consistent with the general pattern of recent years. Offers to Victorian Universities and Colleges were also very strong with over 92% of those asking for a place getting one.

The co-curriculum of the School in music, drama, sport and community service continues to thrive. Dance is growing, and in April we will see the development of a specialist dance studio. Volleyball remains the biggest sport; the players

retained their number three ranking across Australia in December and Girton is number one in Victoria. Two teams are national champions. Mr Steve Vine succeeded Mr Dale Condon as Head of Music in 2007. Mr Condon had grown Music throughout the School in most wonderful fashion. Mr Vine and his team have continued that growth in quality and numbers performing. The performances at Speech were astonishing; from 300 boys performing a Beatles medley to the sublime massed voices and orchestra's Hallelujah Chorus, the vibrancy of music was there for people to behold. The School continued to dominate local and regional events such as the Lions Youth of the Year Competition and other public speaking events. Many charities such as Red Shield Appeal, Relay for Life, MS Readathon, and various Rotary projects were excellently supported. Rachel Welling, our Junior School Captain, was the national champion fund-raiser for MS.

In a few weeks, the new \$5M performing arts building will be completed. Parts are already in use. It is located on Wattle Street behind the Morey Building and is a beautiful building. **The Appeal to our Community to fund the fitting and kitting of the drama facility has realised \$63K from the Community and \$40K from the Parents' and Friends' Association. Our aim is to**

reach \$150K by June. Can you help, please?

Our Board continues to be led by Mr Don Naunton. Currently there are seven members and the Board will be seeking suitable members to serve the School in the coming months as generational change occurs. Ms Kathy Byrne and Mr John Kosta both retired in December after many years of fine service; Mr Richard Guy and Mr Tony Bateman had earlier stepped down at the AGM in May. The School and future generations are indebted to these fine governors.

I believe that any Girtonian however "Old" has every reason to be proud of the School and its current generation of young people. It remains a delightful place to learn and work. I commend it to you.

My Annual Report to the Community published at Speech Night 2007 is found at www.girton.vic.edu.au. It contains eighteen pages of detailed facts and figures well beyond the scope of this small summary. The website carries the e-Link the fortnightly newsletter with archives going back years. I encourage you to read those if the preceding fails to satisfy!

**Clayton Jones,
Headmaster.**

Table 1	
	2007
Number Completing VCE with ENTERs	97
Top ENTER (100th percentile)	99.75
Top Quartile (75th Percentile)	90.55
MEDIAN	78.4
Bottom Quartile (25th Percentile)	64.20
Bottom ENTER	23.90
MEAN	74.61
Std Deviation	19.32
Inter-Quartile Range (75th percentile – 25th Percentile)	26.35

Table 2	
Year	2007
No of Students	97
ENTER % Range	% in that range
98+ (top 2%)	5.15%
95+ (top 5%)	15.46%
90+ (top 10%)	24.74%
80+ (top 20%)	46.39%
70+ (top 30%)	65.98%
60+ (top 40%)	79.38%
50+ (top half)	85.57%

Victorian Tertiary Offers:

49 students (54.4% of those seeking tertiary entry who numbered 90 students) received their first preference of courses offered through VTAC. (This table includes double offers to students.)

1st Preference	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Other
49	17	12	2	5	3	1	3

Institutions which made Offers.									
Year of Offer	Univ of Melbourne	Monash	La Trobe Bendigo	La Trobe Bundoora	Deakin	Ballarat	VUT	RMIT	Other
2008	19	6	7	7	12	3	5	17	15



(Sandra Hamilton – President OGA – Judy Robbins (New Melbourne OGA President – Jenni Rutherford Past Melbourne OGA President)

The Melbourne OGA provides a wonderful opportunity for keeping in touch with the school and former school colleagues.

We had another great year, our two major functions were well supported.

At the basket luncheon which was held in May, we were pleased to have Sandra Hamilton (Pollard) join us as this was the first opportunity for many to meet and welcome Sandra as the new current OGA President. Our special guest was Mitch Trevena-Vernon, Community Relations Manager, who spoke of the Schools recent achievements and changes ahead including the closure of the boarding house at the end of 2008. Special thanks to Ekko Mitchell who opened her home as the venue for the luncheon.

The Annual General Meeting, in October, was held at the home of Judy Appleton, daughter of the late Jean Townsend (Smyth). It was a lovely day catching up with the old Girtonians and their stories of the past and present. Sandra Hamilton joined us as our guest speaker. She spoke, with difficulty as her voice had all but disappeared on the way to Melbourne, but with perseverance we heard of the work the OGA committee had been undertaking. Thank you Sandra for keeping us so informed and the committee for their enthusiasm and dedication to the Old Girtonians' Association.

After many years of dedicated service to the Melbourne Branch, our President, Jenni Rutherford (Grady) chose not to continue in this position. We thank Jenni for her time and commitment over the many years. Leigh Renfree stepped down from the position of secretary earlier in the year, we thank her for her contribution to the Melbourne OGA. Thank you also to Sue Fairbairn for her continuing work as our Treasurer.

The Melbourne Branch maintains an active interest in the students academic success with two awards presented at Speech Night; the June Todd Prize for English and in 2007 we introduced the Margot Nolan Performing Arts Prize for music. Margot was acknowledged in this award because of her outstanding talent and passion for music.

We welcome all old Girtonians to our Melbourne Branch functions. It is a great way to catch up with past friends, keep in touch or touch base with those not seen for some time.

Dates for 2008 are planned as follows

Basket Luncheon, Saturday 17 May, 12 noon, at Jean Madden's home.

The AGM and afternoon Tea will be held Saturday 11 October 1.30pm at Judy Appleton's home.

If further information is required contact Judy Robbins (President) 03 9813 1383 or robbinsj@bigpond.net.au

The Melbourne OGA 2008

President:	Judy Robbins (75)
Vice-President:	Cheryl Payne (Hickson) (72)
Secretary:	Hilary Salmon (Ward)
Vice-Secretary:	Jo White (Nunn)
Treasurer:	Sue Fairbairn (Gillin)

Committee

Gwynne Cox (Ogden)	Judy Anderson (Knight)
Lorraine Webster (McLean)	Yvonne Osborne (Hickson) (71)
Ekko Mitchell (Gadong)	Elaine Harty (Speers)
Helen Alexander (McKelvie)	Kath Bentley (Lipsett)

Melbourne Branch 2008 Committee Profiles

Ekko Mitchell (Gadong) (Alumna 1966)

Ekko attended Girton 1961 – 1966 as a boarder and was one of the first overseas students. After finishing at Girton Ekko went to Bendigo Teachers' College where she completed a Trained Infant Teacher's Certificate. She returned to Nauru and taught for two years. She returned to Melbourne, married David had two daughters and became an Australian citizen. She has been an OGA member for about 20 years. Her sister Jenny also attended Girton

Cheryl Payne (Hickson) (Alumna 1972)

Cheryl attended Girton with her older sister, Yvonne from 1967 – 1972. After leaving school, Cheryl attended Melbourne Kindergarten Teachers' College in Kew teaching in various kindergartens in the eastern suburbs for 16 years. She then joined Box Hill Institute teaching others to educate

and care for young children for the past 12 years. Her passions are her family, genealogy and furthering her studies in Early Childhood Education and teaching. Cheryl has been heavily involved in the Melbourne Branch of OGA for approximately 28 years undertaking the role of secretary for many years.

Hilary Salmon (Ward) (Alumna 1969)

Hilary attended Girton as a day student with her older sister Rosy from 1963 – 69. Her passion for food encouraged by Mrs Poat led to a Home Economics Career. After further study, Hilary moved into the primary system to teach Reading Recovery. She has been an active member of the Melbourne OGA for about 15 years and is currently the Secretary.

Sue Fairbairn (Suzette Gillin) (Alumna 1958)

Sue attended Girton from 1953 – 1958 as a day student during Jean Neilson's early

years at Girton. Sue studied Pharmacy and worked first at Bendigo Hospital then at Royal Children's. Married to Robert, she has two adult daughters and four grandchildren. She has lived in Ivanhoe for over 40 years and is very occupied with family and local organisations. Sue has been member of OGA Melbourne since 1984 and Treasurer since 1993.

Judy Robbins (Alumna 1975)

Judy was a boarder at Girton in 1973 – 1974. She studied to be a Dietitian at Deakin University. Her first job was in Brisbane before heading to the UK in 1984 for a working holiday. Returned to Melbourne 1986 worked at Cabrini Hospital and now is in the aged care sector. Life is busy with two sons and their activities. Judy attended my first meeting of the Melbourne Branch of the OGA in 2005.

What it means to me to be an “Old Girtonian” – from the Scholarship Winner - 2007

From a young age I set myself a goal of helping people throughout my life and making a huge impact on individual lives. This goal has motivated me to show people what they can make of their lives, even though they may have minor set backs.

In 2004, I was diagnosed with a disease known as Meniere's disease. This disease has changed my whole life and can control the way I have to live my life. However, through my determination and motivation I have learnt that my disease will always be a part of my life, but what percentage of my life it takes up is all up to me. One goal I have set myself is to show people that no matter how bad things seem today, life does go on, and things will be better tomorrow. I believe it is necessary that people should know that they are not alone and there is always somebody out there willing to lend a hand.

One of my heroes Maya Angelou, a poet and civil rights activist, wrote about her life experience in a magazine, she stated "...I now know that life sometimes gives you a second chance and you shouldn't go through life with catcher's mitts on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back. I've learnt that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I know that even when I have

pains, I don't know to be one, and that every day you should reach out and touch someone – people love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learnt that I still have a lot to learn. I've also learnt that people will soon forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

After graduating from Girton in 2007, I left with the dream of becoming a Rehabilitation Counsellor. This career path has also been motivated by my goals of helping people throughout the world but also by my Dad. He had a work accident when I was young, and has never fully recovered. Since Dad's accident I have lived with the full impact of what it has taken him to attempt to recover and move on with his life to the best of his ability. By having personal experience in such a specific area, I understand what patients such as my Dad and their families go through in such a situation.

These two goals and experiences have made me want to choose this career path. Also, I plan to further my studies and qualifications and complete my Masters to ensure I can help as many people as I possibly can.

Since commencing my Girton education in 2002, the School has been a big part of

my life. The School has watched me grow up but most importantly has encouraged me to develop my personal qualities. Girton has taught me to believe in myself, and to reach for my goals. As Girton has played a major part in my schooling life and my personal development, the School still remains such a big part of my life. Hence, the Old Girtonians' Association provides the connection for past students, such as myself, to still have this connection to Girton and all their memories. By being a Life Member I hope to encourage other current students to enjoy and participate in many aspects of their schooling life including joining the Old Girtonians' Association.

By being awarded the Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship, will assist me in fulfilling my goals and dreams. I will use my Scholarship to become a qualified Rehabilitation Counsellor. This Scholarship will assist me in paying for expensive university books and also to alleviate the cost of my University fees making it easier for me to finish University without a significant HECS debt.

I cannot say how thankful I am to the OGA for helping me continue this dream and contributing to the person which I will continue to grow into.

Phalen Taylor (12 Aherne 2007)

Life Members joined

We welcome the following 2007 Life Members who were presented with Membership Certificates and Badges at the 2007 Valedictory Dinner

Rebecca Allan (Frew), Cathryn Andrews (Aherne), Chloe Bailey (Aherne), Hannah Barclay (Aherne), Samuel Barrett (Millward), Benjamin Beckerleg (Aherne), Leah Belfrage (Riley), Andrew Biggs (Aherne), Ellen Bradley (Aherne), Samuel Brewin (Aherne), Carmel Britt (Millward), Georgiana Browne (Frew), Jared Cairns

(Frew), Alice Carr (Frew), Jane Chandler (Millward), David Chirnside (Millward), Morgan Coleman (Riley), Samantha Deacon (Frew), Kate Delahunty (Millward), Olivia Denham (Jenkin), Jay Dlugosz (Aherne), Brittany Dunn (Riley), David Elliott (Riley), Andrew Farrington (Riley), Samuel Faulkner (Aherne), Felicity Fitzpatrick (Jenkin), James Franklin-Nevins (Millward), Sibon Fuzzard (Aherne), Caitlin Hamond (Millward), Sandra Hanna (Frew), Jessica Hellsten (Aherne), Ciara Henderson (Riley),

Christopher Holman (Frew), Alexander Jones (Riley), Naman Kohli (Millward), Brodie Love (Jenkin), Dean Munro (Frew), James Nicolson (Millward), Alexandra Perry (Riley), Craig Peters (Riley), Lachlan Sinclair (Riley), Brooke Smith (Riley), Katherine Snow (Millward), Caitlin Stewart (Millward), Ali Tasker (Jenkin), Joseph Taylor (Millward), Phalen Taylor (Aherne), Nicholas Van Leeuwen (Aherne), Sophia Walker (Aherne), Isaac Walton (Frew), Rohan Wardrop (Frew), John Whitaker (Riley)

2007 Reunion



Year Twelve "12 Months Out Drink Party"



Imagine you had left Girton after completing Year Twelve only one year ago – would you want to know what Robert is up to? Or Sally, Peter or Lisa? Where did Josie move to? Did Amy and Gary stay together? Who did stick with their uni degree? Would you actually want to have a reunion so soon after leaving?

The answer is obviously a resounding "YES" based on the success of the inaugural Year Twelve "12 Months Out Drinks Party" – yes there is a prize on offer if you can come up with a better name for this function.

The OGA has a proud history of helping people keep in touch and provides great opportunities to catch up with those you haven't seen in years (or had forgotten you even went to school with!!), with the Annual Reunion Dinner being one of the highlights of the year.

In 2007 the OGA executive decided to introduce a new way of assisting former students stay in touch – rather than waiting for the first ten years to go by before arranging a Reunion we committed to informally gathering the previous Year Twelve group together for a drinks function.

Invites were mailed and reminders sent and we waited for the RSVP's to roll in. And we waited and we waited and we waited – one thing we did learn is RSVP is a foreign concept to many!! Plus the more mobile numbers we have the better – text messages are read and responded to!

Of the 88 who completed Year Twelve in 2006 we had 31 join us for the party – based on the noise, nattering and nibbling everyone had a fabulous time. The event will be held annually on the Thursday closest to the Christmas period as a chance for the former students to renew and catch up.

The OGA is supporting the event by providing complementary finger food for all Life Members (yet another reason to join up!!) – the cost for non members was set at \$10.00 each.

It was a pleasure to host the event and I was amazed (and thrilled) at how pleased everyone was to see each other – most hadn't actually been in touch at all in the year since they finished school – it was defiantly "mission accomplished OGA"!

Where are they now?

Edward Higgs (12 Riley 2003)

Edward graduated from Melbourne University 2007 as 'Bachelor of Music Solo Performance' VCA, Principal Timpanist with Australian Youth Orchestra. Principal Percussionist with 'Sydney Synphonia' (Training Orchestra for the Sydney Symphony) Head of Percussion with Melbourne Youth Music. Teacher of Percussion at Wesley College, Glen Waverley Campus and Geelong College.

Anne Connaughton (Alumna 1972)

Anne Connaughton (nee Cumming) attended Girton C.E.G.G.S. from 1966 - 1972. After completing Form 6 (Year 12), went on to study for a three year Diploma of Mathematics at the Bendigo Institute of Technology (now La Trobe University). Graduated in 1975, and married Ian Connaughton in December 1975 (result of blind date at a Girton Social several years previously!!). Has three children, all of whom have been or are currently at Girton Grammar School:

Claire - aged 24 yrs - Girton 1995 - 2001. Business Degree from La Trobe University - Now at Bendigo Bank Elmore

Laura - aged 20 yrs - Girton 1996 - 2005. Currently studying 3 year course in Sports Therapy in Melbourne

Jake - aged 15 yrs - Girton 1999 - 2008. Currently in Year 9 Riley.

Currently employed on a part-time basis from home as Accountant for the KR Castlemaine Foods Piggery Division. Ian is the Operations Manager for the same organisation.

As a matter of interest - sister-in-law to Annette Connaughton (nee Fraser) who attended Girton from 1967 to 1972 - also the result of a blind date for a Girton Social!!

Joseph (Joe) Cope (12 Riley 2003)

Samuel (Sam) Cope (10 Riley 1995)

Sam and Joe Cope are doing well in the music scene. Joe's band, 'The Inches' signed with Sony 18 months ago. The band played at a 'Poverty Makes History' gig in Bendigo and toured with Missy Higgin in Darwin. They also featured on 'Rove' in 2007. Sam's band 'Blue King Brown' played at Live Earth in Sydney, following the Aboriginal opening act. They have travelled to Japan 3 times and have been to Brazil. The band champions indigenous people and takes their music to Aboriginal schools.

Emma Cahill (12 Frew 1998)

Emma became the fourth generation of her family to be admitted to practice law when she took part in a ceremony at the Supreme Court in April 2007. Emma commenced her Law Degree at Monash University in 2003 and graduated in 2005 with Honours. In 2006, she began at Minter Ellison in Melbourne as an articled clerk and she continues to work at the firm in litigation.

Rowena James (12 Frew 2002)

Rowena is hitting the big time. In May 2007 at the beginning of the Logie Awards she was applauded by one of her clients for the outfit she was wearing. Rowena is now the owner/designer of Cottles Park Couture in Adelaide.

Megan (Meg) McKinley (12 Frew 1987)

In 2007 Meg McKinlay published her first book "Annabel, again". Meg has also published a wide variety of material from poetry to short fiction. In 2004 she was Emerging-Writer-In-Residence at the Fellowship of Australian Writers (WA). In 2004-2005, she was a member of the WA State Literature Board. She coordinates the writing WA mentorship program and teaches Creative Writing and Australian Literature at the University of Western Australia. Meg lives in Fremantle, Western Australia, with her husband and daughter.

Arnott Rhonda nee Bartle (Alumna 1978)

When Rhonda finished at Girton she worked as a Quality Control Manager in a restaurant in Los Angeles until 1984 when she moved back to her home of Toronto. She has since been working as a Guarantor's Assistant with the international insurance firm Travellers. Rhonda travelled to Australia in 1987 and again in November 2007. Rhonda visited Girton recently and was amazed at the developments since her days as a student. She reminisced fondly of Mrs. Hall, Mr Harvey, Mrs Crothers and Mrs Merriman, some of her favourite teachers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

27th February (Wednesday)	OGA Bendigo Meeting (7.00pm)
	OGA Cottage - 30 Creek Street
2nd May (Friday)	Foundation Day
3rd May (Saturday)	OGA Annual Reunion Dinner
	Quality Resort - All Seasons International
4th May (Sunday)	Old Girtonians' Association – Open Day
	OGA Cottage – 30 Creek Street (Open 11.00am-3.00pm)
	Tour of Girton Grammar School (11.00am – 3.00pm)
	Starting MacKenzie Street Entrance ending OGA Cottage
17th May (Saturday)	Melbourne Basket Luncheon (12 noon)
	Jean Madden's home
28th May (Wednesday)	OGA Bendigo Meeting (7.00pm)
	OGA Cottage – 30 Creek Street
27th August (Wednesday)	OGA Bendigo Meeting (7.00pm)
	OGA Cottage – 30 Creek Street
4th October (Saturday)	Celebrating 125 Years of Boarding at Girton (3.30pm – 7.00pm) MacKenzie Street
11th October (Saturday)	Melbourne AGM (1.30pm)
	Judy Appleton's home
9th November (Sunday)	GGG Annual Fair
12th November (Wednesday)	OGA Bendigo Meeting (7.00pm)
	OGA Cottage – 30 Creek Street
4th December (Thursday)	Speech Night
18th December (Thursday)	Year Twelve "12 Months Out Drinks Party" (6.00pm – 8.00pm) Café au Lait – 20 Mitchell Street, Bendigo

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF BOARDING AT GIRTON **ATTENTION ALL FORMER BOARDERS**

Together with the School we will be celebrating generations of boarding at Girton on the

4th October and we need your **HELP**.

What are we planning?

The School will providing a gourmet afternoon tea and tours of the School. The OGA Cottage will be opened and we are planning a publication to provide a permanent "History" of those who were part of this long era.

What do we need?

- your memories – happy, poignant, funny, scary etc.
- photographs
- documents

How can you assist?

- by recording your memories

- checking what photographs, mementos or documents you have
- assisting with the checking through our Archives
- being part of putting the publication together
- organisation of a display at the cottage on "the day"
- provide us with current contact details for past boarders

WE NEED TO MAKE THIS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION AND PROVIDE A PERMANENT RECORD OF THIS "PAST" IMPORTANT PART OF GIRTON'S HISTORY.

Contact: Helen Wood 5441 7974
(Tuesday and Wednesday) or email
oga@girton.vic.net.au