



Morongo Newsletter

Sint lucernae Ardentes

March 2020



Dear Friends of Morongo,

Welcome to our fifth annual Morongo Newsletter as we continue living and sharing the burning of our lamp of wisdom, particularly during these difficult times.

All members who have registered their email address with Marieta Jones (Moir) will receive this Newsletter early March each year. Send your email address to register at bellposthill@hotmail.com

Thank you to all those who emailed their News from 2019. Our Morongo Newsletter Community has grown to email addresses for 683 former students and friends of Morongo. If we have accidentally omitted your email, we apologise, please email us again. If you have registered with your work email account, please be aware that many emails were either returned or sent to the recipient's junk folders.

Our Newsletter is an all-inclusive **MORONGO Newsletter** for all former Collegians and Friends of Morongo!

Please Help Us

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER THE NEWSLETTER. Marieta is happy to collect the information but needs someone enter it onto the template or come up with your own format/template. My daughter is unable to continue this task.

Any interesting news from any former collegian or friend of Morongo is more than welcome. Send us any news about your lives since leaving school, dates for reunions, photos and reports from any reunion or gathering and obituaries for those that are no longer with us to Marieta Jones (Moir) at bellposthill@hotmail.com OR post on Facebook: [Morongo Bellposthill](https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBellposthill) before December 31st 2020.

We would also appreciate being informed of recently deceased old girls, to keep our records up to date.

DATES FOR YOUR 2020 DIARY

BARWON EDGE LUNCHEON, GEELONG - Monday March 16th 2020 @ 12.00pm

Apologies our Newsletter wasn't published before this event.

RSVP: Friday 6 March

**Venue: Barwon Edge Boat House
40-70 Windsor Street, Newtown**

Cost: \$45.00 includes 2 course meal, pay for own drinks

For more detail contact:

Di Sprague, 0458194416; disprague7@gmail.com

Alison Lawson, 0439925525 ajlawson@bigpond.com

Prue Mason, 0409510646 ylime77@iinet.net.au

Jeanette Joseph, 0419803250 jeanett_joseph@bigpond.com

Goulburn Valley Luncheon Sunday 3rd May 2020 - Rich Glen Olive Estate

At this stage (March 2020) the Goulburn Valley Lunch invitations will be emailed as planned. However, as it is such a fluid situation, if there is a need to cancel, any members who have accepted will be notified, at least a week prior 3rd May.

This year we are travelling north to Rich Glen Olive Estate, about seven km west of Yarrawonga, off the Murray Valley Hwy. Goulburn Valley members are reminded of this event by email. If you have any questions or wish to be included on our list, please contact Sandra Macintyre; 0428 976 242 or email nutcundera@bigpond.com.

We would be delighted to have any Morongo Old Collegians who live in the vast area of the Goulburn Valley join us this year.

THE ANGLISS LUNCHEON, MELBOURNE - Wednesday 20th May 2020 @ 11-30am

DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS WE HAVE CANCELLED THIS YEAR'S LUNCHEON. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE 2021 GET TOGETHER.

**Angliss Restaurant
550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne
\$40.00 per head**

For more detail contact:

Elaine Howden
Marieta Jones (0490 175 962)
Di Trewenack (Hirst) diana@trewenack.com

Payment can be made by:

Direct transfer: Melbourne Bellpost Hill
BSB 704 191 ACC: 255905 (please quote your name)

2020 Golf Day at Barwon Heads Golf Club – date to be determined late in October

New players welcome, as are girls who would like to attend for lunch only (some years organise their reunions on this day).

Anyone interested in attending on the day for the first time (players or lunch only) please send an email to *Lyn Fraser (Crellin)* lynmfraser@bigpond.com for return invitation and information.

2020 REUNIONS

Annual Reunion for class of 1953

DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS, OUR PLANNED REUNION AT THE ANGLISS LUNCHEON HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

The 1953 girls have decided to have their 2020 reunion at the William Angliss in Melbourne Wednesday May 20th and **NOT IN GEELONG**

Geelong contacts: Marl Ryan (Metheral) 0417 573 034
Kaye Middleton (Stallard) kaymid1@bigpond.com
Melbourne Contacts: Faye Lee (Pope) 0402 307 912
Marieta Jones (Moir) bellposthill@hotmail.com 0490 175 962

2021 REUNIONS

40 Year Reunion for Class of 1981 (date to be determined)

All past students from this cohort are invited to link / friend **Roberta Matlock** on Facebook / Messenger to be included in communications about date and venue options.

2021 The Angliss Luncheon Reunion, Melbourne, for any girls 1970-1973

Ann Hastie is keen to make up a table of girls from 1970-1973 at next year's All Years Lunch at The Angliss. If interested, please contact Ann at annehastie@fastmail.fm

NEWS FROM 2019

Confusion with nominated Collegian Year Levels

Traditionally, Morongo students completed their secondary education in Intermediate (Year 10). Thus, initial records of former collegians were recorded with the year they completed Intermediate.

As time has progressed, most Morongo students now complete their secondary education at Year 12. To maintain consistency with the existing records, **ALL FORMER MORONGO COLLEGIANS** are recorded against their Year 10 or Intermediate year. Where we use the term **Graduating Year**, we are referring to former collegians final Year 12 year.

Barwon Edge Luncheon, Geelong - Monday April 1st 2019

Morongo girls from Geelong and surrounding areas met for our annual luncheon at the Barwon Edge Boathouse on April 1st, 2019. Girls from farther afield country areas, from Melbourne, Brisbane and South Australia also attended. In total fifty people enjoyed a very pleasant day taking the opportunity to meet with past students from many different eras of Morongo.

Jeanette Joseph welcomed everyone present and noted that the foundation of our allegiance to our school was formed by Miss Pratt, Miss Shaw and Miss Brookshaw along with the lifelong friendships formed during school years.

Guest speaker, Naomi Miller from Geelong College, addressed us on the importance of community and belonging to groups within that community. She was very impressed that fifty of us were present and still enjoying being part of a group which began many years ago. Naomi explained that her role as developer of school community groups at Geelong College, and in previous schools, plays an important part in supporting a happy and supportive school environment.

We were very pleased to have Jenny O'Dea (Higgins) with us this year. She presented her Morongo Doll, complete with uniform items. Jenny told us that she had been given the doll on 1952 when she was seven years old. Naomi accepted the doll to pass on to the archive centre situated at Morongo House, The Geelong College.

Next Morongo Geelong Luncheon date;16th March 2020.

Goulburn Valley Reunion Luncheon - Kirwan's Bridge Estate 5th May 2019

Once again a small group of Morongo Old Collegians met on the first Sunday in May. So many return year after year and enjoy catching up with everyone's news. Three stalwarts, Beverley, Heather and Alison, *from families of the valley*, venture annually from Mornington Peninsula.

Sadly in 2019, we lost our friend Sue Pogue (Ballantyne).

Sue was a boarder between 1954 and 1957, a basketball team member and a keen tennis player at Morongo. In Tatura, where she lived most of her life, Sue played tennis and golf until a few years ago. As a Tatura Golf Club Member, Sue became president of the Goulburn Valley Ladies Golf Club and served on the Tatura Committee. Sue scored a *Hole in One* in 2003 and again in 2012, (following in the footsteps of her mother). Sue was well known and loved in the Tatura Community. She had worked as a reporter at the Tatura Guardian. Sue was a long time attendee at many of our Goulburn Valley Branch lunches.

It has been suggested that in 2020 we wear or bring something in the colours of Morongo. Please search your wardrobes for anything with a pop of Morongo colour on it. It could be a gold, blue or green motif on a blouse.

Our next reunion lunch is Sunday 3rd May, 2020. Each year, we attempt to select a venue in a different area to cater for the wide distances between our Goulburn Valley members. In 2020, we are travelling north to Rich Glen Olive Estate, about seven km west of Yarrawonga off the Murray Valley Hwy. An invitation will be emailed with more details next year. Please contact Sandra Macintyre if you wish to receive this information. Sandra Macintyre- 0428 976 242 or nutcundera@bigpond.com



L-R back row: Jan Vibert (Agnew); Jan Hooper (Pope); Jeannie Joseph(Dehnert); Sandra Macintyre (Bufton); Glenys Thomas (Knight); Nan Sullivan (Fewtrell); Jennie Currie (Bradshaw); Elizabeth Walpole ; Mary Kenny (Agnew); Gwen Jensen (Bradshaw); Heather Lloyd (Laird);

L-R seated: Beverley Purcell (Hacquoil); Heather McMillan (MacDonald); Alison Griffiths (Grant); Margaret Parfett (Armitage); Barbara Ramage (Bradshaw); Betty Thornton.

Morongo Old Collegians, Geelong College Luncheon – Saturday October 12th

Another successful Morongo Old Collegians Lunch was held in the Dining Hall at The Geelong College on a beautiful sunny afternoon. With over 110 Morongo Old Collegians and guests in attendance, a highlight was the surprise performance by The Morongo Singers, a choir group made up of College girls from Years 7-8. The girls sang four songs and then presented each table with a card, flower and photo from their successful tour to Sydney, where they competed with the Morongo spirit for which they have been named.

Our 1992 Morongo College Captain, Diana Taylor, was the guest speaker and spoke of the legacy a Morongo education has had on her professional career, which was well received by all. Announced at the lunch was the recipient of the 2020 Morongo Award which is Year 11 College student Sophie Blackford. Sophie spoke briefly on what receiving the Award meant to her and her family and we were delighted that her grandmother, MOC Pam Blackford (nee Ilett), could be at the lunch to hear her granddaughter speak so well.

The Morongo Award, which is only possible due to the generous support of Morongo Old Collegians, is awarded each year to an outstanding Year 11 student at The Geelong College who has a family relationship with a former Morongo student. The Award is for 25% of Year 12 tuition fees and is always gratefully received.

Photos from school days at Morongo were on display as well as The Margaret Shannon Memorial Cup, which is annually awarded to a College Year 12 female student in recognition of outstanding overall service to the College Community. We finished the day with a tour of the Morongo Room at Mossgiel Boarding House which houses a wonderful collection of Morongo memorabilia. Of note were the beautiful Morongo Roses recently planted in the garden outside the Morongo Room which are doing really well. Thank you to all those involved in relocating these roses to the garden at Mossgiel.

Overall, a very successful and well attended day and we look forward to another fun day next year. The College has advised us that the 2020 date for the lunch is Saturday 24 October – save the date!! For more information, please contact Sally Sadler at The Geelong College on 5226 3779 or sally.sadler@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au



Elizabeth Brady and Val McVean (ex-Morongo Staff singing)



Amanda Moody and Diana Taylor (presenting Diana, our guest speaker, with flowers)



The Morongo Singers



Pam Blackford, Sophie Blackford and Kerrie Blackford (Sophie is The Morongo Award recipient for 2020)

The Angliss Luncheon Reunion, Melbourne – Wednesday 15th May

Once again, the May Luncheon of Morongo Old Collegians was held at the William Angliss Institute. For those of you who haven't been before, it is very easy to get to, situated on Little Lonsdale Street, just off Spencer Street. This means it is easy to access by tram or train from any part of Melbourne and is especially convenient for those travelling by train from places such as Geelong and Ballarat, as well as those arriving by Sky Bus from the airport.

Sixty Old Collegians attended, and this year there were a few members from later years than has been the norm. We hope this will continue, as we depend on younger members to keep the tradition flourishing. For those members who have arrived in the past, feeling a bit tentative about which table to sit at, a change has been made so that all you have to do is to consult the table lists. Then you will go to the one which you have been allocated to, along with your peers.

The Angliss silver service luncheon is the training ground for the students and is closely supervised by the professional staff. Needless to say, the standard is very high and the journey through the courses a bit of an adventure.

This year's Menu included such delights as; *Entrees*; Smoked chicken ballontine, salad of potato, apple and radish, date puree, watercress OR Scallops, black sesame, green peas.

Main course; Pan fried fish of the day, mussel fregota, grilled prawn, shellfish broth OR Roasted chicken, sweetcorn polenta, pistachio, asparagus.

Dessert; Pistachio cake, orange curd, burnt honey ice cream OR Baked apple galette, treacle cake, green apple sorbet, maple syrup custard.

Not surprisingly a great deal of work goes into organising the Morongo Luncheon and for many years (I think from its actual conception), it has been managed by the indefatigable Mary Moors (McGregor). She has done a sterling job, not just in managing it all, but in being her cheery and always welcoming self. We all owe her a great debt, and this was formally acknowledged in a presentation to her by Elaine Howden (Barber). Her very able work is being taken over by equally keen and able Diana Trewenack (Hirst) and Evie McEwan (Jones). To Diana and Evie as well, we express our very warm thanks.

The Luncheon ended with a very hearty rendering of Sint Lucernae Ardentis, and we all went home well fed and warmed by renewed friendships.

If you haven't been before, do come and enjoy it with us!



L-R (1952-1953) Voi Williams (Boardman), Alwynne Mackie (Huddleston), Jenny Eckstedt (McEwan), Faye Lee



L-R (1955-1953) Kay Middleton (Stallard), Elaine Wood, Marieta Jones (Moir), Sheena Strachan (MacIntyre)



(1952-1953) Voi Williams (Boardman), Elaine Howden (Barber), Judy Dowling (Eagles), Sheena Strachan



(1950) Helen Robertson (Hirst), Judy Clark (Money) Sally Baird (Fletcher)



(1951) Noel Rumbold (Townsend), Prue Torok (Israel), Dina Monks (Cannon)



(1950-1951) Sally Clark (Harris), Mary Richson (Salmon), Mary Moors (McGregor)



(1956-1957) Diana Trewenack (Hirst), Margaret Parfett (Armitage), Judy Noble (Heape), Margaret McKay (Granley)



(1956-1957) Pat Hooper (Wilding), Jeanette Middleton (Potter), Clara Oakley (McIntyre), Pauline Maunsell



(1956-1957) Pauline Maunsell (Chamberlain), Margaret McKay (Ganley), Judy Noble (Heape), Margaret Parfett (Armitage)



(1956-1957) Evie McEwan (Jones), Pat Wilding (Hooper), Jeanette Middleton (Porter)



(1956-1957) Diana Skinner (Holt), Sandra Oriander (Stevens), Betty Harper (Grant), Marg Smith (Lewis)



(1956-1957) Marg Smith (Lewis), Jeanette Joseph (Dehnert), Elaine Paton (Jamieson)



(1954-1955) Heather Lloyd (Laird), Janet Walker (Ross), Val Loughnan (Carson)



(1948) Helen Lloyd, (Thomson), June Winter (Hartwick), Enid Oscar (Baxter)



(1944, 1948) Mary Reilly (Thomson), Heather McKenzie (Penden), Kathleen Homberg (Davis)



(1947-1948) Ann Hughes (McMethan), Jean Inglis (Pallerson), Mary Reilly (Thomson)



Rosemary James (Wood), Bunty Penmar (Hawson), Ann Hughes



Elaine presenting Mary Moors with flowers in appreciation of all Mary's tireless work organising annual luncheons at The Angliss.

Morongo's 8th Golf/Lunch Day Reunion

Another happy day on October 11th at The Barwon Heads Golf Club saw 23 past students play a four person Ambrose competition in the morning with 44 non golfers joining the players afterwards for a delicious lunch. The room quickly filled with joy, excitement and much nostalgia after singing the school song. Year groups sat together but there was plenty of movement from one table to the next, reconnecting girls both older and younger. The 67 year group celebrated 50 years since completing Matric as did the 65 and 66 year groups the previous two years. It is proving to be an ideal setting for such reunions.

If you would like to join us in 2020 (it is generally held in October or early November) please email Lyn Fraser (Crellin) lynmfraser@bigpond.com A 'save the date' email will be sent in March 2020.



The winning team: Pat Malloch, Anne Varley (Liddle), Sue Waldren (Schofield) and Susan Hocking.

Inter School Golf Challenge Cup

The Inter School Golf Challenge Cup celebrated its 90th year at The Sorrento Golf Club on April 1st with 30 schools participating. We have never won but this year we came a very respectable 7th. Morongo has been a part of this fundraising event since 1982 and we will continue to field a team while we still have eligible past students. It is a fun event with an opportunity to meet new friends.



Our representatives this year were: Lyn Fraser (Crellin), Donna Utt (Lee), Jo Burton (Tansley) and Sue Horne (Thom)

If you would like to be involved in 2020 and have not previously received notice of this event please contact Lyn Fraser (Crellin) lynmfraser@bigpond.com

2020 Morongo Regatta

The Regatta was to be held on February 1st. Due to the inclement weather the regatta was cancelled and could not be rescheduled.

Class of 1956 Reunion at The Angliss Luncheon

Nine of us from year 1956 met at the William Angliss Luncheon on May 15th. William Angliss a very convenient location being close to all public transport and especially over the road from Southern Cross Station. Gwen came from the Goulburn Valley and Clara and Sue from Bellarine Peninsula. The restaurant is run by the College to instruct his students in all aspects of catering. The students wait on the tables and are supervised by their teachers. Three courses, a glass of wine and tea or coffee is a fantastic deal.

Evie McEwan (Jones)

Class of 1953 annual reunion in Geelong

We had 11 classmates come together on Tuesday 22nd October at the Empire Grill for a lovely luncheon organised by the very capable Marlene Ryan(Metherall) with Faye Lee (Pope) having the unenviable job of emailing us all and reminding us of the Reunion as we're all O.B.E.s!!

We had a great time catching up-all looking much the same just a wee bit older. It was great to hear that Robin Purdy (Urquart) son recently had a successful lung transplant for cystic fibrosis. Those attending were; Faye Lee(Pope), Marlene Ryan(Metherall), Heather Lloyd (Laird), Robin Purdy (Urquhart), Merran Hall (Urquhart), Pam Kemp (Lilburne) recently return from a holiday in Sri Lanka, Marieta Jones (Moir), Elaine Wood, Bette English (Arnoldt), Judy Dowling (Eagles) and Kay Middleton(Stallard).

Our next reunion will be at the William Angliss Cooking school in May.
Kay Middleton



Faye Lee (Pope) and Merran Hall (Urquhart)



Merran Hall (Urquhart), Robin Purdey (Urquhart),
Kaye Middleton (Stallard)



Marl Ryan (Metheral), Elaine Wood, Bette English (Arnold)



Judy Dowling (Eagles) and Heather Lloyd (Laird)



Jill Morgan (Hazeldene) and Kaye Middleton (Stallard)



Robin Purdey (Urquhart) and Marl Ryan (Metheral)



Heather Lloyd (Laird) and Faye Lee (Pope)

NEWS ABOUT US

Vivien Pedemont (Webb) 1977 (Yr12 1979)

Chocolates and Chartreuse in Coublevie, France

My mother always wanted to be European! In many ways she was born in the wrong country and in the wrong era! Beyond having a year living in London and exploring Europe in between jobs as a young woman, she never lived her dream. When I had the chance to move to Coublevie, France for an extended period I thought of her and of how thrilled she would have been to think that I had grasped the opportunity with both hands! And what an adventure it was!

When I sat in the classroom above Miss Brookshaw's office having endless French lessons - I never considered they would be of any use to me whatsoever! Miss Botterill and the teachers before her all tried in vain to pass on to me some basic French language skills. When I moved to France, I realised very quickly, the appalling accent I had was the greatest barrier to communication! Many hours of lessons and conversation practice with friends soon solved that problem. My skill levels went from abysmal to passable which was a wonder to me and would have astonished all of my teachers!

The joys of living in France are innumerable. All that amazing food and wine! A trip to the local market, held in the neighbouring town of Voiron twice a week, was a dream come true! Cheeses, olives, charcuterie, baguettes, vegetables that you have never before seen, fruits, and the speciality of our region walnuts!

Across the road from the market was one of France's oldest chocolatiers – Bonnat. Still held in the family, making chocolate the traditional way (one of only a handful of chocolate makers in France to do so). My goodness a visit to their shop was such a treat! Sitting down to have a thick hot chocolate – bliss! Taking home a bag of chocolate treats to enjoy after dinner each evening – heaven!

Around the corner were the Caves de la Chartreuse – the largest distillery store in the world. So much Chartreuse in one place – Yellow, Green, Eau de vie, Genepi and so much more – delicious! Those monks know a thing or two about medicinal alcoholic beverages. The monks continue to live high in the Chartreuse Mountains behind the walls of their enormous monastery living a quiet life of contemplation and prayer. They manage the operations these days via computer controlled link ups!

The major benefit of living in a European country is being so close to the rest of Europe! We travelled extensively during our time in France. Lyon and Geneva airports were close by and from there we were able to springboard across Europe in all directions. Our travels took us to; Spain and Portugal, Turkey, Germany and Austria, Switzerland and Italy, The Netherlands and Belgium, Iceland, England and Scotland, and of course many road trips all across France. It is a great thing to be able to travel for an hour or two, by plane or train or car, and end up in a different country and all that entails.

Of course there were also all the day trips that I took with my friends to places nearby that had something amazing to see – a museum, a chateau, a wonderful vista, a church, a medieval wall, a beautiful hike, the ski slopes to name a few.

Every trip was filled with art, culture, music, food, wine, landscapes, history, all of which we soaked up.

Many of us have to wait until we are retired to have the time to travel extensively, so I feel very blessed to have spent almost 5 years living in the Isère region of France, in the foothills of the Alps. If you have ever dreamed of having your own *Year in Provence* moment, I would encourage you to go for it. The rhythms of daily life in a village are so much more than you would expect. To actually live in a place for an extended period allows you to dive right into the lifestyle that the locals enjoy. A short visit gives a glimpse, a longer stay gives an experience – one that will stay with you for ever and may even change the way you see the world.



The typical french pollarded trees planted along the roadside, usually from the time of Napoleon, this is how he kept the marching armies shaded during the long hot marches across the French countryside. This road was the one that led up from the Ville of Voiron (where the Caves de la Chartreuse and Bonnat Chocolatier are to be found....it is the road we drove every time we went home from the ville, as we lived in a small village a couple of kilometres away).

That's me, the short one on the left, and friends out in the snow, doing ski de fond, a type of cross country skiing....along graded trails, up and down, hard work....but fun! And of course followed up by wonderful food and wine and cheese in front of a hot fire.

Margot Sanders (1968-1971)

A retired life

As people approach the end of their paid working life - the question of "When to retire?" becomes very important. Issues of health, finance, lifestyle and how to spend your future years are discussed.

For me, the decision about how to spend retirement was easy, "Combine travel with giving something back to the community."

The following information may inspire you to do something similar.

There are many children who live in remote Australian outback regions (from distant cattle stations to isolated Indigenous communities). Their families have to provide schooling through Distance Education. But this is tough for the kids with only limited access to professional teachers and staff.

So, to help these families out, the Aussie Helpers Charity have created AHVISE (Aussie Helpers Volunteers for Isolated Student Education).

AHVISE recruits volunteer teachers and tutors, who mainly consist of retired teachers or people who value education. They find placements with remote families to provide tutoring over a fixed period, usually between 1-3 months.

The AHVISE program has many benefits for volunteers including your dream of outback travelling in Australia and helping kids in need.

A classic WIN WIN WIN!!!

A WIN for the mums – who are usually the full-time teachers – giving them a much needed break!!

A WIN for the kids – because they have someone new to impress and show around their patch of Australia.

And a WIN for you, the volunteer tutor – because you get to explore our great country, whilst putting your knowledge and experience to good use.

Subject Classwork is sent from the child's Distance Education Centre. You help the student complete the work. It is then sent back for assessment.

So ... the work load is not too onerous – quite straightforward really!

AHVISE provides volunteer tutors with up to \$1,500 towards their travel costs. Meals are generally provided by the family, so the trip doesn't cost you much.

You will require a Working With Children Card for that State to attend a placement.

To find out more about the AHVISE Program and becoming a volunteer tutor, please visit their website at www.ahvise.org.au.

It is free to register and view the various current placements available.

With all the issues of drought, floods and cyclones around Australia, I strongly encourage you to get out of your comfort zone and go north for the winter to help out our amazing country cousins. There are ALWAYS MORE families needing volunteer tutors, than there are tutors available.

With the assistance of my husband, I have tutored students on cattle properties, a Conservation Park, a Water Catchment Lake and a Native Title island in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Not only have we supported the students who live in these remote areas and given Mum and Dad a break, but we have learnt a lot about local issues that we had no idea about in our local area.

Retirement can be about a change in lifestyle, but you don't have to stop learning.

I encourage you to get out there and do something for another community.

Margot Sanders. (Morongo student 1968 – 1971)

Anne Hastie (1970)

I am a member of the 1972 cohort of HSC graduates. I went on to have careers in fine art, teaching and public health. That unusual mixture of skills and interests opened me up to a world of travel and adventure.

After year 12, I enrolled in the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) just as this new arts education organisation was coming into being. The historic National Gallery School, under the visionary leadership of a gifted sculptor and committed educator, Lenton Parr, morphed into the first version of VCA, offering studies in three disciplines; painting, printmaking and sculpture. I chose painting and have stuck with it ever since. After graduating in 1975, I spent a year travelling in South America before embarking on a Diploma of Education and eight years teaching art at The Gordon TAFE in Geelong.

I left teaching in 1986 to enter the world of public health, specifically to establish a Centre Against Sexual Assault in Footscray. From there my career went further into the health industry, women's health, community health, disability services, acute and sub-acute care.

Having started out as an artist, I spent many years working in health service development. One day, as I approached my 50th birthday, I wondered whether I should investigate my commitment to my original calling to be an artist and test the broader value of the training I had done in that field, especially given it had been free (thanks Gough and Victorian Education Department). I decided to return to the art world through further study and practice, while continuing to work in public health.

I travelled to China for the first time at the end of the northern winter of 1999. Cold, grey, polluted and thoroughly mysterious, I fell in love with Beijing, its culture and the people. Nearly every year since then, I have returned to engage with its creative opportunities. Over that time, I became more and more aware of the complex relationship between China and Australia.

Keen on engaging with the contemporary Chinese art scene and other international artists who were also exploring life in China, I applied to be an artist in residence at Beijing's Redgate Gallery in 2005. Before the days of smart phones and translation apps, with next to no Mandarin and rickety internet, I lived alone for three months in a musty old style worker's apartment which doubled as studio space. There my creative response to China was awakened and has been wide awake ever since.

For the past few years, I have rented a large studio apartment in a village full of artists on the outskirts of a city now bursting with 25 million people. Beijing has several suburbs where mainly artists live surrounded by supportive; industries, galleries, framers, art supplies, book shops etc. It is an exciting place to be an artist. Each year I spent three months immersed in this environment.

As a regular visitor, I witnessed the Chinese burst with pride when the country secured the 2008 Olympics. I also witnessed the displacement, destruction and renovation of the city in the years preparing for this event. New roads, subway lines and buildings sprung up everywhere. Ancient Chinese monuments were spruced up, their dusty colors painted bright and the old hutong laneway communities demolished to make way for new high rise apartments.

I sensed my trip to my studio in the village this January would be among one of my last to China as 2019 was a year that revealed a great deal, much of which I found quite disturbing. For Chinese New Year, I planned to stay in a friend's apartment downtown as it is easier to stay in the CBD when the whole place closes down for the celebrations. Shops and restaurants are shut, there is little traffic, few people around and even fewer taxis. Most people are tucked away at home with their families for this important festival. My quiet sojourn in the city gradually turned to a nightmare as news regarding the novel corona virus outbreak in Hubei at first trickled through and then started to gush. Fortunately, I could access news in English through the ABC and The Age.

Working in public health had given me some insight into interpreting health statistics and through friends in China, I have also some insight into the Chinese health system. Each day the news worsened. I was due to stay for three months till mid-April, so initially I felt little inclination to try to leave early. As various countries' borders started to close and I realized there was very little known about this virus and it

potency, my thinking started to shift. A week after Chinese New Year, when shops and restaurants would usually reopen, few did, and food started to become harder to buy. Fear was starting to grip the population, and even though a very long way from Wuhan, the locals were really scared. I realized that without language and with friends already isolated with their families, I could not keep up to date with local expectations such as mask wearing, which I struggle to do even when the pollution is bad.

The decision made to return home, I caught one of the last flights out and am now undertaking a self isolation period. I will return to China later in the year - to a country I am sure will be transformed by this trauma, as we will be too, here in Australia.



Australia Day at Beijing Studio.
Eating lamingtons of course!



Open Studio 4



Pretending that I can write Chinese

Margaret Busby (Salmon 1953)

Margaret still lives in her original home in California USA. Her husband, Bruce, died in 2018. Her grandson lives with her and helps her maintain the property. Fish is a great granny of two and sends her love to all who remember her. How could we forget her?

She remembers all her Morongo friends and the mischief the boarders got up to. She was very home sick and used to spend much time planning ways to be expelled. Miss Shaw loved her and wouldn't send her home. She remembers hiding in the cupboard at the end of the platform overlooking the oval. When Rev Blackwood walked to the end of the platform where Fish was hiding, she would count to 10 very loudly. The class would be in fits of laughter till Niecy (Hargreaves) reigned us in.

Faye Lee (Pope)

VALE

We are saddened to hear of the following deaths;

Denise Young (Bodey) 1951 Denise died May 2019.

Denise married Gordon Young. She studied in Canada for her Master's Degree.

When they returned to Australia, Denise & Gordon built a house in Templestowe. She worked as a librarian. They had 2 sons & have 2 grandchildren.

Denise had been unwell for the last few years.

Judith Duffield (Carmichael)

Judith Duffield passed away in January 2019.

She came from Merbein, was a boarder at Morongo in 1954 – 56 and was the sister of Margaret Giddings (Carmichael).

Margaret Forbes 1954

Died 11th October 2019 aged 82. Sister of Alison Peters (Forbes)

Sue Pogue (Ballantyne).

Passed in 2019. Sue was a boarder for 4 years, 1954 to 1957, a basketball team member and a keen tennis player at Morongo. In Tatura where she lived most of her life, Sue played tennis and golf until a few years ago. As a Tatura Golf Club Member Sue became president of the Goulburn Valley Ladies Golf Club and served on the Tatura committee. Sue scored a *Hole in One* in 2003 and again in 2012, (following in the footsteps of her mother). Sue was well known and loved in the Tatura Community. She had worked as a reporter at the Tatura Guardian. Sue was a long time attendee at many of our Goulburn Valley Branch lunches.

Jance Russell (King 1958)

Died March 2020

PLEASE SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

Please share our Newsletter with all your friends who are connected with Morongo. The more Morongo family and friends our Newsletter reaches, the wider our network becomes and the more effectively we can share news about our lives since school days.

If you know a former collegian without access to a computer or an email account please encourage them to enlist a partner, child or grandchild or even a neighbour to receive the Newsletter on their behalf.

Seeking to renew contact with lost friends

If you are hoping to reconnect with lost school friends, email Marieta Jones (Moir) at bellposthill@hotmail.com and she will happily supply you with an email address, if we have it in our records.

Morongo FACEBOOK page: Morongo Bellposthill

Thank you to the 208 former Morongo collegians who have befriended us on Facebook. Apologies for the slowness in any responses to friend requests.

We appreciate that we are catering to a wide group and encourage communications of any news or reunions via email (bellposthill@hotmail.com) and Social Media (Facebook page: Morongo Bellposthill).

Morongo Memorabilia

All of our precious memorabilia are stored in the Morongo Room at Mossgiel House.

Mossgiel House is the girl's boarding house at The Geelong College in Noble Street.

Any former Morongo girls wishing to borrow banners and/or flags for special reunions and functions may do so by making contact with Sally Sadler. Allow a week to organise.

Sally Sadler: 5226 3148 sally.sadler@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au

Contact Us ...

Elaine Howden (Barber) 1952	0413 800 841	Melbourne contact
Faye Lee (Pope) 1954	5956 8411 PO Box 2241 Ventnor 3922	Melbourne contact
Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953	bellposthill@hotmail.com	Send all your news
Evie McEwan (Jones) 1956	neilevie@netspace.net.au 0412 855 713	Melbourne contact
Diana Trewenack (Hirst) 1956	diana@trewenack.com 0418 390 384	William Angliss Luncheon organisers
Elaine Howden (Barber) 1952	0413 800 841	
Marieta Jones (Moir) 1953	bellposthill@hotmail.com 0490175962	
Sandra MacIntyre (Bufton) 1960	0428 976 242 nutcundera@bigpond.com	Goulburn Valley Old Collegians contact
Lyn Fraser (Crellin) 1967	52541239 lynmfraser@bigpond.com	Barwon Heads Golf contact
Alison Lawson (Laird) 1959	0439925525 ajlawson@bigpond.com	Barwon Edge Boat House Luncheon
Jeanette Joseph (Dehner) 1958	0419803250 jeanett_joseph@bigpond.com	
Di Sprague	0458194416 disprague7@gmail.com	
Prue Mason (Gilmore)	0409510646 ylime77@iinet.net.au	

I would like to thank my daughter, Marguerite Jones, who has spent many hours producing each of our five Newsletters. She wasn't a Morongo girl, so we do appreciate her time. Please continue sending us all your news, we love reading about what is happening in the lives of our Morongo family.

Marieta Jones (Moir)