

Old Girls' Club

Newsletter

September 2022

WITH MANY THANKS

After four wonderful years as president of the Old Girls' Club, I have made the decision to step down from this position. During my time as president, I have been supported by a warm, intelligent and creative OGC committee, who have been incredibly generous with their time, ideas, insights and have been instrumental in ensuring the success of the club.

We have seen the opening of the Aquatic Centre, farewelled a long standing leader and welcomed a new principal, celebrated our incredible school, seen the rise of Zoom meetings and the subsequent return of in person events. There has been plenty going on and it's been such a delight to connect with and learn from generations of Mentone Girls.



I want to thank our Old Girls and the broader school community for their support of our club. The last few years have highlighted the importance of strong connections and it's been wonderful to see our alumni providing this support to so many in both personal and professional capacities. That said, I am excited to announce that Courtney Walsh (Class of 2019) has taken over the role of President of the Old Girls' Club. Courtney brings fresh ideas and a new perspective to the role and I look forward to supporting her in this position.

Michaela Rowland, President 2018-2022

FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

When I graduated from Mentone Girls' Grammar in 2019, I didn't anticipate that three years later I would be President of the Old Girls' Club. I am so grateful for this opportunity; to once again be able to serve the School and surrounding community. I would like to extend a warm thanks to past president Michaela Rowland for her unwavering support during this transition and to the OGC committee members for their warm welcome.

The curriculum at Mentone Girls' Grammar, including my tenure as Environment Captain and my involvement in the hockey and swimming teams, helped prepare me for post-school life. I have since studied a Bachelor of Science at Monash, and taken on part-time jobs as a Dental Nurse and Disability Support Worker. I cherished my time at the School, as not only did I make friends I hope to have for life, but I became part of a community of individuals connected by the shared values of kindness, verity and female empowerment.



The Old Girls' Club aims to support and link our over 7,000 alumni, located around the world, providing not only the resources to reconnect with the School, but also the opportunity to reminisce on their formative years. In the future, I would like to see the Old Girls' Club assist current students and recent graduates in career progression, as a way to link students with like-minded alumni as mentors. Another priority of the Old Girls' Club is assisting the graduating class in their transition from Year 12 to adulthood, and life outside of high school.

Our School's rich history also provides an opportunity to see what being a student was like in the past. Learning from the experience of our talented alumni is another objective of mine, as well as understanding our School's long-standing traditions and honouring significant individuals. In conclusion, I look forward to my time as President of the Old Girls' Club. There is the potential for much change, while honouring our age-old traditions.

Courtney Walsh, President



EST. 1899
MENTONE GIRLS'
GRAMMAR

REMARKABLE WOMEN

At Mentone Girls' Grammar, we are incredibly proud to have a dynamic and accomplished network of alumni. To recognise and honour their outstanding achievements and contributions across all sectors and industries, we annually induct members from the Mentone Girls' Grammar alumni into our Remarkable Women Hall of Fame.



Hall of Fame Nominations Now Open!

As a valued member of the Mentone Girls' Grammar community, we encourage you to submit a nomination for the 2023 Remarkable Women Hall of Fame. Inductees are selected based on their outstanding contribution to their field in Australia and around the world. To find out more and to submit your nomination, follow the QR code.

2023 Remarkable Women Gala - Save the Date

Hall of Fame inductees will be recognised at our Remarkable Women Gala which will be held at the Sandringham Yacht Club on Thursday 16 February 2023. Tickets will be available from October 2022.

Thank you

This year's Remarkable Women Gala was held at Encore in St. Kilda, where close to 120 guests comprising of parents, students (past and present), staff and representatives from our Parents' Association were in attendance to induct three Remarkable Women into the 2022 Hall of Fame.

Our 2022 Hall of Fame inductees included Commanding Officer Alisha Withers ('01); Emeritus Professor Vera Mackie ('73) and Reena Ghelani ('87) Director of Operations and Advocacy of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. These Remarkable Women shared their passion for their chosen fields with the guests, reflecting on how Mentone Girls' Grammar helped shaped them into the women they are today.

Thank you to everyone who attended this special event. Thank you also to Natalie Box ('95) for being our Master of Ceremonies and the fabulous musicians from our Alumni Choir and Jazz Band for their memorable musical prowess.



CAREERS AFTERNOON

On Wednesday 20 July, several of our Old Girls attended a Careers Afternoon with our Year 11 and 12 students. They shared their experiences since finishing their time at Mentone Girls' Grammar.

With careers ranging from Marine Scientists, Advertising Executives and Paramedics, and experience in utilising their entrepreneurial skills by starting their own Freelance Marketing agency, our alumni provided inspiration and invaluable advice for our students who are making decisions about their own career pathways.

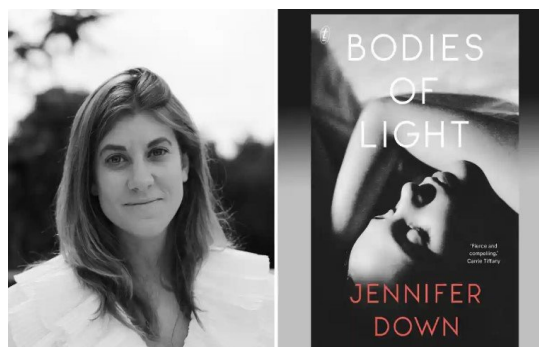
Thank you to all the Old Girls who participated in this event, for your valuable contribution.



OLD GIRL SPOTLIGHT - JENNIFER DOWN

Congratulations to Jennifer Down (Class of 2008) who recently won the 2022 Miles Franklin Literary Award with her novel, *Bodies of Light*. This epic novel is a masterwork of tragedy and heartbreak.

Jennifer has become one of the writers defining her generation after being shortlisted for the Stella Prize in 2022 for *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.



Her unpublished manuscript, *Our Magic Hour* was shortlisted for the 2014 Victorian Premier's Literary Award. Her novel *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 Award, and was shortlisted for a 2018 NSW Premier's Literary Award.

The Miles Franklin Literary Award was established in 1954 and is Australia's most prestigious literature prize. Established through the will of *My Brilliant Career* author, Miles Franklin, the prize is awarded each year to a novel which is of the highest literary merit and presents Australian life in any of its phases. Congratulations to Jennifer for this outstanding achievement.

OLD GIRLS' 2022 REUNION

We recently held our Old Girls' Club Reunion, where we welcomed to campus graduating students from 2017|2012|2007|2002|1997|1992|1987|1982|1977|1972|1967|1962. The afternoon was spent with Old Girls' singing the School song, looking over photos and reminiscing about their time at Mentone Girls' Grammar. Friends were reunited and many stories were shared over canapes and refreshments.

Next year, we will be welcoming those who graduated in the following years: 2018|2013|2008|2003|1998|1993|1988|1983|1978|1973|1968|1963. Keep a look out for further details on the Old Girls' Club Reunion 2023 event later this year.



50 YEAR REUNION - CLASS OF 1972

To commemorate 50 years since graduating from high school, we are inviting Old Girls and their partners from the graduating class of 1972 to a special lunch to be held on campus.

Date: Thursday 20 October, 2022

Time: 12.00pm - 2.00pm

Venue: Mentone Girls' Grammar - Rose Function Room, 11 Mentone Parade, Mentone, 3194

Dress: Smart Casual

Cost: \$55 including sit down lunch, beer, wine and soft drink

RSVP by Friday 14 October via this link.

Contact Phoebe Georgiou on 9581-1219 or community@mentonegirls.vic.edu.au for further information.

WE'RE GOING DIGITAL - UPDATE YOUR DETAILS TODAY!

As part of Mentone Girls' Grammar's commitment to the environment and sustainability, the Old Girls' Newsletter will be distributed digitally from 2023.

To ensure you continue to receive this publication, please update your details via our website by clicking on the QR Code.

Our Old Girls are such a treasured part of our School's culture and heritage, and we look forward to keeping in touch!



AQUATIC CENTRE

The Mentone Girls' Grammar Aquatic Centre is open to the public. We offer a variety of programs for boys and girls from 12 months old to adults. 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.

Find out more at mentonegirls.vic.edu.au/aquatic-centre



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIRLS

If you would like to explore how your daughter can achieve her best at Mentone Girls' Grammar, please contact our Enrolments Manager, Kylie McBride by email: enrolments@mentonegirls.vic.edu.au or telephone: 9581 1231.

From Early Learning to Year 12, Mentone Girls' Grammar students are encouraged to find their voice and use it to make a difference. 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 our alumni 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, to be held at Mentone Girls' Grammar.

Thursday 6 October 2022, 2.50pm-3.35pm	OGC Yr 12 Information Afternoon Tea	The Rose
Thursday 20 October 2022, 12.00pm-2.00pm	50+ Years Reunion	The Rose
Friday 16 December 2022, 12.00pm-2.00pm	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 4 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, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the Community Engagement team at community@mentonegirls.vic.edu.au or on 9581 1200.