

President's Report 2024
01 January to 31 December 2024
Annual General Meeting
Committee of the Old Grammarians Society for 2024:

Ex-Officio	MGGS Principal – Toni E Meath
President	Rowena Mytton (Watson 1983)
Vice President	Julie Faulkner (1971)
Secretary	Fiona Nicholson-Stocker (Nicholson - 1985)
Treasurer	Elizabeth Landale (2007)
Past President	Trudie Horsfall (1976)
Gilman Jones Scholarship	Cindy Han (2006)
Old Grammarians Scholarship	Trudie Horsfall (1976)
Merton Hall Foundation	Rowena Mytton (Watson 1983)
Investment Committee	Rowena Mytton (Watson 1983)
Life Members Trust Fund	Rowena Mytton (Watson 1983)
DJ Ross Memorial Trust	Venetia Patchett (Streeton 1965)
Parents Association Rep	Sophia Grammenos (1989)
School Council Representative	vacant
Merton Club	co-ordinated by past parent, Jane Rose
General Members	Lucy James (2012), Miranda Hoffman (2018) Tamara Maddrell (1995), Ahelee Rahman (2022)

This report is presented to the 2025 AGM, which is being held in conjunction with the School Company and Merton Hall Foundation AGMs and summarises 2024.

OGS Mission Statement:

The Old Grammarians Society is committed to facilitating and actively encouraging the continued involvement and promotion of collegiality of all Old Grammarians in the wider community of MGGS with a view to ensuring the continued engagement with our School and its past students.

Finances:

The OGS continue to remain financially sound.

During the 2024 year we commenced the process of registering with the ACNC following a request from the Australian Taxation office to self report. Our auditor had recommended that we pursue ACNC registration. At the time of writing this is in the process of being finalised.

The Old Grammarians primary focus for fund raising is to generate income for designated special projects and continued support for the Gilman Jones Scholarship, DJ Ross Memorial Fund and Old Grammarians Scholarship Fund. The scholarship funds and the Life Members Trust continue being managed by the Investment Committee on behalf of the Trustee, the Merton Hall Foundation. Crestone Wealth Management act as the Funds Manager. The OGS are represented by Rowena Mytton (Watson 1983) and Trudie Horsfall on the Investment Committee whilst Rowena Mytton represents the OG interests on the Merton Hall Foundation.

Our accounts continue to be independently audited for each AGM.

The DJ Ross Memorial Fund Trustees have decided to continue investing their funds

under the Fund's name through term deposits.

OGS Constitution

The OGS Constitution had been previously reviewed by the OGS Constitution subcommittee and presented to the committee and the Principal. The document is currently under review by the School Council and its governance committee along with all the school's constitutions. This review remains outstanding, and we are waiting on advice from the Governance Committee of School Council.

International Women's Day Luncheon (IWD): 2024

Each year, we come together with others from the school's stakeholders i.e., Old Grammarians, parents, school staff and friends. IWD 2024 was acknowledged with a luncheon at The Lyceum Club. Ginger Ridgeway (2006) and 2023 Emily Hensley awardee was guest speaker.

Ginger Ridgeway was awarded the 2023 Emily Hensley Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution and commitment towards advancing social justice law reform and self-determination for First Nations People's in Australia, and in her demonstration of the MGGS values - integrity, compassion, courage and self discipline.

DJ Ross Oration:

The Trustees of the DJ Ross Memorial Trust hosted a very successful and well attended event on 28 May 2024 in the Artemis centre which featured a panel of 2 Old Grammarians paying tribute to the achievements of an extraordinary collector and mentor in the field of Indigenous Australian Contemporary art, Liz Laverty and her late husband Colin. The OG panelists, Christine Collingwood (Flatman, 1963) and Alison Kelly (Fenton, 1967) are both highly respected figures in the Art world. It was a most impressive visual presentation and engaging discussion.

DJ Ross Trustees:

Annita Robson (Brown 1965), Merial Clark (1978) and Venetia Patchett (Streton 1965) are managing the Trust and its funds.

Events in OGS Calendar:

Reunions

1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004, 2014, 2019 (5Y) and 2023(1Y) were held both at school and offsite which were well attended. We encourage any Old Grammarian to notify the Community Office with their contact details to ensure they are included in events relevant to their peer year. Contact details are kept by the school only. The OGS committee does not keep a contact database of their own.

- **DJ Ross Oration**
- **Golf: 90th Inter -School Golf Challenge Cup and Annual Golf Day**
- **Annual OGS Celebration event**
- **NSW Branch luncheon**
- **QLD Branch luncheon**
- **SA Branch Winter dinner**
- **Bellarine OGS luncheon**

Invitations from school were extended to the OGS committee/community to attend:

- Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral
- Annual Art Exhibition
- Carol Service at St Paul's Cathedral
- Year 12 Valedictory Assembly
- Year 12 Valedictory Dinner

Gilman Jones Scholarship Award

Gilman Jones scholars from the Class of 2023, Chelsea Hinh and Rosemary Nguyen, were recognised for their academic excellence at the High Achievers Assembly in February 2024. Chelsea Hinh (ATAR 99.90) is enrolled at Monash University to study a Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine. Rosemary Nguyen (ATAR 99.90) is enrolled at Monash University to study a Bachelor of Engineering (Accelerated Masters Pathway).

Old Grammarian Scholarship

Zara Banks, daughter of an old Grammarian was awarded the Old Grammarian Scholarship in 2024 to commence from 2025.

Emily Hensley Award 2024

Ginger Ridgeway (2006) was awarded the 2023 Emily Hensley Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution and commitment towards advancing social justice, law reform and self-determination for First Nations Peoples in Australia, and in her demonstration of the MGGs values – integrity, compassion, courage, and self-discipline. A detailed biography of Ginger can be found on the school website.

Honorary Life Membership:

Honorary Life Membership was extended to and accepted by Trudie Horsfall (1976) and will be officially presented after this years AGM.

Trudie was nominated for her significant contribution to both the School and the Old Grammarian Society over the past 15 plus years. Trudie has held various voluntary roles including, President of the Snow Sports Auxiliary (2008 - 2010), Vice President of the Parents Association (2011-2015), Parent Association representative to the Old Grammarian Society Committee (2011-2015) and President of the Old Grammarian Society Committee (2017-2024).

Trudie is dedicated to the school and the growth of our grammarians. She oversaw the establishment of the Emily Hensley Award and the support by the Old Grammarians of building projects such as Artemis and the DJ Ross Memorial window in the Chapel. In addition, Trudie tackled various administrative tasks associated with the role, often conducted from her home in Merrijig.

Merton Club:

The Merton Club has been reinvigorated by Past Parent, Jane Rose who has taken on the mentoring of committed Old Grammarians wishing to stay connected through sport. Rowing, AFLW and Netball are the current sports of interest with a good uptake. The Merton Club is open to all OGs of all ages. The Club's Instagram showcases the uptake and participation.

Year 12/2023 Valedictory

The OGS President participated in the Y12 Valedictory Assembly at Hamer Hall presenting the 2023 cohort with their Old Grammarians Society badge. An invitation was extended to all OGs who were interested in attending.

COGA (Combined Old Grammarians Association)

The COGA meeting was held in February 2024 at Firbank and MGGS OGS were represented by Margaret McNaughton.

OGS procedures, forms, and archiving:

OGS procedures and supporting forms are stored on Sharepoint on one of the school's servers accessible by the OGS committee and the Alumnae Manager only.

All agendas, meeting minutes and AGM papers prior to 2024 have been sent to the School Archivist.

School Company – Old Grammarian Members

- Anne Williams (1955)
- Judy Wilkinson (Rutty 1964)
- Julia Hare (1971)
- Trudie Horsfall (1976)
- Rachel Trindade (1981)
- Emma Harrison (Gourlay 1983)

Meetings and Engagement by the President representing the OGS:

- Committee meetings
- Subcommittee meetings
- OGS AGM
- Term meetings with School Principal
- Meetings with Alumnae Manager and Community Office
- Parents Association meetings
- Development and Engagement Committee
- MGGS (COGA- combined old grammarians' association)
- Emily Hensley Award selection committee
- Y12 Valedictory Assembly and Dinner
- Contributions to school publications, I.E. and the annual school magazine.

Strategic priorities:

Over the year, as in every year, the Old Grammarians Committee has been reviewing our strategic priorities for 2024 and beyond. Our key priorities remain, creating a sense of pride, strengthening relationships and enriching engagement whilst respecting the changing interests of OGs during the various stages of life. Acknowledging this, our immediate focus as a committee is ongoing and includes:

- A review of reunion and engagement events that are purposeful, innovative, and inclusive (ongoing across current OG events)
- Strengthening communication channels with our OG community through social media managed by the Community Office, I.E. bi yearly digital publication, and the OGS monthly newsletter.
- Maintaining our Operational Handbook to support the governance and

reporting associated with recent and future change.

- Management of OGS funds and our scholarship funds.
- Recruitment of a wider age demographic onto the OGS committee

The community Office and Alumnae manager very successfully engage with the OG community by way of:-

- OGS Book Club led by Alice Sibley (Minns 2007) held each month during the school year. The OGS acknowledges and thanks Alice for leading with her love and extensive knowledge and joy of reading. Book Club details are normally published in the monthly OG newsletter. Alice is now a teacher of English at school.

- Mentor/Speaker programmes assisting the current students.

Thank you

My thanks go to all the committee and the school for their unwavering support to the OG community. In 2024 we introduced some changes to our meetings, deciding only to meet once a term and adopt a hybrid version whereby our country and interstate members could meet via Teams and those of us closer to hand could meet at Glenhope. The change is in the hope it will continue to attract more committee members from across all locations and year groups. We were delighted to welcome new committee members, Elizabeth Landale who has also taken on the role of Treasurer and Ahelee Ramen. Whilst we farewelled long standing committee members, Athena Kellis (Scotis 1965), Maragaret McNaughton (Atkinson 1956), Philippa O'Connor (Farrer 1965), Judy Wilkinson (Ruty 1965), Polly Winterton (Honorary Life Member). 2024 was truly a year of significant change and we hope the OG's will continue to evolve and move with the times and the needs of the cohort.

I also hope that our new tradition of the committee past and present meeting socially for a bottle and plate night to start the year will be an ongoing tradition.

My thanks are also extended to those supporting the OG committee in their varied roles. In particular:-

- Jo Docker (Auty 1973) and Deb Norman (Stephenson 1973) for taking up the running of the annual OGS Golf Day.

- Robyn McCutchan, Executive Director Marketing and Engagement for her support, counsel, and generosity to the OGS

- The Community Office team who go above and beyond to get our events off the ground

- Pip O'Connor (Farrer 1965), school historian, for her dedication to providing both visual and written memories with photos and film at OG reunions, school events, OGS and school publications and has so kindly agreed to continue doing so for 2025.

- School Business Office

- School Maintenance Team

- Toni E Meath, School Principal and Lynn Broadway, Deputy Principal for their vision, counsel, and generosity

- Diana Nicholson, Chair of School Council for her unwavering support.

I look forward to 2025 and all that it has in stall for us.

Rowena Mytton
President