

Old Girls' Club

Newsletter

May 2022

WARM GREETINGS FROM THE OLD GIRLS' CLUB

Dear Old Girls

After a turbulent couple of years, it has been wonderful to be able to get out and about again. I hope that you have all been keeping well during this challenging time and that you were able to enjoy some time with your friends and family during the Easter break.

We are delighted to have a number of events coming up over the next few months, including the 2022 Reunion, Remarkable Women Gala and our AGM. We are so excited that our Old Girl community can come together at the School once more and we look forward to the connection and networking opportunities these events will bring.

We encourage you to come along to our upcoming AGM on 17 May and share your ideas with us. We also have opportunities to join the committee and grow your skills in event coordination and social media management. If you would like to attend the AGM, or would like more information on committee roles, please get in touch with me at oldgirlspresident@mentonegirls.vic.edu.au.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Old Girls' Club newsletter with updates on what is happening at Mentone Girls' Grammar, upcoming event dates to mark in your calendar and a profile on Old Girl, Jennifer Down (Class of 2008).

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Our Old Girls are such a treasured part of our School culture and heritage and we love keeping in touch!

Have your contact details changed? Please visit www.mentonegirls.vic.edu.au/community/old-girls-club/ or call the Community Engagement office on **9581 1200** to update your details.

Best wishes and stay well!



Michaela Rowland (Class of 2015)

President



EST. 1899
MENTONE GIRLS'
GRAMMAR



REMARKABLE WOMEN GALA 2022

You are invited to attend this year's Remarkable Women Gala, which proudly acknowledges Old Girls who have made an outstanding contribution to their field.

We are thrilled to welcome Old Girl Natalie Box as MC for the evening. Join us as we induct three incredible women into the Remarkable Women Hall of Fame. Keep an eye on our social pages, where these women will be featured over the coming weeks.

When: Friday 3 June, 2022, 6:45pm-10:30pm

Where: Encore, St Kilda

Limited spots available!

Tickets are available via the website now.

OLD GIRLS' CLUB 2022 REUNION

We are delighted to announce that the Old Girls' Club 2022 Reunion date has been set for Saturday 14 May.

This year, we will be welcoming those who graduated in the following years:

2017|2012|2007|2002|1997|1992|1987|1982|1977|1972|1967|1962

We warmly invite you to join us for this opportunity to reconnect with dear friends over canapés and refreshments and tour the campus.

Tickets are available via the website now.

AQUATICS CENTRE

The Mentone Girls' Grammar Aquatic Centre is open to the public for swimming lessons. With a variety of programs on offer that cater to boys and girls from 12 months old to adults, anyone can dive in! All 'Learn to Swim' instructors are AUSTSWIM qualified and are dedicated to boosting your child's confidence in and around the water. With small class sizes, these lessons are designed to develop your child's aquatic skills and confidence in an enjoyable, supportive environment.

Book in for a lesson today: www.mentonegirls.vic.edu.au/aquatic-centre

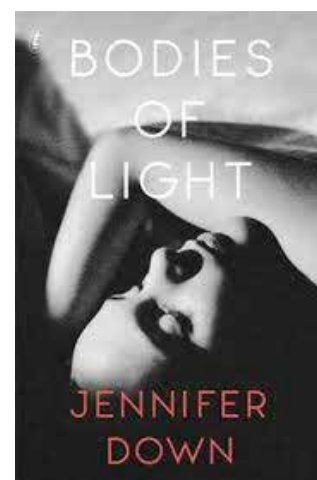
SCHOLARS' ASSEMBLY

The School held its inaugural Scholars' Assembly in Term 1. Class of 2021 Scholars Natalie Stutz (Dux), Maeve MacRedmond (Dux Secundus) and Charlotte Ryan spoke to the students about what success means to them and how to define it. As educators, success means providing our students with a sense of purpose, meaning and belonging, which in turn will lead to hope. With the power of hope, our students can find their place in the world, catalyse change and make a difference for themselves and for others. We thank our scholars for their valuable messages. We hope that our students will challenge themselves, continue to question, be brave and find what lights them up.



OLD GIRL SPOTLIGHT - JENNIFER DOWN

Old Girl Jennifer Down (Class of 2008) has become one of the writers defining her generation after being shortlisted for the Stella Prize 2022 with her latest novel *Bodies of Light*. As a prolific writer and editor, her work has appeared in *The Age*, *Saturday Paper*, *Australian Book Review* and *Literary Hub*. She was named a *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Novelist of the Year consecutively in 2017 and 2018. *Our Magic Hour*, her debut novel, was shortlisted for the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for an unpublished manuscript. Her second book, *Pulse Points*, was the winner of the 2018 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction and the 2018 Steele Rudd Award for a Short Story Collection in the Queensland Literary Awards, and was shortlisted for a 2018 NSW Premier's Literary Award.



Jennifer Down's third book is *Bodies of Light*, which tells the tale of a quiet, small-town existence. An unexpected Facebook message, jolting her back to the past. A history she's reluctant to revisit: dark memories and unspoken trauma, warning knocks on bedroom walls, unfathomable loss. She became a new person a long time ago. What happens when buried stories are dragged into the light?

This epic novel from the two-time *Sydney Morning Herald* Young Novelist of the Year is a masterwork of tragedy and heartbreak—the story of a life in full. Sublimely wrought in devastating detail, *Bodies of Light* confirms Jennifer Down as one of the writers defining her generation.

“This is an ambitious novel, spanning decades and locales, that sees Down demonstrate her imaginative range and take risks following the success of her previous two books,” told a Judge's Report.

“It's rare an author who can turn trauma into beauty.” – James Blackwell, *Overland Literary Journal*

Watch Jennifer Down discuss *Bodies of Light* on 'Writers on Film' via Melbourne Writers Festival.

YEAR 12 PLEDGE ASSEMBLY

Year 12 leaders formally accepted their roles at the Year 12 Pledge and Leadership Induction assembly earlier this year.

Old Girl, and Remarkable Women Hall of Fame inductee, Kate Summers (Class of 1979) attended the assembly and shared her remarkable story of pursuing a career in engineering—a primarily male dominated industry. Kate has spent much of her career contributing to the success of renewable energy in Australia, explaining to the girls, “To me, engineering must now find ways to work with the Earth and not against it, and women must contribute significantly to bringing the civilising influence to humankind's endeavours. The passion I have for helping to build a more sustainable power system energises me to overcome barriers that I might face as a woman.”

Thank you Kate for providing such an inspirational and memorable message to our students.



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIRLS

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Enrolment Manager, Kylie McBride. If you would like to explore how your daughter can achieve her best at Mentone Girls' Grammar, please contact Kylie by email: kmcbride@mentonegirls.vic.edu.au or telephone: **9581 1231**.

From Early Learning to Year 12, Mentone girls are encouraged to find their voice and use it to make a real difference to the people and environment around them. With small class sizes within a community-focused School, our girls are known, seen and heard every day and are given the best possible start in taking a leap towards their future.

Daughters and granddaughters of Old Girls have the \$1000 Admission Fee rebated against Term 1 fees in their year of entry.



2022 OLD GIRLS' EVENTS

Please save the following dates for these upcoming events.		
Monday 9 May 2022	Year 7 Focus Tour	Register via website
Saturday 14 May 2022	Old Girls Reunion - Milestone Years	Register via website
Friday 3 June 2022	2022 Remarkable Women Gala (St Kilda)	Tickets available via website
Friday 29 July 2022	Year 9/10 Focus Tour	Register via website
Friday 26 August 2022	Sydney Reunion	Sydney - TBA
Wednesday 31 August 2022	Junior School Tour	Register via website
Saturday 10 September 2022	ELC Tour	Register via website
Thursday 6 October 2022	OGC Yr 12 Information Afternoon Tea	The Rose
Thursday 20 October 2022	50+ Years On Reunion	Details to come
Friday 16 December 2022	Past Staff Christmas Luncheon	The Rose

2022 MEETINGS

2022 Old Girls' Club meetings take place at Mentone Girls' Grammar from 6.30pm-8.00pm.		
Tuesday 17 May 2022	OGC AGM / General Meeting	The Rose
Tuesday 7 June 2022	OGC General Meeting	Board Room
Tuesday 23 August	OGC General Meeting	Board Room
Tuesday 11 October	OGC General Meeting	Board Room

If you would like to find out more about our upcoming events, or are interested in joining the Old Girls' Club Committee, please contact the Community Engagement team at community@mentonegirls.vic.edu.au or on **9581 1200**.