



UNDER THE *Peppercorn Tree*

OLD GIRTONIANS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2012

A Major Donation is Music to Our Ears



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In 2011, the Old Girtonians' Association (OGA) kindly donated \$6,000 to the Music Department to enable the purchase of an Orchestra Marimba. The instrument purchased was a Yamaha four and a half octave Concert Marimba. The instrument has rosewood keys and apart from looking beautiful, has a stunning sound. An instrument of this quality will last many, many years and be used in a number of Ensembles in the Senior School. The marimba as an instrument completes the Senior Percussion Ensemble, directed by Mr. David Turpie. This Ensemble has six members and the students perform on all instruments used in the orchestral percussion section. One key element of "The Senior Percussion Ensemble" is the use of keyboard percussion instruments to add pitch, melody, harmony and tonal variation to the Ensembles sound. The keyboard instruments also give the opportunity for the Ensemble to explore melodic percussion repertoire and give extension Ensemble experiences for our Senior piano students.

One instrument can make a significant change to a program and the addition of the Concert Marimba has made that change. Two piano students have now become very involved in Symphony Orchestra, Senior Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble as a result of the purchase of this instrument. The tone of the Marimba adds beautifully to the percussion sections of Senior Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra, allowing a rich range of music to be performed. The Girton Music Department, staff and students, will continue to benefit from this generous purchase. Our thanks go to all in the OGA for their hard work and wonderful support.

Mr. Steve Vine
Head of Music
Girton Grammar School

Winner

Of The Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship

Alexandra Rushan

If someone had asked me 2 years ago where I would be in the year 2012, or where I wanted my life to go in the years to come, I would have responded with complete assurance that I had absolutely no idea. If I could have seen myself and my life two years later, I would not have recognised the person I am today compared to the person I was then. I was perfectly happy letting the days pass by and leaving decisions about the future years until they eventually rolled around.

Today I am less than 3 weeks away from moving to the "big smoke" with Melbourne College life and University staring back at me, and I am literally counting down the days. If there was a way to fast forward this waiting process into something somewhat shorter and faster, I would give anything for it. However, I can't help but wonder how someone who was so unsure can find themselves so determined and certain only 24 months later? How can someone's life aspirations change so drastically and so rapidly?

I began 2010 with the attitude that VCE at Girton was only going to get better, that eventually the long hours of homework, SAC preparation and exam revision would gradually become easier and that I would inevitably grow to love my subjects. As the days passed more slowly, the weeks became longer and the year felt as though it was never going to end. This was a bad thing, until I began to realise that all the things that I didn't enjoy brought me one step closer to finding the things that I did enjoy. Every day became a journey of discovering myself and finding my passions. I began turning every experience into an opportunity to learn about myself and started realising that every thought was creating my future. I began to love where I was heading and could feel my life going through a process of positive change. Before I knew it I was applying for an early offer at the Australian Catholic University of Melbourne (ACU) to study International Development and applying to live at College for the year 2012.

I had always had a strong passion for reducing poverty and travelling to 3rd world countries, and my desire to work in the field of International Human Development only grew stronger as I grew older. I wanted to empower and improve the lives of the world's poorest people. Overseas trips to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and the Solomon Islands only cemented this in my heart. I was accepted

into the course at ACU in October and since that moment I have had my heart and mind deeply set on making a difference in the world, with the dream of one day working for agencies such as World Vision or the United Nations.

By October, school was coming to an end, exams were just around the corner, and the next chapter of my life was about to be written – the hard work was about to pay off. However the end of this chapter also consequently meant an end to the place where I had spent all of my teenage years, made unforgettable memories, ventured on incredible journeys and experiences, learned lessons from the most passionate and dedicated teachers and journeyed alongside my closest friends. Suddenly I didn't want it all to end. Girton and its atmosphere and traditions, the teachers and students, the leadership roles, the genuine acceptance of everyone for who they are, the school and everything that came with it, had made me into the person I was, and the person I am today. For that I will be eternally grateful, and due to the wonderful work of the Old Girtonians' Association (OGA), I will also be eternally connected to this magical place.

Being awarded the OGA Scholarship was a blessing. I appreciate and thank everyone involved in the Association and am honoured to be putting the funds from this Scholarship towards an overseas trip at the end of 2012 to participate in a volunteer aid program. I am so grateful for my time at Girton and am honoured to have a lifelong connection to the School. In the last 12 months I have learnt that it is okay to be a little aimless, because in time everyone will find themselves and the direction that their life should take will fall into place. Through my involvement in the OGA I hope to help many others, like myself, discover themselves and find their true passions. I would like to thank the generosity of wonderful staff who supported me and made my journey so worthwhile.

2011 Aherne House Alumna



Speech Night Awardees for 2011

Gifts awarded by of the Old Girtonians' Association

Dux of Year Three (Shared Equally)

Elliot Beks (3 Millward), **Drew Fitzsimmons** (3 Jones)

Dux of Year Four **Abbey Saxon** (4 Frew)

Dux of Year Five **Nikhil Surapaneni** (5 Jenkin)

Dux of the Junior School **Alexander Nielsen** (6 Millward)

Dux of Year Seven **Hannah Holmes** (7 Riley)

Dux Year Eight **Claudia Crawford** (8 Frew)

Dux of Year Nine **Thomas Duke** (9 Riley)

Dux of Year Ten **Rachael Welling** (10 Aherne)

Dux of Year Eleven **Anusha Jayasekera** (11 Jenkin)



Gifts awarded by the Melbourne Branch of the Old Girtonians' Association

Award for the Performing Arts (in memory of Margot Nolan) **April Garreffa** (11 Aherne)

The June Todd Prize for Excellence in English/Literature (Shared Equally) **Rachel Atkinson** (12 Millward), **Emma Folley** (12 Jenkin)

The Old Girtonians' Association Scholarship to the value of \$2,000 to a departing Year 12 Student

Alexandra Rushan (12 Aherne)

Executive Officers' Report

The Old Girtonians' Association has a strong history with the School since 1914 and now boasts over 1000 members worldwide. Our membership has grown significantly this year with over 90% of these new memberships from our valedictorians of 2011.

The Association provides fellowship and networking opportunities on a global scale. As custodians of the School's history we are committed to supporting the ongoing development of Girton, and ensuring that the OGA remains an integral part of the School.

In May, the OGA made a major acquisition and purchased an Orchestral Marimba for the School. This outstanding musical instrument is a wonderful addition to the Music Department, adding depth and breadth to the Orchestra and their performances. At a cost of \$6000, the OGA is very honoured to have provided the School with a superb instrument that will last for many decades and that many Girtonians will benefit from.

The Annual Reunion Dinner, held in May attracted the highest number of guests on record for many years. In 2011, the OGA

decided to introduce a Five Year Reunion. Over 40% of the 2006 cohort attended their Inaugural Dinner. During the evening, we acknowledged the outstanding work of four staff who have served the School for over 20 years, and who continue to teach, by presenting them with Honourary Associate Life Membership. They include: Mr Rick McWaters, Mrs Liz Tobias, Mrs Viv Bath (McNair) and Mrs Sandra Kroker. We congratulate Mr. Connor Rochford (12 Frew, 2010) and Ms Fiona Heathcote (12 Riley, 2010) as the dual recipients of the Departing Girtonian Scholarship for 2010. These scholarships supported Connor and Fiona in their first year at University in Melbourne, with Connor studying at Monash and Fiona at Melbourne. The popularity of the One Year Reunion held in December in Bendigo was well attended with numbers attending averaging nearly 60% of the cohort.

Facebook, text messaging and email are common place for the OGA now. We have increased our electronic methods of communication and will in 2012 invest a significant amount of human capital in gathering lost past student data for entry into the Schools' new database Synergetic. The School's website has been upgraded and there will be significant changes to the OGA section in 2012.

The OGA again hosted a Year 12 Careers Luncheon where past students, Grant Welling (12 Aherne, 1993), Kym Morey (12 Aherne, 1992) and Sarah Niblock (12 Aherne, 1987) spoke to all of Year 12 about their career pathways.

The Melbourne Branch of the OGA held its Basket Luncheon in May and also celebrated its 80th Anniversary in October. Thank you to the Executive and members who continue to support the sub-branch of the Association.

In addition to these events, the Headmaster's XI Cricket was cancelled owing to inclement weather and will now be held over until October 2012.

All of this wonderful work has not been possible without the efforts of many people. I wish to thank Mrs Helen Wood, Alumni

Officer (maternity leave replacement), the members of the Executive Committee, Mrs Anne McIntosh (nee Johnson - alumna 1994), Mrs Wendy Meehan (nee Pilcher - alumna 1980), Mrs Anita Butters (nee Harvey - alumna 1980) and Mrs Helen Buttolph (nee Vanstan - alumna 1980). After five years working as the Association's Treasurer, Ms Rebecca Paton, (alumna 1987) stood down from this role at the November General Meeting. Rebecca's commitment to the OGA has been unwavering and we wish her the very best for her future endeavours.

I also wish to thank the Executive of the OGA Melbourne Branch led by Ms Judy Robbins - President (Alumna 1975) for their continued dedication to the development of the Melbourne Branch. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the continued interest and support of the Headmaster and the members of the Board. The Board and the School have displayed their ongoing commitment to the Association by announcing an increase in staffing to the Association, with a Development Officer to be recruited in early 2012. They have also allocated an administrative budget to the OGA for the first time, clear indications that the OGA is a valued group within the School community.

2012 will be a year of expansion and development for the OGA. With increased staffing and the administrative budget allocation, coupled with the tireless work of our volunteers, I am certain that much will be achieved. I invite all past Girtonians to consider becoming involved in the Association. With the appointment of the Development Officer in 2012, I shall be stepping down from the role of Executive Officer. I thank the many wonderful people who have made my time so enjoyable. The OGA has a special place in my heart, even though I am not a past Girtonian myself. By coming together may we strengthen our networks and enjoy the fellowship which all Girtonians share.

Mitch Trevena-Vernon (Mrs)
Executive Officer



Please note that the AGM & General Meeting scheduled for Thursday 15th March 2012 has been postponed. New date to be advised.

Headmaster's Report To The OGA

As Alumni, it is important to know what has been happening at your School. The School is not mine or the staffs; our job is to steward it, to leave it better than we found it – to take the torch, hold it high and then pass it on, brighter than ever. I contend that modern Heads must have experimental minds and through experience, wise hearts. From heart to head is a mantra that I repeat with great regularity. It was the first key idea built upon in 2011. In many ways it typifies our culture and our approach to learning. It speaks of the importance of the “way” we are with each other. It is a clear acknowledgement that how we feel about something will dictate how we learn. It helps us understand that emotions are contagious and we must work hard to teach empathy to our young people, for, they will leave us and go into a world where the winds of moral relativism blow. In many ways the choice between right and wrong is easy, but the shades of grey and ambiguity between right and wrong are what our graduates must be able to face. In 2011 I spoke on the theme of happiness. More specifically, when taken in the context of what we want for our children, “happiness” and “choices” are the words used when parents articulate their aspirations for their children to me. What is it then, this thing called happiness and can it be taught? The second

part of the question is yes, because whilst happiness is in part genetic and situational, a significant part can be taught. To answer the first part of the question, I offer simply this: happiness is about relationships, connections, purpose, meaning and choices. It is about respecting the preciousness, equality and fragility of every human life. Given that much human behaviour at the neurobiological and hormonal level is automatic, we have to teach Girtonians to make default responses which are rooted in human decency not expedience. Our burgeoning work on teaching emotional literacy is very promising. Our three staff who went to Yale are continuing to improve and innovate in this area. I trust you will see how this key idea of “heart to head,” is enacted. Be it in curriculum design and delivery, knowledge management – (new website or our new Synergetic database), review of our Co-Curriculum, introduction of our Early Commencement Programme, our service-learning continuum, DGR scholarship and new buildings – all are tiles which in concert make up the mosaic that is Girton Grammar

School Bendigo. Relationships and relationship centred learning are at the core of our Mission and Values.

My contention is that we have continued to build on the fine very work of those who have gone before, but there is much, much more to be achieved on behalf of our students past and present.

Matthew F. Maruff
Headmaster



Financial Report

Finances in 2011 for the OGA were pleasing. Our income was just over \$28,000 with a closing bank balance at the end of 2011 of \$16,596.79. The closing balance was lower in 2011 owing to the Association making a substantial donation to the School in the form of an Orchestral Marimba valued at \$6000 and because in 2011 there were two Year 12 students awarded with a “Departing Girtonian Scholarship” valued at \$2000 each, as opposed to one recipient in previous years. Additional income was generated by investing funds that were not required for day to day operational expenses in Term Deposits which for 2011 totaled \$644.11.

Retaining surplus funds not only ensured the ongoing financial viability of the OGA but also ensured that we continued to support Girton via donations, such as:

- Sponsorship of Annual Speech Night Dux Prizes of \$1,000.00
- Continuing to provide a gift of a personalised Farewell Coffee Mug to each Departing Year 12 student
- Supporting the “One Year Reunion”
- Supporting the Headmaster's X1 Cricket Match - which owing to inclement weather, was postponed with costs associated with the event being carried across to support the 2012 Match scheduled for early October.

It is planned that in 2012 the Association will be investing in updated signage and banners in order to promote the OGA at various events throughout the year and to help secure our branding within the School community.

98 students or 88.3% of 2011 Year 12s took up Life Membership - compared to 94 (85.5%) in 2010. A number of past students not from the 2011 Year 12 cohort also joined the Association which is promising.

Overall Life Membership currently stands at 1175. To break the 1000 membership mark is a great achievement. With the introduction of an excellent data management system by the School in May 2011, the Association will benefit greatly as we now have the capacity to capture far more data to help us reconnect and build on the relationships we share with our past students and staff.

Thank you to the School's Business Office staff who help us process Life Membership payments and for continuing to support the Association by accepting payment for events by credit card. This makes it much easier for people to make plans to attend events.



In closing, I thank Rebecca Paton for her dedication and commitment to the Association in her official capacity as Treasurer for the past five years. Rebecca formally stood down as Treasurer on 31st December 2011 and the Association has been guided in all matters financial, both professionally and competently during her time as Treasurer. I also thank the Headmaster, the School and the Business Office for their continued support of our financial processes.

Should anyone have any queries regarding the financial position of the Association, please do not hesitate to contact me via the School on 5441 3114 or email mitchtrevena-vernon@girton.vic.edu.au.

Mitch Trevena-Vernon
Executive Officer

Melbourne OGA Report

A delightful afternoon was enjoyed by many Old Girtonians', Saturday 15th October at St Dunstan's Church, Camberwell to celebrate the Melbourne Branch 80th Anniversary.

The inaugural meeting was held Wednesday, 29th July 1931 at 3.15pm with 23 people present, marking the beginning of the Melbourne Branch of an Association that now continues to meet at least twice per year, eighty years later.

Over 50 people attended, representing all decades. The 80th celebration was opened with a prayer from Reverend Elizabeth Alfred.

Introduced by Mitch Trevena-Vernon, Year 11 students, James Mawby (Year 11 Jenkin), Jesse Jackson (Year 11 Frew) and Anusha Jayasekera (Year 11 Jenkin) shared their experiences of their current schooling at Girton.

Mr Matthew Maruff, Headmaster, congratulated the group on its longevity and gave a short address.

Past students, Henry Ngo (2008 Year 12 Frew) and Fenella Wagener (2008 Year 12 Jenkin) proposed a toast, then everyone joined in a rousing rendition of the school song, followed by Grace from Bess Daly and a sumptuous afternoon tea.

For some it was the first time to re-connect with Girtonians since their last days as a student. There are many old Girtonians who have contributed to the longevity of the Melbourne Branch. Eighty years of continuous functions and meetings of old Girtonians is a long time in any history book. It is not only to those who initiated the beginning of this branch but the many who have ensured the original reason for meeting has been continued. Past Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Committee members attended the celebration. This was an opportunity to thank those who have given the purpose and continuity, which have resulted in the Melbourne branch of the Old Girtonians celebrating 80 years.

Thank you to all who attended the afternoon and we were sorry many were not able to be with us but who sent their wishes.

The Basket Luncheon is one of the annual functions, hosted by Janice Maddern. For those who attended, Girton's Headmaster, Matthew Maruff, spoke of his first year at the School, the achievements of the students and the school community.

Our second annual function for the year was the Annual General Meeting and afternoon tea. This function was, as usual, hosted by Judy Appleton, daughter of Lady Townsend (Jean Smythe 1932). It was held in the same venue as the 70th celebration, at St Dunstan's Church, Camberwell, to accommodate the larger number of Old Girtonians in attendance.

The Melbourne Branch continues to support the Girton academic program with Speech Night Awards. These are 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.

We are grateful for the ongoing support by Girton Grammar School and the Bendigo Branch of the Old Girtonians. We thank Mitch Trevena-Vernon, Community Relations Manager and Executive Officer of the OGA, for her continued support of the Melbourne Branch and keeping our members up-to-date with Girton's news and invitations to many functions. Our thanks also to Helen Wood for the assistance she provides in support of the Melbourne Branch activities.

The coordination by Hilary Salmon (née Ward - alumna 1969), the Branch Secretary, ensures the smooth running of our functions and I give a special thank you to Hilary for the success of the 80th celebration. Hilary arranged the details and, with the help of the committee members made the day a great success.

Cheryl Payne (née Hickson - alumna 1973) has been a significant part of the Melbourne Branch over the years recording branch history. It was with Cheryl's knowledge of our history and commitment to the Melbourne branch that we were able to arrange the same venue as for the 70th celebration.

The Melbourne OGA Committee – 2012

President:

Judy Robbins (1975)

Vice-President:

Cheryl Payne (nee Hickson -1973)

Secretary:

Hilary Salmon (nee Ward - 1969)

Asst Secretary: Jo White

Treasurer:

Yvonne Osborn (nee Hickson -1970)

Committee

Kath Bentley

Ekko Mitchell

Lorraine Webster

Sue Fairbairn

Jenni Rutherford

Dates for 2012 are planned as follows

Basket Luncheon

Saturday 12th May, midday, at the home of Janice Madden (Knight), 91 Rose Street, Armadale

The AGM and Afternoon Tea

Saturday 13th October, 1.30pm at Judy Appleton's, 13 Burgess Street, Hawthorn East.

Cheryl and her sister Yvonne Osborn (née Hickson - alumna 1970), produced a booklet, representing each decade of our 80 years for the celebration for those in attendance to reflect and learn of the times past. Thank you to Yvonne Osborn, Branch Treasurer, for collaborating with Cheryl.

The current Committee Members are thanked for their ongoing commitment.

We look forward to sharing the years to come with you at our annual functions.

If further information is required contact Judy Robbins (President) 03 98131383 or robbsinj@bigpond.net.au

Chairman's Report

This year marks the 20th year of Girton Grammar School Bendigo. Milestones present us with a time to both celebrate and to honour our founders and predecessors. We acknowledge the rich and enduring inheritance that we have received both from Girton College and Girton Grammar School.

With our fast moving society it is very easy to look for, and move onto, the next experience and in so doing overlook and not capture the significance of the moment.

The evidence is that Girton has been a successful educator over an extended period of time. But what is the defining feature of Girton when compared to other schools? Is it our campus, our curriculum, or our culture?

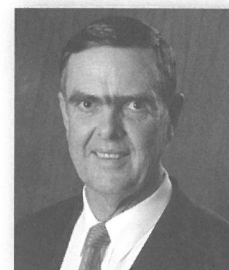
Our campus is excellent and well maintained by both students and staff. But that is so with many schools. We offer a well balanced curriculum, but so do many schools.

I believe that it is our culture which differentiates Girton from other schools. Our culture was created by our founders and has been embraced by each successive generation. Cultures do not just happen, they take many years of vision, commitment and hard work to form.

Girton Grammar was founded on three pillars: independence, pursuing excellence and Christian beliefs, values and behaviour.

As result of the leadership of our founders, the Girton community is characterized by

- vision and hope
- people being affirmed and empowered
- confidence and a sense of achievement



It is these qualities that make Girton the vibrant community that is today. This is why we continue to celebrate our beginnings, to honour our founders and the many who have gone before us. We cherish the inheritance that they have left us.

Don Naunton
Chair

2011 Reunion Dinner



Melbourne Branch 80th Anniversary



Melbourne Branch Basket Luncheon



Staff reminisce as the Old Girtonians' Association recognises their work with Honorary Associate Life Membership

Who would have thought it? My 23rd year at Girton. Gone in a blink.

So many hats have been worn in my time here. Lots of teaching experiences, each one leaving a footprint. At Girton College it was Years 5 and 6, interspersed with Junior School Library. A bit of Soccer and Twilight Cricket after school, and always entrenched in the yellow house, Aherne. Then, at Girton Grammar, my first eleven years were in Year 6. 6D for 'Delightful' we used to say. Years filled with kickball, (victories against 6M), camps at Tarragon Lodge, Tournament of the Minds and then Aherne became green.

In 2005 I embraced an opportunity to cross the road and teach in Senior School. What a wonderful chance to explore new things. History, Geography, English, Mathematics and Personal Development. A move from Aherne House to Riley. Volleyball on Thursday nights instead of Sunday afternoon. Textiles replacing Tournament of Minds. Camp Howqua. World Challenge to Vietnam. So much variety.

One profession but many experiences. How many other people have the chance to dabble in such a variety of activities in their job? There has never been a dull moment at Girton. I remember clearly the pet python we 'minded' in our classroom for a while, volunteers feeding him an occasional mouse. And the pet rhinoceros cockroaches we had for months, until the bitter winter reminded us that they hate the cold. Then there was the ferret that ran across the music room during class. And the new student from Saudi Arabia who raced outside during a rainstorm to jump in the puddles and get wet, because she hadn't seen rain for so long. And the student who at the end of a visiting author's presentation, in question time, asked for his phone number because she liked him so much. And the time a student bought his tool kit to school as his desk squeaked and he wanted to fix it himself. How lucky am I to have a job which offers such a feast of experiences.

I cannot believe it has gone so quickly. The blink of an eye. I am only reminded how many years it has been when I now see the children of ex-students entering Junior School.

A whole new generation of memory makers.

Liz Tobias

In 1991 as a family we made a tree change to Bendigo, having worked in Melbourne at a School that closed for economic reasons. Having enjoyed 12 months of country lifestyle and the wonderful atmosphere of Girton College, I again found myself without a job. As a family we were swept up in the "Friends of Girton" and the community passion to rebuild "the Phoenix". At a recent Assembly to celebrate the start of the 20th year of Girton Grammar School, it was wonderful to see the passion and pride of our founding friends as they returned to the scene of their triumph.

My wife Louise and I took charge of the Girton Grammar Boarding House in 1993 where we



Group photo of Honorary Associate Life Members receiving their Certificates at the 2011 Reunion Dinner. From left to right: Liz Tobias, Viv Bath, Sandra Kroker, Rick McWaters.

worked for three years. Since that time I have worked as Head of Sport, Head of Riley House and my current position as Head of Pastoral Care. I have also been a parent of the School with my three children (Simon - Alumnus 1993, Caitie - Alumna 2005 and Richie - Alumnus 2006). I have thoroughly enjoyed this time and value highly the input of my colleagues in this journey, in particular our founding Head Mr Clayton Jones OAM, and the current Headmaster Mr Maruff.

Last year I was honoured to receive Honorary Associate Life Membership to the OGA. It reinforced the sense of family and community

which is one of the Hallmarks of this School, made even more special with some of the students from my first year at Girton at the Reunion Dinner. I believe that Girton is a source of inspiration and lifelong learning to all members of its community; students, staff and parents. I have made many lifelong friends through this time and I look forward to making many more in the years to come.

Rick McWaters

Revd. Elizabeth Alfred, 1929 Alumna

Revd. Elizabeth Alfred was a member of the first group of women to be ordained in the Anglican Diocese. Now 97 years old, Elizabeth continues her work within the ministry when the opportunity arises. Elizabeth now resides on the Mornington Peninsula. It was an honour to have Elizabeth present at the 80th Anniversary of the Melbourne Branch in October 2011 as the oldest living member of the Association. It was wonderful to have Elizabeth cut the cake and deliver a blessing to celebrate such a special occasion.

In July 2011 when interviewed by "The Melbourne Anglican" and asked what her message would be to young women entering the priesthood today she replied:

"I am so thankful that God called me to be His servant, and that He has been with me through my journey of so many years. May God be with you through your ministry and may you experience that happiness which comes from His abiding presence with you".



Girton Friendships Span the Globe

In 2009 I completed my VCE and in the following year began a 3 year Bachelor of Accounting course at La Trobe University's Bendigo Campus.

After just one year of study, in December 2010, I received a letter that gave me the opportunity to apply for the International Network of Universities Targeted Travelling Scholarship. This scholarship effectively paid for a semester of study abroad. The initial application process included an essay based around why you think you should be awarded the scholarship, along with academic and personal references.

Success in the early stages meant that I was onto the next hurdle which was an interview at the Bundoora campus of La Trobe. That must have gone well because a week later I received acceptance into the Program for Second Semester 2011.

Even though I had been accepted into the Exchange Program I was still eagerly awaiting confirmation of my place from my chosen host institution which was the University of Leicester. This didn't arrive until June, which meant that I (and my parents) had a nervous wait. When the acceptance did arrive lots of planning had to be done including: the approval for all my subjects at the University of Leicester; selecting accommodation and booking places on tours arranged by the University of Leicester and the travel I planned on doing myself afterwards.

Finally, on September 10th I was on my way to the UK, about to have the time of my life! On arrival in London, I spent a week with my sister (who lives in London) and the second week was spent on the London Orientation Tour organised by the University of Leicester for International Students. This was a great way to meet lots of new people from around the world, some of whom I would later end up living with for 3 months. We toured the major sights of London and took a tour through Oxford University and Stratford Upon Avon (the home of Shakespeare). The first week at Leicester was the International Students Welcome programme which gave an overall introduction to the University. There were also activities aimed at encouraging people to get to know each other. It was at one of those activities that I met my (about to become) best exchange friend who is from Florida, USA. The next couple of weeks were spent settling into our accommodation, getting to know the house mates, registering and getting used to Leicester life. My accommodation had breakfast and



dinner included (a great bonus) and there was a bus directly to the University. So, no troubles getting to and from class and no need to worry about cooking.

After I was settled in I spent every second or third weekend away from Leicester; even taking a week off to spend with my cousin (who had just finished VCE at Girton). I managed a trip to Wales and another to Scotland. The train system in the UK makes it easy to travel to pretty much anywhere you want. I could have travelled more than I did but I so enjoyed the people that I was living with, that I didn't feel the need.

I did feel under pressure as my time at Leicester came to an end and assessment tasks had to be completed. After my essays were completed I was lucky enough to have a couple of days when it snowed. I spent Christmas and New Year with my sister and a couple of weekends away with people I had met at Leicester.

In the first week of the new year two of my friends arrived, one of them being Meghan, also from Girton, and we were off on a 12 day whirlwind Contiki tour of Europe, starting from London, going up through Amsterdam, down to Munich, via Austria, spending four days in Italy (I loved Venice) and then through Switzerland to Paris for two days. We had incredible fun and saw and experienced so many amazing things none of us will forget.

Now I'm home to complete my last year of university. I have the travel bug and hopefully will be going on another trip overseas at the end of the year, before moving onto life after university!

Ellen Butters
2009 Frew House Alumna



When the OGA approached me to write an article for the newsletter, I could not believe it has been five years since I left school. I think the most important thing I have learnt since leaving school, is that Year 12 is not 'the final year', but life begins once you leave school.

I have learnt so much over the past five years. It has been a time of finding your way, working for a living, and finding your place in society. Upon leaving school, I began a Bachelor in Psychological Science at La Trobe Bendigo. I completed my degree in 2010, and began reflecting on what I wanted to do with my career. My goal has always been to help people and make an impact on some one's life, by empowering them to make steps towards their future.

For the past 12 months, I have been working at St Luke's in Bendigo as a Foster Care Case Manager. I work with vulnerable young people who are currently residing in Home Based Care. These young people and their families are at their most vulnerable stage when I begin working with them. Since starting this job, my knowledge has grown enormously. The experiences within this job are something that, have not been a part of my childhood. However, the most rewarding aspect is when families see possibilities emerge. This is why my job is so rewarding.

Now that it has been five years since we have left school, it will be a great opportunity to all catch up at the Five Year Reunion Dinner.

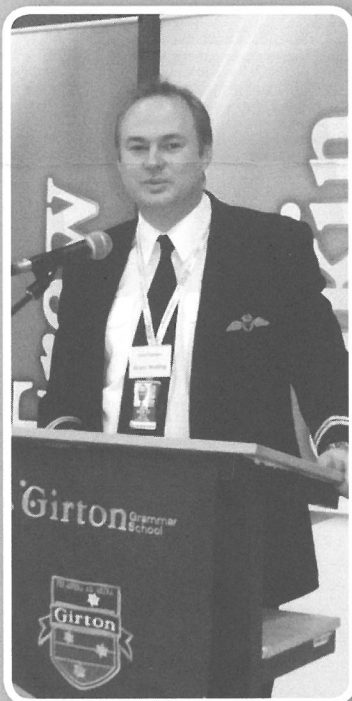
Phalen Taylor
2007 Aherne House Alumna



Careers Luncheon

On Friday 24th June 2011, the OGA held the Year 12 Careers Luncheon in the Girton Grammar School Bendigo Gymnasium. In its third year, 111 students and 15 guests including Board Members, Staff and three guest speakers attended the Luncheon.

This Luncheon would not have been possible without the generous support of our guest speakers on the day (profiles below). They volunteered their time to share with our students their life journeys since becoming Old Girtonians and we thank them for their involvement.



Grant Welling

Grant successfully completed his VCE at Girton Grammar School in our Foundation Year of 1993. He was an Aherne House student and was a Senior Prefect during this time.

After leaving Girton he worked in the kitchen at Clogs Restaurant for a year, so that he could earn the money to attain his Commercial Pilots Licence. Once Grant gained his Licence he then worked at Bendigo Aviation Services for 5 years as a Flying Instructor.

In 1999, Grant went on to work for 2 years flying regional airline Turboprop Aircraft in Perth and Papua New Guinea before joining Qantas in 2001. Grant continues to fly the Qantas Boeing 747 Aircraft on International Flights to this day.

Grant's sister, step-daughter and step-son are currently students of Girton Grammar School.

Kym Morey

Kym is a past student of Girton who completed Year 12 in the final year of Girton College in 1992. She was a member of Aherne House and was a Prefect in Year 12.

Kym went on to study at La Trobe University in Melbourne, undertaking a four year degree in Occupational Therapy.

After graduating Kym travelled extensively, and has worked as an Occupational Therapist in Queensland, NSW, Scotland, England, America and Melbourne. Four years ago Kym finally came back to Bendigo where she works privately at the Bendigo Hospital as a Hand Therapist who specialises in rehabilitation of hand injuries and surgery.

Kym is mother to Skye who is in Prep at Girton and Ruben who is 2 years old.



Sarah Niblock

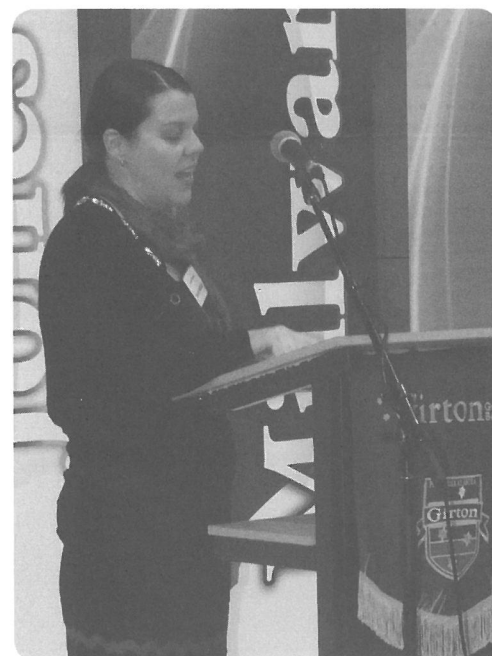
Sarah is a past student of Girton College who was a keen member of Aherne House. She successfully completed her HSC in 1987.

Sarah went on to study Arts at Monash Gippsland with a double major in English and Psychology. Following this Sarah completed her Honors in English Literature at Monash, Clayton. After a year of travelling overseas and another year of doing odd jobs (one of which was window washing on street corners); Sarah moved to Darwin where she completed her Diploma of Education. After moving to an Aboriginal Community on Elcho Island – Galiwinku, Sarah moved back to Darwin and completed a Graduate Diploma in Applied Psychology (counseling) and registered as a Psychologist.

Since then, Sarah has held various positions in her field. Some of which include working in child protection, a Women's Refuge, a School Psychologist, a Psychologist with the Melbourne Assessment Prison; at the Salvation Army assisting the homeless and working at the County and Magistrates Court with the Department of Justice.

Sarah has more recently worked with the Department of Human Services as the Senior Psychologist, working with serious offenders with Disabilities. She is currently working at the Youth Prison in Parkville with young people with disabilities in custody.

Sarah also somehow managed to find the time to get married 3 years ago.



Honorary Associate Life Members 2011

Mrs Viv Bath

Mrs Sandra Kroker

Mr Rick McWaters

Mrs Liz Tobias

New Life Members 2011

Rachel Akers (Alumna 2007)

Sarah Akers (Alumna 2005)

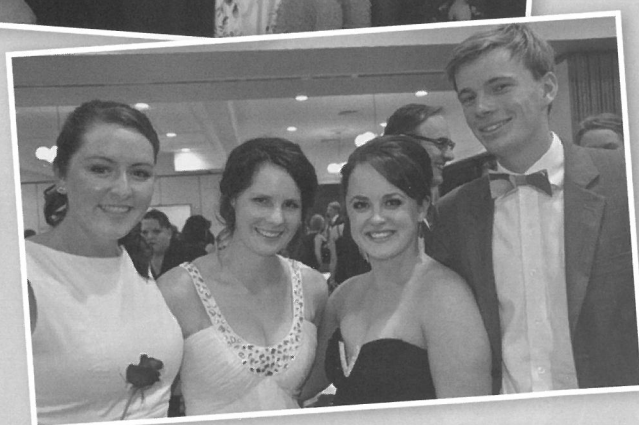
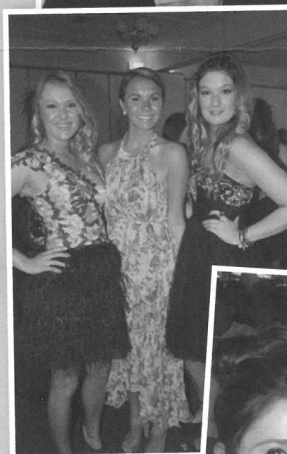
*Rachel and Sarah now residing in the
United States of America*

Matthew Iser (Alumnus 1993)

Dylan Rochford (Alumnus 2010)

Year 12 2011 Life Members

John Allengame, Amy Andrews, Dean Armstrong, Mitchell Arrowsmith, Rachael Atkinson, Saimone Babitu, Brianna Bacon, Alice Baker, Benjamin Barr, Ashley Baxter, Sophie Beckerleg, David Blades, Joshua Boak, Nicholas Borowiecki, Alexia Boyd, Felicity Brennan-Tong, Verity Bright, Peter Brooke, Jack Bullen, Rachel Carr, Alexander Chan, Amelia Chiappazzo, Zachary Clarke, Melanie Clode, Abbey Cochrane, Hanna Crothers, Emily Cunning, Jackson Dargaville, Lachlan De Araugo, Kirstie Dolman, Molly Driscoll, Jesse Fox, Jason Friesen, Sarah Gervasoni, Brigid Glaisher, Paige Gordon, Hannah Gould, Corey Greenham, Emily Griffin, Laura Hanson, Sarah Harvey, Kiran Hebbar, Bernadette Hermens, Coen Heslop, Harry Higgs, Victoria Hommelhoff, Arishka Hooke, Isobel Horne, Ishak Issa, Sarah James, Elizabeth Jenkins, Lauren Jennings, Athul John, Katherine Johns, Isabella Johnston, Axel Kerr, Emma Ketterer, Matthew Kirby, Briony Langdale, Morgan Lees, Ryan Lethlean, Aurora Liddell, Ashlee Loughnane, Claudia Lyons, Brinly McCredan, Scott McDonald, Chloe McKenzie, Katherine McMillan, Joshua McPherson, Toni Meehan, Kelsey Moir, Jack Moller, Rose Morgan, Sarah Nancarrow, Madeline Niemann, Bethany Porter, Kathleen Powell, Laura Roberts, Jessica Robertson, Kelsey Rochford, Alexandra Rushan, Audrey Scott, Sophie Steele, Sophie Stewart, Andrew Stockwell, Theja Surapaneni, Bianca Szekely, Madeline Tucker, Kirby Vearing, Charles Walker, Phoebe Watson, Clare Wilson-Weir, Alexander Whitehead, Darian Winspear.



'One Year Out' Reunion

Friday 16th December saw the First Reunion for the Year 12 Class of 2010, one year into life out in the big wide world. On the day when the current Year 12 students learnt of their results, more than forty now Old Girtonians met to share food, drinks and stories about their first year of university, work, travelling, or a combination of all three.

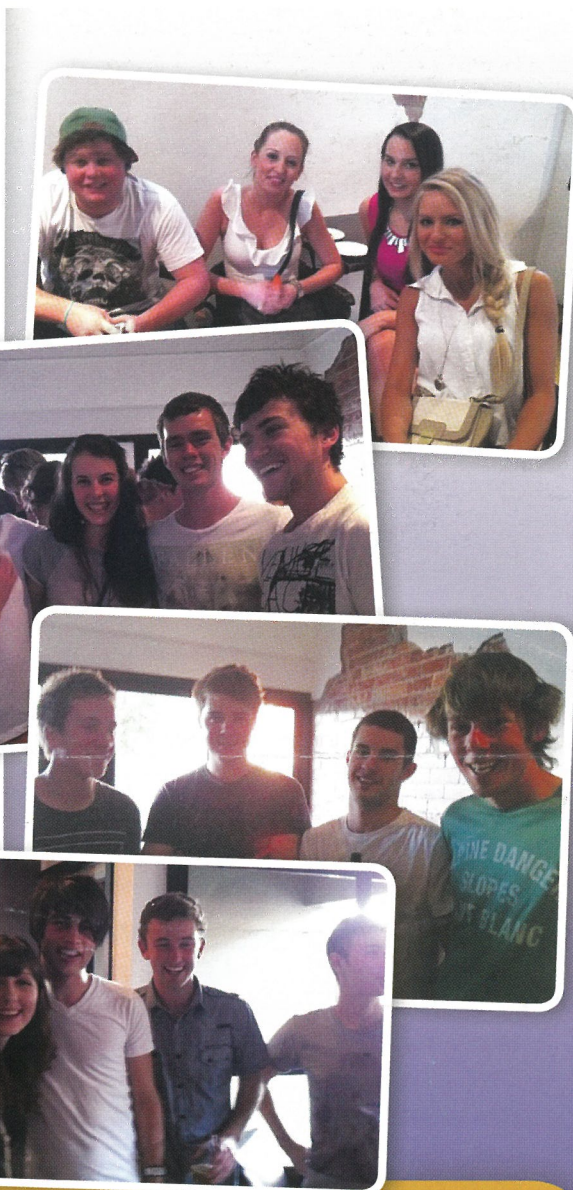
Many had gone on to pursue further education at Universities or TAFEs, and there was a broad range of experiences, with some delighted with their degree choices while others were exploring changes for next year. Comparisons of college and residential life on University campuses around the country also proved a popular topic of conversation, with many elected into leadership positions for their second year.

Others had taken the year off to work, saving money for travelling or the move out of home for University next year. Among the absences were those currently travelling, spread across the globe from South America to South East Asia.

In some ways it felt as though the past year had flown, with many reminiscing how it felt like only yesterday that their results were released, with the implications leading them to where they spent one of the most exciting years of their lives. But the adventures of the past year also gave a sense of the growth and experiences of life outside of school, and how far they had travelled as young adults.

The effort of bringing together young people scattered across not only Victoria but also Australia cannot be underestimated, and on behalf of all those who attended I would like to thank the Old Girtonians' Association for organising the event. The evening was a fantastic experience to catch up with friends on the past year, away from the hectic lifestyle of University or work, and set up more occasions in the future before the Five Year Reunion inevitably rolls swiftly around.

Fiona Heathcote
2010 Riley House Alumna



Calendar of Events 2012

We look forward to catching up with you at one of the great events.

For further information please contact:

The Old Girtonians' Association
105 MacKenzie Street,
Bendigo, Victoria 3550
Telephone: (03)5441 3114
Email: oga@girton.vic.edu.au

Saturday 17th March	Tour of Girton Grammar School Commencing 105 MacKenzie Street Entrance, 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Saturday 17th March	Annual Reunion Dinner Platinum Room, Foundry Hotel Complex, 366 High Street, Bendigo, 6.00pm for 7.00pm start
Friday 4th May	Foundation Day Service Sacred Heart Cathedral, 5.45pm for 6.00pm start
Saturday 12th May	Melbourne Branch Basket Luncheon At the home of Janice Madden, 91 Rose Street, Armadale, 12 noon
Thursday 31st May	General Meeting Performing Arts Board Room (Vine Street Entrance), 6.00pm
Friday 22nd June	Careers Luncheon Girton Grammar School Bendigo Gymnasium, 1.00pm
Thursday 30th August	General Meeting Performing Arts Board Room (Vine Street Entrance), 6.00pm
Friday 5th October	Headmaster's X1 Twilight Cricket Match Details to be advised
Saturday 13th October	Melbourne Branch Annual General Meeting At the home of Judy Appleton, 13 Burgess Street. Hawthorn 3123, 1.30pm
Thursday 22nd November	General Meeting Performing Arts Board Room (Vine Street Entrance), 6.00pm
Tuesday 4th December	Carol Service Various Churches, 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 6th December	Speech Night Bendigo Stadium, Marong Road, 6.00pm
Friday 14th December	Year 12 "2011" One Year Out Reunion Rifle Brigade Hotel, 137 View Street, Bendigo, 6.00pm – 8.00pm



Postal Address

Old Girtonians' Association
c/- 105 MacKenzie Street, BENDIGO VIC 3550

Telephone (03) 5441 3114

Email oga@girton.vic.edu.au **Website** www.girton.vic.edu.au