



UNDER THE Peppercorn Tree

OLD GIRTONIANS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2010

The time has come for paths to sever...

On Saturday 30th January 2010 at his Farewell Dinner, Mr. Clayton W. Jones, Headmaster of Girton Grammar School Bendigo stepped down from his role as Headmaster after 17 years of outstanding service to Girton and its community. Mr Jones led the School from the brink of closure at the end of 1992 with passion, commitment and strength so that on the 2nd February 1993 with a school population of 302 Girton Grammar School rose from the ashes.

At the Farewell Dinner Mrs Robyn MacCulloch, Deputy Head, gave a very moving tribute to Mr Jones and she has given the OGA her permission to reprint some excerpts from her speech. Thank you Mrs MacCulloch.

I have no doubt that the Girton community and the public of Bendigo recognise that for the past 17 years they have had a fine teacher, a great teacher, in their midst. A man of courage, who has created a school with an excellent and well deserved reputation, built on the cornerstone of his clear sighted vision. And it wasn't easy. Having lost leadership and direction the Girton community in 1992 was floundering and in need of rescue. I marvel today, as then, at the hands of fate which found for us Clayton - a man indeed for all seasons; the man who forged so very rapidly a new and exciting identity for a fledgling school. His vision was not a mean spirited one; he saw neither Bendigo nor Girton as a backwater; a place where the mediocre would be good enough. From Day 1 he aspired to put Girton on the national and world map. He succeeded. In our very first year we had the top VCE female student in the State. Just a few years later the Australian Newspaper, recognizing Girton's dramatic resurgence, named Girton as one of the top ten schools in Australia for this achievement. Then in 2005 Clayton was awarded a National Achievement Award in the Principals' category of the Australian Government National Awards for Quality Schooling. In 2008 he was named as Manager of the Year in the Bendigo Business Excellence Awards.

On the international stage we now have students aspiring to be Rhodes scholars; we already have a Fulbright scholar and we have another one in the wings. Our students are excelling in important careers in the Arts, singing for the Australian Opera and auditioning for the position of chief percussionist for the Berlin Philharmonic. In scientific fields we have students with doctorates working on cutting edge research discoveries in fields as diverse as oncology and nanotechnology. On the sporting field we have students playing volleyball and netball for Australia (not to mention an AFL footballer!). We have a myriad of student graduates who hold important and responsible career positions in countries around the world. And all of these students have one thing in common - their Headmaster was Clayton and they recognise the strength of the messages he constantly gave them. - to strive for excellence; to give everything a red hot go; to demonstrate leadership. If asked today I am sure they would automatically recite the Golden Rules instilled in them by Clayton - To whom much is given much is also expected in return and To treat one another as they themselves would wish to be treated. They would no doubt also repeat the refrain "responsibilities before privilege". They have been, and are, well prepared for the worlds they enter after school and university.



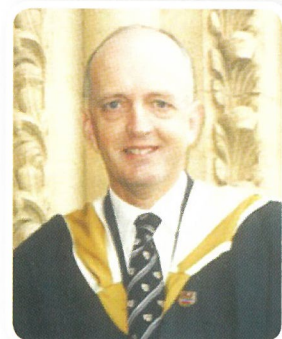
And what do Mr Jones's students think?

In a beautiful piece of writing at the end of last year Lucy Williams of now 10 Jenkin compared Mr Jones to Professor Dumbledore, the Principal of Hogwarts Academy. With her permission I now quote:

While a brilliant and wise wizard, Dumbledore is portrayed as very eccentric. Dumbledore frequently makes humorous, even whimsical comments, especially during conflict with young witches and wizards who haven't polished their magical shoes.... He is hardly ever impatient and makes a point of politeness....The books describe Dumbledore as tall and thin, with twinkling blue eyes, usually seen in sweeping robes and several odd hats.... Oh the similarities!

Mr Jones, you, like Professor Dumbledore, though nearing the older end of the spectrum, always give an impression of great energy. Dumbledore was often described as the greatest wizard of the age but that wasn't why Harry respected him. You couldn't help trusting Albus Dumbledore...and Mr Jones...every one of your students respects you. Some initially fear you - like me in Year 7 - but gradually they see you as a mentor, who can guide them through the sometimes twisted paths of adolescence. Mr Jones you have touched so many; students, teachers, parents, the greater community...I'll miss your speeches at Assembly. And your hat and shoe polish. But most of all I'll miss your magic.

Lucy's unprompted letter to Mr Jones shows clearly that as Sir Thomas More promised Richard Rich, we in this room are left in no doubt that Clayton is indeed a great teacher who has touched thousands of lives. Like the ripples of water that stretch endlessly after the stone has dropped, the ripple effect of the CW Jones impact will continue to spread long after his official departure from his Headship tonight.



COMMITTEE CONTACT NUMBERS

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New Committee Members to be advised

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2010 Winner

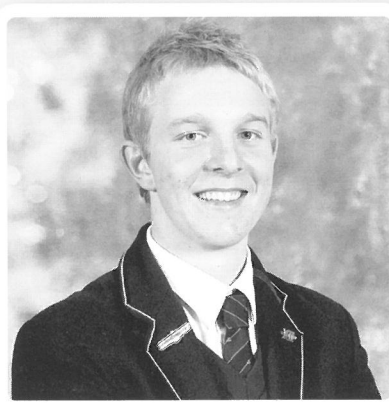
Of The Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship

Todd Broadbent (Alumnus 2009 Aherne)

"Making the most of opportunities as a Girtonian"

There are many factors that influence your past, present and future journey throughout life. For example, your parents, your nationality, the time in history when you are born. However, the one I would like to speak about is opportunities. Opportunities are making the most of the chances or openings offered by circumstances. When I think about opportunities, I think of what Girton has offered me throughout my schooling since arriving in Grade 6 in 2003. Girton has provided me with numerous openings that have allowed me to achieve what I have so far in life.

I would like to tell you about a young country boy and his parents who had to make a big decision whether to take up an opportunity many years ago. This boy was in Grade 6 at his local primary school and was not able to read that well or do his timetables and was very self-conscious. So his parents and the boy decided that he would repeat Grade 6 at Girton. This was a very big decision for the boy's parents as well as their son but they took up the opportunity. The boy's parents were worried if it was going to be the right decision or whether the boy would make the most of the opportunity that was being presented to him. Well, as soon as the boy began on his first day the parents and the boy knew it was the right decision because he was with one of the best teachers at Girton, Mrs. Tobias, he was going to get some of the best support from the LRC (Learning Resource Centre), and he was in one of the most supportive and friendliest year groups.



I am so grateful that my parents made that decision and gave me the opportunity to come to Girton as it changed my life. Coming to Girton gave me much greater self esteem, a good work ethic and a value of education that will last me a lifetime. It also gave me the confidence to take up other opportunities – one being to apply for the Old Girtonians' Scholarship. And now all the years of schooling, encouragement and support at Girton have given me the opportunity for a new phase in my life – to go to University and hopefully complete my dream of becoming a Physical Education teacher.

Coming to Girton also opened many doors, created many more opportunities and enabled me to develop in other areas. I had the opportunity to play volleyball for the school, which then led to having the opportunity to try out and get into the Bendigo Academy of Sport, to play for Victoria and be involved in coaching at our school. Volleyball, since 2003, has been a huge part of my life and I am really looking forward to continuing my coaching at

Girton in 2010. How can I ever forget the awesome feeling of pride and exhilaration and the special look on Mr. Mac's and my teammates faces when we won the Gold Medal at Nationals last year! I would like to play a part in helping that happen for other Girton volleyballers. Girton has also given me great friendships and the opportunity to take on leadership roles and to even do public speaking (something I never imagined possible!).

When an opportunity arises, some people don't make the most of the chance it has given them or it may even pass them by without them knowing the opportunity was even there. Often hard work is required to make the most of the opportunity but usually the rewards and personal satisfaction are enormous and well worth it. I believe if you don't try to make the most of every opportunity then you are not going to develop or learn about yourself as a person.

So as I remember and reminisce about all the fantastic times that I have spent at Girton and now look back as an Old Girtonian, I believe the most important thing is to make the most of all the opportunities that our school presents. I loved my time at Girton and I can't thank Mr. Jones and all the wonderful staff enough for all the help, support, encouragement and opportunities they have given me. I wouldn't have been able to achieve my goals without Girton and all that it offers.

Being a Girtonian/Old Girtonian makes me feel so proud and the honour of being the recipient of the Old Girtonians' Scholarship is overwhelming. It means so much to me.

Thank you.

Speech Night Awardees for 2009

Dux of Year Three - Samuel Hilson (Three Frew)

Dux of Year Four - Alexander Nielsen (Four Millward)

Dux of Year Five - Hannah Holmes (Five Riley)

Dux of the Junior School - Tavish Eenjes (Six Riley)

Dux of Year Seven - Thomas Duke (Seven Riley)

Dux of Year Eight - Sigrid Petautschnig (Eight Jenkin)

Dux of Year Nine - Anusha Jayasekera (Nine Jenkin)

Dux of Year Ten - Paige Gordon (Ten Millward)

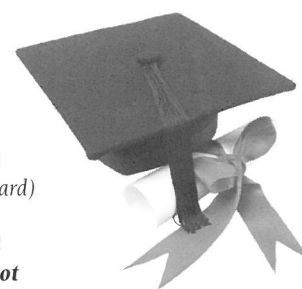
The Old Girtonians' Association Melbourne Branch Award for the Performing Arts (in memory of Margot Nolan) - Colleen Melton (Eleven Frew)

Dux of Year Eleven - Connor Rochford (Eleven Frew) & Brianna Waterson (Eleven Jenkin)

The June Todd Prize for Excellence in English/Literature (**a Gift of the Melbourne Branch of the Old Girtonians' Association**) (Shared Equally) Sophie Chandler (Twelve Millward; Emily Edwards (Twelve Millward)

The Old Girtonians' Association Melbourne Branch Award for the Performing Arts (in Memory of Margot Nolan) - Colleen Melton (Eleven Frew)

The Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship of \$2000.00 to a departing Year Twelve Student - Todd Broadbent (Twelve Aherne)



President's Report



It has been another wonderful year for the OGA! There are currently 949 members, and growing. I am delighted to welcome the 91 valedictorians of 2009 and all new members. The Association now provides fellowship and networking opportunities on a global scale. As custodians of the schools' history we are committed to supporting the ongoing development of Girton, and ensuring that the OGA remains an integral part of the school.

The Annual Reunion Dinner, held on the weekend of the Schools' Foundation Day celebrations in May was once again well attended. This year we presented honorary associate membership to Mr Robert Ketterer, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Mr Ken Belfrage, Treasurer of the Board and Mrs Betty Higgs (Staff) for their years of service to the School. We congratulate Henry Ngo (Alumni 2008) as the recipient of the Girtonian Scholarship, and thank him for his assistance in arranging the immensely successful One Year Out Reunion held in December.

A number of new OGA activities have been introduced in 2009. We are committed to going green and have taken advantage of linking members online through Facebook. Our correspondence to members is now mainly

through email and the schools webpage. The mail out of the annual newsletter, aptly named *Under the Peppercorn Tree*, now includes a calendar of events so that members can plan in advance the functions they wish to attend.

In 2009, the OGA hosted a Year 12 Careers Breakfast where past students, Annika Smethurst (Alumni 2005), Joe Ciancio (Alumni 1991), and Catherine Brooks (Alumni 2003), addressed students about their career pathways. This initiative was well received and it is hoped to make it a regular event in the Year 12 calendar. I encourage members who can offer an hour or two to share your career experiences to contact the Alumni Officer.

In September the Melbourne Branch and Bendigo Executive hosted a luncheon at Daylesford. Members travelled from far and wide to catch up at the Lake House Restaurant. This was well attended and the relaxed atmosphere provided the setting for a lovely afternoon for all.

In honour of the retiring Headmaster, Mr Clayton Jones who has made a significant contribution to Girton Grammar School in the past 17 years, the OGA with the assistance of the Community Relations Manager initiated the Headmaster's XI Cricket Match. The inaugural match was to be held in October, but due to unprecedented and much needed rain, the match was postponed to December. It was a wonderful family day held at Cricket Willow, near Daylesford. The staff team, lead by Mr Dean Langley, outshone the impressive line up of past students in the Headmaster's team to become the inaugural winners of the shield. Preparations have already begun for the rival teams to meet again, under the guidance of the new Headmaster, Mr. Matthew Maruff on Sunday 18th April, 2010. An open invitation is extended to the Girton community, including OGA members.

In addition to these new events there have been a number of Archiving Working Bees, an Open Day at the OGA Cottage and the hosting of 'Drinks at the Cottage' for Girton Staff.

All of this wonderful work has not been possible without the efforts of many people. I wish to thank Sue Liddell, our Alumni Officer, the members of the Executive Committee, Ann McIntosh (Alumni 1994), Wendy Meehan (Alumni 1980), Rebecca Paton, Treasurer (Alumni 1987), and Mitch Trevena -Vernon, Community Relations Manager. I also wish to thank the Executive of the OGA Melbourne Branch Judy Robbins, President (Alumni 1975), Hilary Salmon, Secretary (Alumni 1969) and their Committee, for their continued dedication to the development of the Melbourne Branch. In particular I wish to acknowledge the continued interest and support of the OGA by the Headmaster and the members of the Board.

I am intending to step down as President of the OGA at the next AGM on 17th March 2010. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this very rewarding role and have felt supported by many people, too many to name in this report. I shall express my thanks to each at the appropriate opportunity. It is imperative to the continuation of the current administrative structure of the OGA that a new president be elected. If you are interested in joining a very vibrant and dedicated Executive, either as a member of the Committee or as the President, please contact me or any of our current members prior to the AGM. I am looking forward to playing a more hands on role with the Executive in 2010 as a Committee member.

You will find more detail of the events and developments of the Association in the pages of this edition of *Under the Peppercorn Tree*. I believe these are very exciting times for the OGA as it continues to grow from strength to strength.

In closing, on behalf of the OGA and its members, I thank Mr Jones for his unwavering support and commitment to the OGA over the past 17 years. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

Sandra Hamilton (Alumnus 1978)
President

Invitation to the Annual General Meeting

Dear Life Members and Past Girtonians

You are warmly invited to attend the Old Girtonians' Association Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 17th March from 7.30pm in the Girton Grammar School Performing Arts Building (entry via Wattle Street, Bendigo).

Some items on the agenda include:

- Meet and Greet with Girton's second Headmaster Mr Matthew F. Maruff
- Elections of OGA Executive Office Bearers and Committee
- Treasurer's Audited Report on the financial health of the OGA

PLEASE NOTE: Any donations of items for the Headmaster's XI Cricket Match Raffle to be held at Cricket Willow on Sunday 18th April would be greatly appreciated. Please bring them with you on the night. Supper will be provided at the conclusion of the AGM.

Treasurer's Report

It gives me great pleasure to have held the role of OGA Treasurer for three years now; 2009 has been a time of continued growth and excitement for not only the OGA but also the finances of the OGA.

Our income has grown from some \$9K in 2006 to \$23K in 2009 which has increased the overall bank balances held by the OGA from some \$9K in 2006 to over \$21K as at December 2009. This is largely due to the support of the School and the Business Office who now assist us with a more automated process of collecting departing Year 12 Life Membership dues. They also assist us with payment for events by credit card – an extremely useful and popular method of payment for attendees at events.

The new "automated collection" of membership fees (remove) in June 2007 and our overall membership (remove) has grown from 716 in 2006 to 949 as at December 2009.

The fee review for LM was implemented in June 2007 and our overall LM has grown from 716 in 2006 to just on 1000 as at December 2009.

We are indebted to the Headmaster, the School and the Business Office because without their invaluable support our continued growth would not be possible.

The strengthening overall financial position of the OGA together with the support of the School has seen the OGA be able to continue to support the School with annual Speech Night Dux Prizes and introduce many new events and financial contributions over the past three years – including:

- Personalised Farewell Mugs as gift to all Departing Year 12's – introduced November 2007
- Professional reproduction of bromide and printed colour address labels
- Departing Year 12 Scholarship – introduced in December 2007
- Year 12 One Year Out Reunion – introduced in December 2007
- Increased print run and page quantity of Annual Newsletter – 8 B & W pages in 2006 to 16 pages in 2009 (including 4 in colour)
- Annual "Magnetic Fridge" Events Calendar – introduced May 2009
- Additional items for Cottage such as CD Player, Crockery and Visitors Books
- Memorabilia Display/Storage



- New Honour Board (funded jointly with OGA Melbourne Branch and Girton Grammar) – unveiled in May 2009 located in Girton House at MacKenzie Street
 - Headmaster's XI Cricket Match – introduced December 2009
 - Additional to the purely financial side we continue to receive favourable media support with six local print media mentions in 2009
- Should anyone have any queries at any stage about Treasurer matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rebecca Paton (Alumnus 1989)
Treasurer

Melbourne OGA Report

It is with pleasure that I write this article for *Under the Peppercorn Tree* to share with the Old Girtonians' the news of the Melbourne Branch. The traditional Basket Luncheon was held in May at the home of Elaine Harty (Speirs). We welcomed Clayton Jones, Girton Headmaster, who updated the gathering with the happenings at Girton today as well as the reflection of his 17 years as Headmaster at Girton.

Clayton will have finished in his role as Headmaster when you are reading this and we wish him good health and enjoyment as he enjoys his days playing golf and other pastimes of a retired Headmaster.

Continuing a long tradition the AGM and afternoon tea was held at Judy Appleton's home, not an old Girtonian herself but a committed supporter continuing the tradition of her mother, Lady Townsend (Smythe). Glasses were raised in celebration of Lady Townsend birthday.

This year Dr Lauren Rickards (nee Ward) (1992 Alumni) was the AGM guest speaker. She reflected on her school days at Girton, how these had prepared her for the life and decisions she encountered as she journeyed the world of academia to achieve her PhD at Oxford and her passion for the environment.

We also enjoyed the company of Jemma, Lauren's daughter, only 6 months then, and Lauren's mother, Nansi Ward. Nansi would be familiar to many OGA as she taught at Girton for 30 years, 1975-2005. In keeping with the Girton connections, it is thanks to Hilary Salmon (nee Ward) (1969 Alumni) for inviting her Neice, Lauren.

The Melbourne Branch continues to support the School with 2 scholarships which are presented at Speech Night. The 'June Todd Prize' for Excellence in English/Literature and 'The

Old Girtonians' Association Melbourne Branch Award for the Performing Arts (in Memory of Margot Nolan)'.

Last year we reported working with the Bendigo OGA to provide more opportunities for OGAs' not based in and around Bendigo, to connect. The first of these was in September at the Lake House Restaurant in Daylesford. It was a perfect sunny day for a drive and twenty members from Bendigo and Melbourne came together for this delicious lunch. The 'chatter' and how fast the time flew indicated this was a great start for a new tradition and another event for the OGA calendar.

We are grateful to the OGA for the recognition to those who started and have continued the tradition of the OGA with the unveiling of the Honour Board in May 2009 for both the OGA and the OGA Melbourne Branch. It is warming to know Old Girtonians' have been meeting in Bendigo since 26 October 1914 and the Melbourne Branch 29 July 1931.

The granite bench seats donated by the OGA Melbourne Branch in memory of Lady June Townsend (Smythe) were relocated to the newly landscaped gardens on the east side of Girton House during 2009.

The sculpture by Ola Cohn ARCA MBE 'Mother and Child' (1926) is located in Bendigo, viewing can be arranged through the OGA office.

Our link with the old Girtonians' has continued from strength to strength under the energetic and enthusiastic leadership of the OGA President, Sandra Hamilton (nee Pollard) (1978 Alumni). Bendigo members have been great supporters of the Melbourne Branch functions with their attendance for which we are grateful.

As we age and memories fade we at the OGA Melbourne Branch are keen to record stories

from past days at Girton. We would love to hear from anyone who has experience and or enthusiasm to assist in getting this project 'off the ground'.

Look out for the OGA Calendar of Events for 2010 and we look forward to sharing these events with you.

Dates for 2010 are planned as follows:

Basket Luncheon – Saturday 15th May, 12 noon at the home of Janice Maddern.

The **AGM** and **Afternoon Tea** will be held Saturday 16th October, 1.30pm at the home of Judy Appleton.

Other events and opportunities to enjoy the company of old Girtonians' please see the 2010 calendar and contact the OGA for further details.

Judy Robbins (Alumnus 1975)

The Melbourne OGA Committee - 2010

President: Judy Robbins (1975)

Vice President: Elaine Harty (Speirs) (1951)

Secretary: Hilary Salmon (Ward) (1969)

Vice Secretary: Jo White (Nunn)

Treasurer: Yvonne Osborn (Hickson) (1971)

Committee: Kath Bentley (Lipsett)
Sue Fairbairn (Gillin) (1958)
Ekko Mitchell (Gadong) (1966)
Jenni Rutherford (Grady)
Lorraine Webster (McLean)

Headmaster's Report To The OGA

It is mid-January and I have two weeks remaining as Headmaster of Girton. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr Matthew F Maruff for the past week or so as he takes up the Headship. I believe that the Girton community and Old Girtonians will be very happy with the new Head, as I am. I thank the OGA, its successive committees and Old Girtonians generally for the warmth and support of the past seventeen years. (Given that the Staff XI walloped a strong Headmaster's OGA XI in the Headmaster's Cricket Match at Hepburn Springs in December, so well I should retire!)

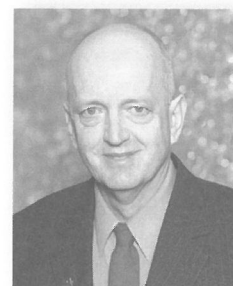
My coming into office was at a dramatic time

when the Diocese closed Girton College and The Friends led by John E Higgs re-founded the School and appointed me as Head.

It has been a fine story since. After re-opening with 302 students on 2nd February, 1993, we closed 2009 with 1080, with about 1100 expected for 2010. Every aspect of the School has changed or been developed in that time. The buildings and facilities are unrecognisable from the old days, and the spirit of the staff and students is admirable.

2009 was a fine year in all respects. A more comprehensive Report on 2009 can be found in

The Headmaster's Report to the Community at www.girton.vic.edu.au so I will mention just a few points. The VCE results were strong and better than we expected. We are expecting a good round of offers for Tertiary Studies later this week. Year 12 delighted us with the attitude and citizenship.



VCE Results in 2009 Compared to Previous Years (2002 to 2008)

Table 1:

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No of Students	74	77	77	86	86	97	97	113
ENTER Range	Cumulative percentages of Girton students in the indicated ENTER ranges.							
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
98+	8.1%	7.8%	5.2%	2.3%	6.98%	5.15%	5.15%	6.2%
95+	18.9%	19.5%	10.4%	8.1%	12.8%	15.46%	19.59%	15.93%
90+	32.4%	32.5%	24.7%	23.3%	29.1%	24.74%	34.02%	33.63%
80+	56.8%	64.9%	44.2%	48.8%	62.79%	46.39%	57.73%	60.18%
70+	71.6%	80.5%	67.5%	57%	77.91%	65.98%	76.29%	76.12%
60+	90.5%	92.2%	76.6%	73.3%	88.37%	79.38%	85.57%	83.19%
50+	94.6%	96.1%	88.3%	87.2%	93.02%	85.57%	94.85%	91.15%

Table 2:

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number Completing VCE with ENTERs	74	77	77	86	86	97	97	113
Top ENTER (100th percentile)	99.85	99.50	99.90	98.85	99.75	99.75	99.75	99.75
Top Quartile (75th Percentile)	93.65	93.04	90.30	89.00	91.53	90.55	93.3	91.45
MEDIAN	83.73	84.90	79.20	79.55	83.125	78.4	82.45	83.30
Bottom Quartile (25th Percentile)	65.88	73.51	62.00	57.80	71.40	64.20	71.75	71.80
Bottom ENTER (0 percentile)	35.95	33.80	24.45	17.50	33.95	23.90	40.85	16.95
MEAN	80.05	81.78	75.45	73.02	79.93	74.61	79.89	79.02
Std Deviation	15.3	14.4	18.89	19.06	15.34	19.32	15.33	17.12
Inter-Quartile Range (75th percentile – 25th Percentile)	27.8	19.53	28.30	31.20	20.13	26.35	21.55	19.65

After being runners-up for a couple of years, Mr McWaters's Senior Boys' Team won the Australian Volleyball Championship title in December. We had State Champion teams in Tournament of Minds with four contesting the National Finals in Brisbane. Music and Drama have continued to flourish, with the Senior Production of *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell being an unqualified success as the first Senior Production in the Black Box in the Performing Arts Building.

The Board was led again by Mr Don Naunton. It was very busy this year in Strategy and Master

Planning and in updating its Governance protocols. Two members resigned during the year: Mr Paul Green and Mr Chris Earl.

The Commonwealth Government provided \$2.5M for a Junior Library and \$200K for School Pride projects as part of its stimulus package to combat the fallout of the global financial crisis. The Library will be completed in March-April while the host of smaller projects have lifted many parts of the School significantly. We are pleased to have received the funds and to have put them to excellent use.

Just a week ago, we lost Sinead McKenzie, a most able member of 8 Aherne 2009, to cancer. We remember too Mrs Caroline Hope (nee Iser and Head Prefect 1962), the mother of Old Girtonians (Riley House) Fiona and Alastair, who died from cancer a couple of weeks ago. A most gracious lady, Caroline and her husband Bruce were great supporters during the "Friends" period in 1992 and beyond.

Farewell and thank you!

CW Jones,
Headmaster (December 1992 – January 2010)

Chairman's Report

Four days ago, on Saturday evening, 30th January, I attended the Farewell Dinner given in honour of our Foundation Headmaster Mr Clayton Jones. Mr Jones has retired after 17 years of outstanding service to Girton and the Bendigo community. It was a wonderful evening and a fitting tribute to Mr Jones.

The evening commenced by revisiting the events of late 1992 which gave rise to the commencement of Girton Grammar in February 1993. This included a DVD of news clips and was followed with a passionate address about those early years given by our founding Chair Mr John Higgs. Our Deputy Head, Mrs Robyn MacCulloch captured Clayton's contribution to Girton with an amazing recollection of humorous stories, interwoven with obvious respect, honour and esteem for her colleague and Head.

Mr Jones has been an outstanding leader. While the achievements that have followed him have been significant, we remember him more for the person he is than for his achievements. He has a strong commitment to values and was the main driver in forming the mission and values

statement for Girton. He has a passion for learning and a continual search for knowledge. He is a man of integrity which brings with it respect. He is committed to fairness when dealing with others at all levels.

During the evening I was asked what I thought were the key drivers for Girton's success. In my view, it is that Girton has a clear definition of what it offers. The key components that Girton offers are discipline including self discipline, striving for excellence and pastoral care based on the Christian ethic. Mr Jones was the key driver in formulating these objectives and in delivering against them.

The 310 people who attended the dinner represented an amazing pool of good will and generosity show to Girton over those 17 years. Included in this goodwill and generosity is the contribution of the OGA and its members,

Today, Tuesday 2nd February, the 2010 school year opened with 1,100 students enrolled. This compares to the 302 enrolled in February 1993.

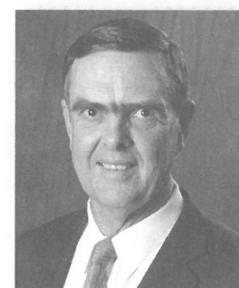
Our incoming Headmaster is Mr Matthew Maruff.

Mr Maruff's previous teaching experience has been at Geelong Grammar, Ivanhoe Grammar and St Kevin's College. Mr Maruff and Mr Jones share a similar commitment to values and a passion for learning. Mr Maruff will encourage the personal and professional development of staff as a means to enhancing student performance.

Joining Mr Maruff at school today were his two older children, Bronte and Xavier, in Years 4 and Prep respectively. His youngest daughter Clementine remains at home with his wife, Kirsten. We welcome the family to Girton Grammar Bendigo.

Mr Maruff will be inducted as Headmaster at the Foundation Day Service on Friday 30th April.

Don Naunton
Chair



Where the journey began...

Reprint from the Bendigo Advertiser Tuesday 24th November 1992 – permission granted to Mitch Trevena-Vernon, Community Relations Manager of Girton Grammar School by the Editor of the Bendigo Advertiser in February 2010 to reprint this article in *Under the Peppercorn Tree*.

New school principal 'ready for challenge'

The senior master of the new Girton Grammar's Sydney "sister school" has been appointed principal at Bendigo.

Irish-born Clayton Jones, senior master at the Sydney Church of England Co-Educational Grammar School at Redlands for the past two years and mathematics head for the previous eight, will move to Bendigo next week ready for the start of the school year on February 2.

Mr Jones, on his third exploratory visit to the city yesterday, said he was looking forward to the challenge of establishing Girton Grammar at the McKenzie St campus once used by its predecessor, Girton College.

"It's a school that must and is going ahead."

"The Bendigo district should have access to independent education... a school with strong, caring discipline looking after children in the minutest detail."

Mr Jones first became interested in the new school when Redlands offered its assistance to Girton College after the Bendigo Anglican Diocese announced its closure earlier this year.

The Sydney school was also threatened with closure during the '70s but consolidated for enrolments to rise from 170 to 1700 in 16 years.

"In many ways the two schools have had a similar recent history," he said.

Shared programs

He anticipates the ties will be strengthened next year and in ensuing years through shared programs such as student and teacher exchanges and cultural programs.

"The boards of the two schools will continue to work together."

Even though it was a small, regional school, Girton Grammar would benefit by tapping into the resources of a larger interstate counterpart.

One of the programs Mr Jones anticipates being available in Bendigo in short to mid-term future is the International Baccalaureate, which provides matriculation to universities worldwide.

The principal's appointment is

the first to the teaching staff which will number between 25 and 30.

The Girton Grammar Board is considering staff at the moment, including those applicants who teach at Girton College.

The school will start with about 300 students, including up to 30 boarders.

Parents who were waiting to see

if Girton Grammar would go ahead before enrolling their children have been warned to do so as soon as possible as some grades are already close to their full complement of students.

"Next year has the potential to be the most exciting in the school's history," Mr Jones said.

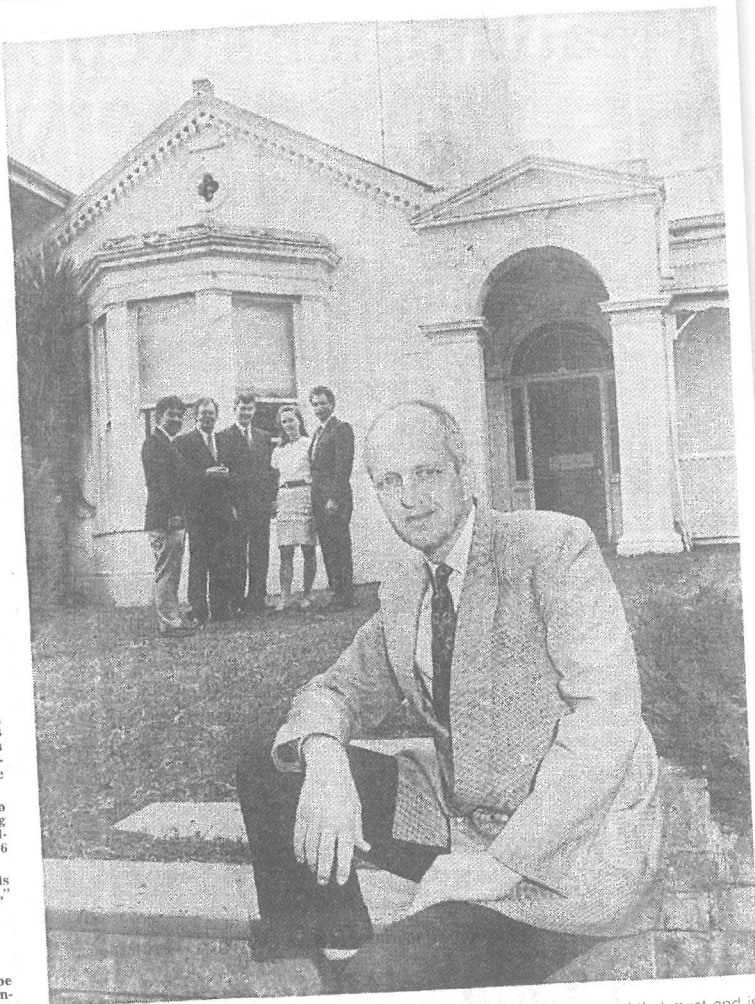
"We would like to retain the old Girton philosophy and although it

is inevitable there will be change the essence of it will continue.

The school's motto and uniform will also remain unchanged.

Mr Jones is already reading way through the history of Girton College, history that was just as much a part of Bendigo.

He will also begin meeting people in the community, including the Anglican Bishop, Wright.



● ABOVE: Mr Clayton Jones, Girton Grammar's principal... "It's a school that must and is going ahead." In the background are members of the school board.

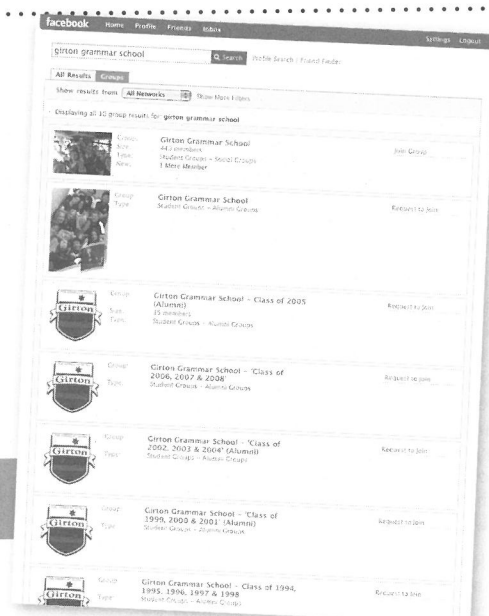
www.facebook.com

Facebook; a free social networking website which enables you connect with friends, co-workers and others who share similar interests or who have common backgrounds. It allows its members to put together their own profile letting them post photos, send public and private messages, list their interests, join groups and build a directory of friends.

To enable Girton Grammar School to connect with Girton College & Girton Grammar School Alumni we have developed specific Alumni groups on Facebook. This allows us to update and connect with the Alumni groups on a regular basis. Therefore, we urge all Alumni to become members of facebook and join these Alumni groups. Not only does it enable you to reconnect with Girton Grammar School it is wonderful to have the ability to reconnect with past classmates as well!

To access groups on Facebook; select groups in toolbar, search Girton Grammar School and select relevant Alumni year.

For further information or assistance please do not hesitate to contact melanielangley@girton.vic.edu.au



Inaugural Headmaster's XI Cricket Match

"After a massive build up with plenty of media hype (one article in the Addy), the stage was set for what would be a monumental battle for the ages in the Inaugural Headmaster's XI Cricket Match to commemorate (or celebrate depending how you look at it!!) the retirement of Girton Grammar founding Headmaster and noted cricket tragic Mr Clayton Jones.

Both teams had made their way to the picturesque Cricket Willow near Daylesford and after the formalities and cap presentations which included a run down of each players school history and achievements (some longer than others!) it was time to get down business.

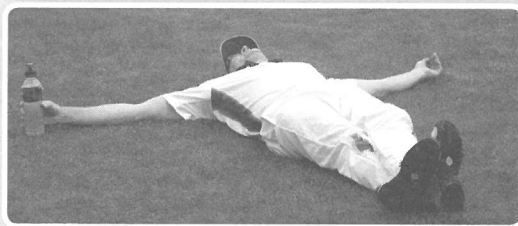
The slightly overconfident and some slightly hung-over Headmaster's XI team went into bat first against a group of teachers who, whilst also feeling the effects of their work Christmas party, had definitely come to play and were taking the game very, very seriously!

The Headmaster's XI got off to a decent start after a stirring inspirational address from the doyen himself (Mr Jones) with some big hitting from Cameron Tweed the highlight, however quick wickets started to fall with players more keen to find the fence than find form!

After Headmaster's XI Team Captain Adrian Carr, the oldest of all the students was dismissed for the paltry score of 1 it was left to Rohan Benstead to steady the ship through the middle of the innings. After Rohan was dismissed nearing the thirtieth over it was Marcus Smalley more noted for his bowling than his batting who took over as the innings anchor, but unfortunately partners were in short supply as too many students looked to try and settle old scores rather than build a big team score and the Headmaster's XI were dismissed for an underwhelming 173 in the 35th over.

After a delicious lunch it was the Staff's turn to bat and following a rousing impromptu rendition of the School Song by the past students, play was back under way.

The Headmaster's XI opening bowlers bowled



with plenty of aggression early and no one was spared a barrage of bouncers or a barrage of sledging (they started it!!!) However wickets were proving hard to come by as Mr Di Fede and Mr Turner decided to bunker down for the longand rather boring haul! The later was the first to go after being bowled by Marcus Smalley, who thought he may have been able to capture another quick wicket, but Mrs Holmes had other ideas as well as having Marcus' measure! A very sharp piece of fielding meant Mrs Holmes fine innings was to come to an end which bought Mr Langley to the crease. Mr Langley had earlier been involved in a series of back and forth sledging with the Cameron Tweed and Sam Hargreaves that centred mainly around taunts of "iron gloves" in regards to each others keeping abilities... or lack there of, needless to say both parties were keen to have the final say! Mr Langley it must be said did bat very well but met his demise when after being utterly bamboozled by the prodigious turn of Hargreaves' leg spin several balls in a row, he did not pick the wrong un' (it was actually just an off spin bowl as I had nothing else in my repertoire and cannot bowl a wrong un to save myself), and spooned a catch to Tweed at mid off, who as it turned out had given up the gloves (probably for the best). This lifted the Headmaster's XI side who cried out for Hargreaves to deliver a send off but being the good sport he is he simply smiled at Langley and pointed to the pavilion!!

Mr Di Fede had also been dismissed but unfortunately by the "you must retire if you score 40" rule and not by any means of student skill.

This then left Mr Slater and Mr Flanagan out in the middle and in what will surely go down as either (a) one of the most inspirational partnerships of modern times.....or (b) one of the most unbelievable displays of fluke and luck of modern times..... depending on who you ask, Mr Slater and Mr Flanagan held firm and steered the Staff to a shock (lets be honest it was a complete shock, honestly who thought the Staff would actually win!!) win over a bewildered and rather embarrassed Headmaster's XI who know that they definitely let their fearless leader down.....sorry Mr Jones.....and are very glad they didn't have to front up to school on Monday!

Mr Slater was deservedly named man of the match for his guile with the ball and mastery with the bat, which I'm sure is still very clean in the middle but cherry red on both edges (just kidding Mr Slater).

In all seriousness it was a sensational day and I know all players from both sides were honoured to take part in a very memorable day to give Mr Jones a send off he truly deserves. Praise must definitely go to all the organisers who did a terrific job!

From the past students perspective, we are still licking our wounds but are now hungry to atone for their humiliating defeat, preparations have begun (not really) and we would like to issue a warning to the teachers for next time.....We are coming to get you!!

Sam Hargreaves (Alumnus 1998)



Staff Team:

Back L-R: Don Thompson, Jamie Turner, Paul Flanagan, Ralph Algreen-Ussing, Scott Langan

Front L-R: Dan Slater, Mark Di Fede, Dean Langley (Captain), James Farquharson, Annette Holmes, Rick McWaters.



Headmaster's XI Team:

Back L-R: Cameron Tweed (Alumni 1999), Sam Brewin (Alumni 2007), Joshua Naunton (Alumni 2006), Andrew Biggs (Alumni 2007), Benjamin Beckerleg (Alumni 2007), Mr Clayton Jones (Headmaster 1993 -2010) and (Captain), Alex Collins (Alumni 2004), Marcus Smalley (Alumni 2005), Adrian Carr (Alumni 1996)

Front L-R: Rohan Benstead (Alumni 2001), Drew Stanmore (Alumni 2002), Sam Hargreaves (Alumni 1998)

Reunion Dinner



Careers Breakfast



Headmaster's Farewell



Inaugural Headmaster's XI Cricket Match



One Year Out Reunion - Alumni 2008



Catherine Spillane (Alumnus 2003)

A journey of a life time

Two years ago, my Spanish university lecturer made the suggestion I apply for a university exchange to Latin America, having only just settled back in from a year away in Europe I was unsure whether I would be ready or willing to move my life over to Latin America when the time came half a year later.

All of a sudden I was finalizing my visa and packing my bags for six months of study in Mexico, completely unaware that I was about to embark on the most incredible and life changing experience of my life thus far.

Always having been one that seeks out bizarre and unique situations, I found myself in many such situations in Mexico. I served Christmas lunch to thousands in the poorest slum in the city of Guadalajara, I walked through cemeteries filled with elderly indigenous lying on flower covered graves of their loved ones at 3 am on 'Day of the Dead', explored treasure filled flea markets in dirty barrios of Mexico City and floated down the street to the supermarket in the 5pm monsoon rains.

I instantly fell in love with the Mexican people, culture, sunshine, food, music and colourful old towns filled with old men in white sombreros and cowboy boots sitting in deserted colonial town squares. The six months of study passed far too quickly and I made the decision to stay.

My love for Mexico continued to grow throughout the next seven months, although I worked full time as an English Teacher, life in Mexico was just one long holiday filled with cheap cold drinks and endless weekends of camping on beautiful deserted beaches, listening to 12 pieces Mariachi bands at traditional festivals and exploring markets full of old toys and junk, (that I happen to love buying). When the deadly swine flu hit Mexico, I was

still nowhere near ready to leave so I flew to Buenos Aires in the hope of finding work in one of the many cultural centres or art galleries. Living in the antique heaven of bohemian barrio San Telmo was amazing and an extremely romantic way to live, but I simply had to give it up as Argentinians simply do not like to give the few jobs they do have to foreigners, so after two months of teaching what I found to be bone dry business English classes I made my way to Bolivia.

As soon as I stepped over the border from sophisticated Argentina and into dusty, desolate, desperate Bolivia I was happier. The next month spent in tiny white washed Bolivian capital Sucre was heavenly. Women waddled through the main market with mountains of beans, corn husks and babies wrapped in colourful fabrics slung over their hunched backs, little kids played in rubbish in the gutters, wrinkly old men with no teeth chomped on coca leaves in the harsh sunshine.

Here I worked in a Pre-school as a Teachers Assistant, and visited several orphanages. These children had nothing, but were the cheeriest kids I've ever met in my life. They were an absolute joy to play with and teach, or simply listen to as they told me imaginative stories from deep within their mind. At the end of the month two friends and I were lucky enough to be invited by a well respected man in town to work on his farm in a remote community of 70 people 7 hours south of Sucre. Whatever level of poverty I had seen before this trip was nothing compared to what the people of this town endured, I was made to feel ignorant and very fortunate many times over as I learned about their condition. I have a huge amount of admiration for these people as they remain positive and persistent when it seems impossible to imagine how things are meant to improve amidst drought, very poor

soil quality that makes it impossible to grow virtually anything and very little education.

The hype surrounding the Swine Flu finally ended so I made my way back to the Southern Mexico to do some work on organic farms as part of the WWOOF program. I had previously worked on WWOOF farms in France and Spain, and had always planned to relive the experience in Latin America. The state of Chiapas is really a completely unique Mexico, with the highest indigenous population their culture was extremely evident in their markets, traditional clothing, ten day long fiestas celebrating Saints and in their incredible pine needles covered floored churches. A Mexican friend and I were lucky enough to work with two lovely young boys who worked bare footed in the rich soil of the market garden, we roasted their corn on a little fire for lunch and on the last day even enjoyed a few sips of the local drink- an 80% proof spirit made from corn called 'Posh.'

When we weren't working we walked in the forest, ate delicious local food from jolly street vendors, visited the churches to watch medicine women casting spells with black hens and spraying 'sacred' Coca Cola around their display of bright candles and flowers.

Latin America really is such a special place, it is now without doubt a huge part of me. I highly recommend applying for a university exchange at some point during your degree or simply taking the time to get to know some of the amazing countries in Latin America through voluntary work, it not only teaches you life long skills and lessons, but also gives you a chance to be part of a community outside your own in Australia and a often with that comes a new perspective on life.

Where Are They Now?

Julia Watson

(Alumnus 2000) who after completing a Law Degree, worked in East Timor, was a researcher for the Solicitor-General for Victoria, is a Solicitor and also a lecturer at the University of Melbourne Law School, has now been awarded a Rotary World Peace Fellowship to complete a two year Masters in Public Policy at Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley.

Jonathan Burton

(Alumnus 1995) has won a *Walkley Award* for Journalism. He currently works at Maroondah Leader an on-line news website and in 2009 was awarded the *Quill Award* from the Melbourne Press Club and an award from the Pacific-Asia Newspaper Proprietors' Association for local news coverage.

Share your Stories

The OGA are always interested to hear what past Girtonians have been up to since leaving School. If you would like to contribute a story about your journey since you left Girton we would love to receive it. Please email any information, short stories or essays to oga@girton.vic.edu.au.

Careers Breakfast 2009

On Friday 26th June 2009 the OGA in consultation with Girton Grammar School held the very first Careers Breakfast for Year 12 2009. Owing to the success of this event we hope to make this an annual fixture in the OGA/Girton school calendar.

We thank those people who supported this initiative including Mr Bill Montgomery, Head of Administration and Ms Karen Walls, VET/VASS Co-ordinator. The Breakfast would not have been possible without our 3 wonderful guest speakers who volunteered their time to come back to Girton and talk with the Year 12 students about their journey in life since leaving Girton. They included Joe Ciano, Catherine Brooks and Annika Smethurst.



Catherine Brooks
(Alumnus 2003)

Catherine successfully completed her VCE at Girton Grammar School in 2003. A member of Aherne House, Catherine was a House Prefect and a Netball Captain of a Junior Girton team.

Upon receiving her first University course preference, Catherine stayed in Bendigo and studied her Bachelor of Pharmacy locally at La Trobe University. Part of her degree required Catherine to undertake practical training hours and she worked at various pharmacies and hospitals in Bendigo, Geelong and Echuca.

Catherine started working part-time at Bendigo UFS whilst studying. She then completed her intern year in 2008 with BUFS and has been a qualified Pharmacist there since February 2009.



Annika Smethurst
(Alumnus 2005)

Annika successfully completed her VCE at Girton Grammar School in 2005. A Riley House Prefect in 2005, Basketball Vice-Captain and coach in the same year, Annika was familiar with the role of leadership whilst at school.

Upon receiving an ENTER of 90.5, Annika did not get her first three preferences to University yet her fourth preference studying a Bachelor of Journalism, majoring in International Studies at Monash University (Caulfield Campus) in Melbourne was to bring her to where she is today. Annika spent a semester

of her second year at University studying and living in Quebec Canada where she attended Bishops University as part of a University student exchange program.

In her final year at University, Annika was selected to undertake a traineeship at *The Sunday Age* where her work was published.

Annika continues to study whilst working full-time as a Journalist at The Bendigo Weekly, where she has been employed since December 2008 and is currently undertaking an Honours year writing a thesis on journalism in regional Victoria.



Joe Ciano
(Alumnus 1991)

Joe is a past student of Girton College. He successfully completed his VCE in 1991 and was an Aherne Head Prefect in the same year.

Upon receiving an outstanding ENTER, Joe was offered a place at Melbourne University to study a Double Degree - Bachelor of Science (Computer) and Bachelor of Engineering (Electronics) in which he gained Honours. Joe's first preference was to study Electrical Engineering at RMIT as he doubted he would get the score required to get into Melbourne University to undertake the Double Degree that he went on to complete.

In the final year of his Computer Science degree, Joe was selected as part of a University student exchange program to undertake his last year studying at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. Joe's twelve months in Tokyo was sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education.

Joe worked for several months in the University of Melbourne Electrical Engineering Department developing products for private industry. Whilst studying in Japan, he worked part-time for a US based Semiconductor Manufacturer and following graduation was employed full-time by this company where Joe spent the next five years living and working in Japan.

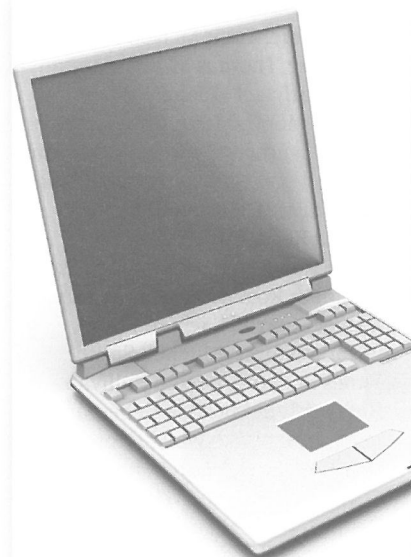
Joe travelled extensively for work during his five years overseas to Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, the USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, Finland, the UK, New Zealand and India.

Upon his return home to Bendigo in 2001 Joe started his own IT company Maxsum Solutions.

Going Green

In order to reduce the amount of paper, the Old Girtonians' Association intends to use Email as its primary source of communication with our membership.

In order to help us keep in touch with you, we ask that you contact the Old Girtonians Association via email oga@girton.vic.edu.au and update your details today!



HONORARY ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Ken Belfrage (Board – Treasurer)
Mr Robert Ketterer (Board – Deputy
Chairman)
Mrs Betty Higgs (Staff)

NEW LIFE MEMBERS IN 2009

Catherine Spillane (Alumni 2001)

YEAR 12 2009 LIFE MEMBERS

Matthew Ambler, Andrew Ayres,
Ellen Baker, Joshua Banks, Mitchell
Barker, Blake Barnard, Sally Bean,
Micah Bearlin-Allardice, Mia
Brewin, Todd Broadbent, Jeremiah
Bulhakow, Ellen Butters, Emily
Cahill, Mitchell Cairns, Matthew
Campbell, Sophie Chandler, Junice
Clark, Bethany Cuning, Andrew
Driscoll, Emily Edwards, Sarah
Edwards, Eleanor Farrington,
Samuel Flinn, Chloe Gladstone,
Hilary Glaisher, Hayden Glaister,
Callum Gordon, Lachlan Graham,
Alexandra Hamilton, Gabrielle
Hamilton, Timothy Hamond,
Georgia Harris, Emily Havea,
Paris Hayes, Jeremy Heslop, Caleb
Higgs, Gabriella Hogan, Alex
Holland, Alice Honey, Benjamin
Hughes, Claire James, Nadia Jude,
Kirsten Kent, Dale Kerr, Meghan
Ketterer, Deboarh Kinnersley, Jesse
Kong, Joanne Kopunovic, James
Lavender, Sean Lethlean, Bridget
Loughnane, Jarrod MacCulloch,
Cameron McCormick, Christopher
McDermott, Joel McGrath, Jennifer
McKechnie, Trent McNeil, Daniel
Membrey, Thomas Mitton, Tharanya
Mohanathas, Madeleine Monk,
Wesley Montgomery, Chelsea
Mullens, Emeile Newstead-Dawkins,
Hannah Perry, Oliver Petautschnig,
Lisette Pettit, Alexander Pollock,
Joshua Reed, Christopher Rees,
Claire Robertson, Henry Robertson,
Elizabeth Rosewall, Jasmine Russell,
Daniel Sherriff, Lachlan Shinn,
Elizabeth Sims, Mitchell Smith,
James Spillane, Declan Sullivan,
Richard Teh, Michelle Uebergang,
Jacob Uren, Luke Walkington, Mark
Wardrop, Erica Wastell, Jian Kun
(Kevin) Wen, Chloe Whitehead,
Emma Wiesenekker, Jackson Wild
and James Winzar.



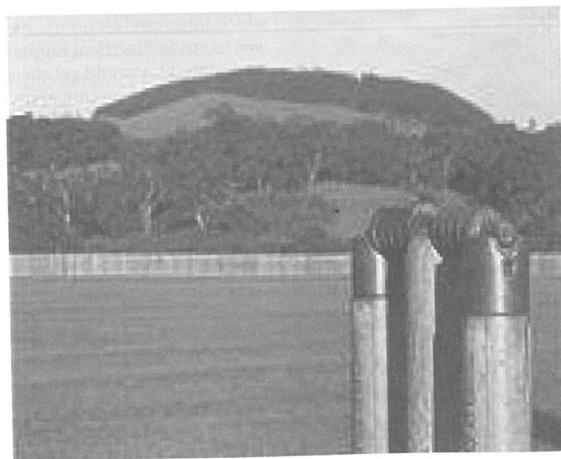
HEADMASTER'S XI CRICKET MATCH

Sunday 18th April, 2010
10.30am – 5pm

BYO Picnic Lunch or purchase from our Sausage Sizzle
(No BYO alcohol)

\$6 entry fee includes tour of the facilities –
see how Cricket bats are made

CRICKET WILLOW
355 Hepburn - Newstead Rd
Shepherds Flat, Victoria



In the event of poor weather, please check the School Website
for Match updates at www.girton.vic.edu.au

Postcards from France

This article was compiled by Mrs Sue Liddell, Alumni Officer of the OGA in 2009.

Every-so-often, a donation crosses the desk at the Old Girtonians' Association that evokes a story not only of past students but of their families.

One donation, received from Miss Beverley Young early in 2009, linked Girton back to 1915, the outbreak of World War I and the battlefields of Gallipoli and France when Merle Bush, a student at Girton College, exchanged postcards and parcels with her brother Reg.

Reg Bush, who at the age of 20, on

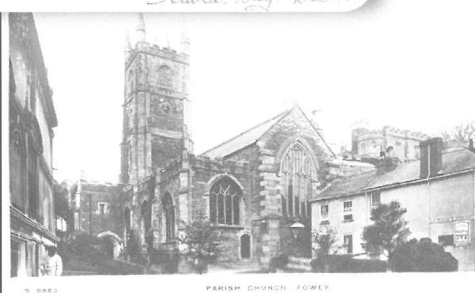
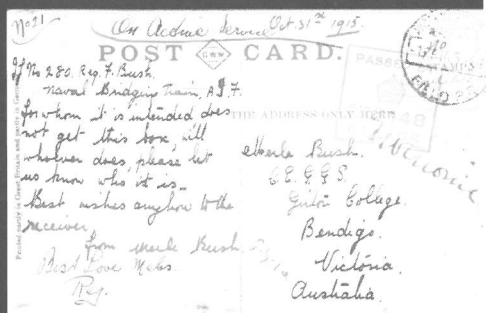
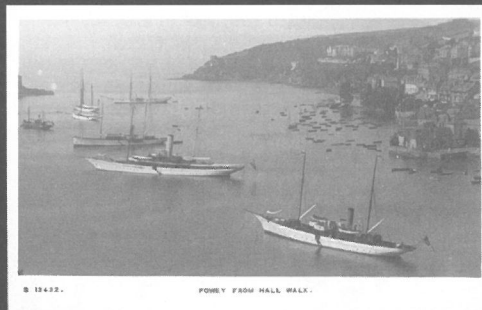
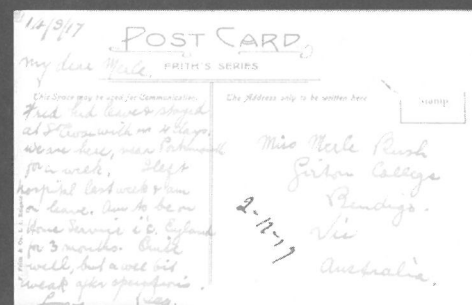
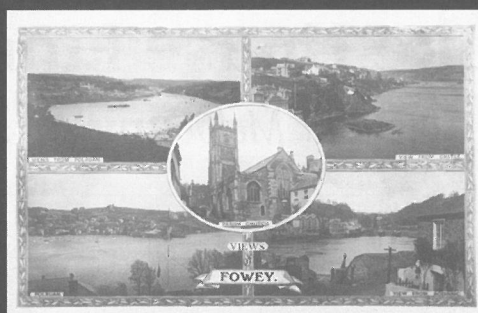
the 19th of April, 1915, enlisted for active service abroad in the Australian Imperial Force was serving with the 1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Training. He landed at Suvla Bay on August the 7th, 1915, his 21st Birthday. He served with the 4th Divisional Artillery on the Western Front and through the postcards written to his "Dear Merle", her devoted brother would write about his travels....."Your only brother is globetrotting, fair dinkum", he would write from Killarney, Ireland whilst on leave from active service, telling his sister "I am very

pleased with myself at present Mels, having seen so much with so little bother.....with much love Girly, Your loving brother Reg".

Reg was discharged from the AIF on the 16th of March, 1917 after being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corp. He served again in France as a Flying Officer, with the RAF, being "demobbed" (in Reg's own words) in 1919. Wounded in battle and surviving the War, Reg returned to Australia and to his beloved "Mels" in 1919.



Merle Bush - far left, Reg Bush - second row from back, centre.
At Lake Weeroona, 1918.



Reflections of School Days

by Dr Lauren Rickards (nee Ward) (Alumnus 1992)

Lauren's presentation at the OGA Melbourne Branch AGM provided an overview of how influential her time at Girton had been on her life. Lauren focused on three 'seeds' that were planted in her time at the school: a love of learning; leadership and community involvement; and resilience. Discussing her love of learning, Lauren reflected on how the combination of some inspiring classes and teachers and her insight into the 'inner working' of teaching via her mother, a teacher at the school, gave her the passion for

education. This passion saw her go on and complete 12 years of tertiary study, including Arts/Science at the University of Melbourne following a change from physiotherapy, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in geography at the University of Oxford. Her time at Oxford was enabled by a Rhodes Scholarship that recognised her leadership and community involvement work that had started at Girton, including being School Captain in 1992. Lauren spoke of the lessons about leadership she learnt at Girton, including the confronting and

inspiring experience of Girton Grammar emerging after the closure of Girton College by the Anglican Church. Among other experiences, including outdoor education trips at Girton and serious supervisor difficulties in the patriarchal atmosphere of Oxford University, this experience was one in which she learnt the value of resilience, which is now a key theme in her current work with drought-stricken rural communities as an Associate Partner at RM Consulting Group'.

Lake House Luncheon September 2009

Bendigo and Melbourne Members enjoy a wonderful day in Daylesford.



Archiving Starts Today!

As Old Girtonians we have taken on the role as custodians of the history of Girton College and Girton Grammar School.

Representing the Old Girtonians' Association, we attended a workshop conducted by Australian Society of Archivists, National School Archives Special Interest Group - Victorian Branch, at St Patrick's College, Ballarat in May 2009. This was attended by a number of Victorian Schools, including Schools of note such as Caulfield Grammar School and Scotch College.

The seminar was hosted by St Patrick's College Archivist, Br Brian Davis who has spent countless hours digitising the photographic collection of the College, ensuring these

valuable records are preserved for future generations.

At the conclusion of the discussion, an extensive tour of the School and its surrounds was conducted by Br Davis, enabling the visitors to admire the extensive display of the School's history. We came away from this seminar overwhelmed by the passion and commitment of Br Davis and became acutely aware the enormous task entrusted to the Old Girtonians' Association to preserve the history of Girton College and Girton Grammar School.

In response to this seminar, archiving days at the Old Girtonians' Association Cottage, (30 Creek Street, Bendigo), were conducted on Sunday June 21st and Sunday 5th of July, 2009

from 10.00 am until 1 pm, followed by a shared lunch at the Cottage.

The Old Girtonians' Association are proposing two further archiving days in 2010 on Sunday 13th of June and Sunday 1st August, 2010 from 10.00 am to 1.00pm and ask that you join us to assist in preserving and cataloguing the history which has been entrusted to us.

To express your interest in attending contact the Old Girtonians' Association by email oga@girton.vic.edu.au or telephone (03) 5441 3114. Please bring a plate to share for lunch and wear old clothing!

Wendy Meehan (nee Pilcher - Alumna 1980 Riley House) and Mrs Sue Liddell (Alumni Officer)

'One Year Out' Reunion

The warm air on your skin, the smell of cut grass all around you. Nature emerges from its dormant state, only to quickly seek shelter for another sweltering season ahead. The crackle of leaves as the Sun beats down from above, the coolness of waves as the water flows through below.

Summer has come once again and we are quickly reminded of the senses that make up this season. As quickly as we are reminded, we forget the time that have past since the last Summer, almost a year. And it is in this year that has past that dramatic changes occur and links between colleagues are lost. Some are still based locally, some to the City, some interstate and some overseas; but thanks to the Old Girtonians' Association these links can be reformed at the 'One Year Out' Reunion.

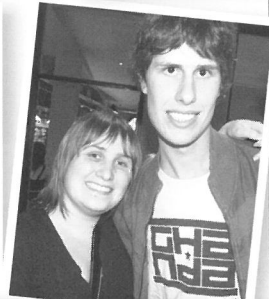
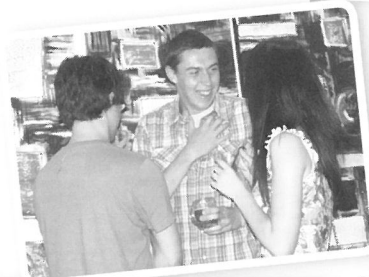
The third annual gathering of the 'One Year Out' event saw the reunion of the 2008 Girton Grammar School graduates. This informal 'catch-up' saw fifty Alumni attending, a number which hopefully will rise every year. The success lies in the publicity of this Event, which was largely through the online social networking site, Facebook. This new media proved to be key aspect of spreading the information and provided an instant response from those that wished to attend or otherwise.

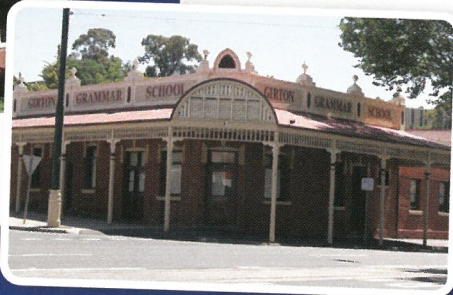
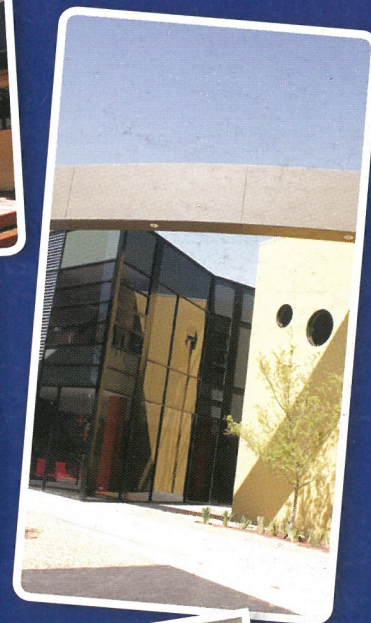
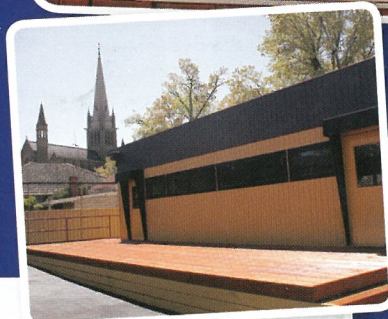
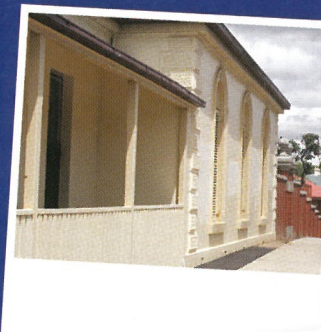
The Event was held at The Rifle Brigade Hotel in Bendigo where excited friends filled the room and out into the bar area. The buzz of reminiscing, education, travel, relationships and life filled the room as conversations about how the year out from School was spent. Much excitement was from catching up with friends that have lost contact over the year, but in particular those who have been at the School since the early years of education were reunited with an old colleague. Miers Kanini-Parsons (Year 4 2000) who relocated to the United Kingdom many years before a majority of this Alumni group were attending the School found his way to the Reunion and back into the thoughts of friends left behind. Miers is back in Australia to attend further education and I wish him all the best.

The 'Our Year Out' Reunion is a great opportunity to catch up with friends that may have been lost in the hectic year out of school, and a chance to reform the bond that was broken for a period of time but impermanent. As we found, it was also an opportunity to meet and greet old colleagues that left us many years ago. Such an event can only be created by a passionate and considerate group of people and on behalf of the 2008 Alumni, I thank the Old Girtonians' Association and all those involved. It can be covered by the fact that it allows the Association to gather and update contact details as well as expose the work done by them to new members, but it is truly beyond this. The Association has allowed all of us to come back to our friends and reconnect with our history; so again we thank you for your efforts and initiative.

The smell of eucalyptus fills the air, as the heat from the concrete is unendurable on your bare feet. The start of Summer sees the coming of the hot weather, the cricket season and Christmas lunches; but most importantly the Old Girtonians' Association 'One Year Out' Reunion. Be sure not to miss this Event.

Henry Ngo
(Alumnus 2008)





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