

# 7

## Associations

### *Old Collegians' Association*

It is not often that a school has an old pupils' organization in the first year of its existence, but this was the case for the Newtown school. Having incorporated Miss Harris's school at the start in 1920, there was already an association which was welcomed as the nucleus for the future Old Collegians' Association. Thus the first edition of the school magazine has this report:

We have much pleasure in contributing items to the school paper, so that each member and the present scholars may know the doings of the Old Collegians' Association. We have now close on 100 members—a very fine beginning to an association which is practically in the making, having lapsed in wartime.

We are glad that our old college is connected with the new in this way, and would like to hear from any scholars from the Newtown Ladies' College who wish to join our association, which is named The Old Collegians' Association, Presbyterian Girls' College. These scholars must have attended the old school for at least one year. It is so hard to keep in touch with the old scholars. We have several new members, girls who have completed their studies at the P.G.C.

Our five meetings during the year have been well attended and very successful. At the opening of the school tennis courts on the 11th of May, our members, at the wish of the council, took charge of and dispensed afternoon tea, thus helping considerably to the success of the function.

On 11th June, in the School Assembly Hall, Mr D. F. Griffiths talked to us about his travels in America and quite carried us away with him to that wonderful country. His remarks were thoroughly enjoyed by all present. At this meeting, three of the school council members came and talked to us. They thanked us for the assistance given, and said they hoped we would continue to 'boost' the school and use our influence for its good.

On 27th August the Annual Reunion was held. This took the form of a 'high tea' which was a very great success. About sixty-five people, including staff and prefects, sat down to partake of the good things provided. The school dining room was taxed to its utmost. When tea was over, the Principal (Miss Pratt) thanked the Old Collegians, and said she looked upon the meeting as a splendid augury for the success of the school, and congratulated us on our live association. Our President (Mrs Geo. Robertson) also spoke. Miss A. C. Harris, the Principal of the old school, was unavoidably absent, but Mrs Mountjoy (Miss Ella Harris), one of the old staff, was present.

Again, our members came to the fore on the 1st October, when the school Fete was held, and worked hard on the refreshment stall, netting £27 toward the £400

taken that afternoon and evening. Our members have shown their capabilities in the art of preparing and dispensing refreshments at these functions.

It is with very deep regret that we have to record the death, early in July, of one of our most faithful members, and workers, Miss Ella Purnell. Our committee, as well as the association, had indeed sustained a great loss.

Any old scholar who wishes to contribute in any way towards the school, whether it be money for prizes, or otherwise, may hand their donations to the Secretary. Our association has decided to present the Dux prize each year.

K. M. Roebuck, Hon. Sec.

So the school began with an association prepared to give service and financial help to Morongo, and the same is true today. A brief record of what the Old Collegians have done for the school is impressive.

In 1922, a scheme was started to honour Miss Harris and functions were held to raise the money to found the A. C. Harris prize, which is still one of the 'honour' prizes of the school. In 1932, two bursaries were given, one for a day girl and one for a boarder and, in 1935, scholarships were created for senior girls. In addition, extra money was put into the Prize fund and many small projects, such as the reflooring and redecoration of the Nursery School were financed.

A rather touching record in the minutes of the early days reads:

*Dec. 11th*

A gift to Morongo from the Old Collegians was then discussed. Many suggestions were made and it was decided to leave to new office bearers to go into and to make a final decision at the General Meeting to be held early in the new year. The suggestions were: A Clock Tower, Library, Hospital, Hall Clock.

*February 11*

A gift from the Old Collegians to Morongo on the opening day was then discussed. After much discussion, it was decided

- (a) to present a clock for the Assembly Hall,
- (b) to stock the Conservatory
- (c) to present a palm stand and palm for the entrance hall.

Apparently, their hearts were much larger than their pocket in 1926, but this was not always to be the situation. Moneys began to accrue in the thirties and forties—the popular social functions, such as the 'At Home', cleared quite large sums, over £200 on occasions. During the war, with building restrictions in force, little could be done directly, and so the money was wisely invested in War Bonds and 'Liberty Loans'. Behind this investment was a new idea, a really beautiful new hall to honour Miss Pratt, the first headmistress. The Gertrude Pratt Hall Fund passed the first £500 mark in 1948 and reached £4,172.10.10 in 1959. The hard work and determination of the Old Collegians over so long a period was remarkable, and this report is more than modest in describing the opening ceremony.

July 11th was a milestone in the life of the school and the association. More than 1500 persons were present to see Miss Pratt open 'her hall' and hand over the keys

to the Chairman of the school council, Mr J. N. David. June McColl unveiled the bronze plaque in the foyer, which had been donated by 42 of the girls who had been present at the first assembly of the school. The association is indeed grateful to Miss Shaw for her thought and planning of the dignified, yet simple, dedication service performed so perfectly by Sir Francis Rolland.

In the Junior School, where the official afternoon tea was held, Miss Pratt 'held court' to hundreds of Old Collegians who had come back, in some cases after many years absence, to participate in the opening of the Gertrude Pratt Hall.

Miss Shaw is more accurate in assessing the effort involved in her letter to the Old Collegians on 26th October, 1959.

. . . We have waited long for the hall, but it has been well worth waiting for. We have every reason to be proud of a building which was made possible by the great generosity of so many past scholars, who have worked with such zeal and determination over the past eighteen years. I have personally watched your efforts and have been aware of the difficulties and frustrations that have been encountered. Throughout the year, I have felt the greatest admiration for those concerned. It is easy enough to commence a project, but the real test comes as the years roll by and the goal seems as far off as ever. It says much for the spirit of your association that never once did you falter in your determination to go on with the plan. I recall that, on one occasion, Miss Pratt herself suggested that the idea be abandoned. It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction to Miss Pratt, I feel sure, that your affection for her has been the guiding motive behind the colossal task you set for yourselves.

Another decade of service came from the Old Collegians in the War and post-war years, this time not to Morongo but to the war effort. From 1940 onwards, there is mention in reports of filling sandbags, organising dances for the Fighting Forces Hostel, the P.O.W. Fund, et cetera, and forming many knitting groups. Staffing of hostels was also part of voluntary service as was the running of an Opportunity Shop to raise further money for wartime organizations.

When the war ended Britain still suffered severe rationing for several years, and so the association gave much to the 'Food for Britain' campaign. By 1948, 520 food parcels had been sent to Glasgow and, in 1949, mention is made of a Mannequin Parade which financed the packing of nine dozen 11-lb. food parcels—hard work in itself, apart from raising the money. This fund was closed as the need decreased and life in Europe returned to normal. So two major projects, the near twenty year Hall effort and the ten year war effort, were well served by the Old Collegians.

Since 1960, the association has continued to build up its resources and a cursory glance at this fairly recent Balance Sheet will show the continued interest it has in the school, and, not least, the financial acumen of its committees.

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER, 1967

|                                     |          |             |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Life Membership Fund                |          | \$9,629.40  |
| Charities Fund                      |          | 163.85      |
| Badge Reserve Fund                  |          | 27.59       |
| General Fund—Balance 1/10/66        | \$527.53 |             |
| Less Deficiency for year            | 39.72    |             |
|                                     | <hr/>    | 488.81      |
|                                     |          | <hr/>       |
|                                     |          | \$10,309.65 |
|                                     |          | <hr/>       |
| These Funds are represented by—     |          |             |
| Commonwealth Bonds                  |          | \$1,980.00  |
| S.E.C. Debentures                   |          | 3,300.00    |
| M. & M.B.W. Debentures              |          | 3,400.00    |
| Gas & Fuel Corporation Debentures   |          | 600.00      |
| Geelong Waterworks & Sewerage Trust |          | 200.00      |
| Petty Cash                          |          | 2.45        |
| Commonwealth Savings Bank           |          | 735.41      |
| Stock—Badges                        |          | 93.59       |
|                                     |          | <hr/>       |
|                                     |          | \$10,311.45 |
| Less—Subscriptions in Advance       | 1.00     |             |
| Lucernian Paid in Advance           | .80      |             |
|                                     | <hr/>    | 1.80        |
|                                     |          | <hr/>       |
|                                     |          | \$10,309.65 |
|                                     |          | <hr/>       |
| Trust Accounts—                     |          |             |
| Moronggo Scholarship Fund           |          | \$2,046.63  |
| Special Fund                        |          | 1,734.28    |
| Harris Fund                         |          | 406.45      |
|                                     |          | <hr/>       |
|                                     |          | \$4,187.36  |
|                                     |          | <hr/>       |

The raising of such sums of money and the official thanks that welcome them may give the impression that the Old Collegians are a group of the more earnest past students, who enjoy a dedication to a cause, but this is far from the truth. Moronggo students, past and present, can rarely be accused of self-righteousness and the type of effort used to raise money by the Association shows that enjoyment was the first consideration, however worthy the end result. Perhaps the fact that, in 1924, a lecture on 'The Geological History of the World' was arranged, with somewhat disastrous results in audience numbers, conditioned future plans.

Until fairly recently, the most popular activity was dancing. In the early days, many dances were held at the Corio Club and from these, an annual function, the 'At Home', developed. This dance was immensely popular and, in the late

forties and fifties, became one of the chief events on the Geelong social calendar. The feature of the ball was the presentation of a debutante set to the Headmistress and the President of the Old Collegians. The last large 'At Home' was held in 1963, though smaller successful dinner dances have since been held. The interest in debutantes has waned. Changing social attitudes probably account for this and today's pupils prefer to organize their own end of year dances so that the debutante, suddenly emerging as an adult into society is a thing of the past.

Like the dances, at various periods, bridge clubs, beach picnics, bicycle rides, bush weekends, mannequin parades and barbecues flourished as did a choir and a dramatic Society. The choir was at its best in the late thirties when it sang at Church services, concerts and produced several Gilbert and Sullivan operettas under the guidance of Mr C. Blakiston.

The dramatic Club also enjoyed several years of enthusiastic support in the thirties and again in the late forties, there having been a break in productions during the war.

In 1953, a new group entitled 'The Younger Set' was formed. The aim was to provide informal meetings for the 16-25 year age group, as well as a monthly tea at the Kindergarten, social gatherings such as 'Hayseeders' Night,' invitation dances and barbecues. The fortunes of this set have varied over the years, as there is rarely a group of girls that are leaving school as close knit as those who began the set. Even so, the set continues and holds a meeting or social activity once a month — theatre parties, beauty demonstrations, bowling nights — and has an annual dinner in December.

Amidst this social activity and sporting fixtures, such as the Sun Tennis Cup and Golf Cup in which the Old Collegians enter a team and various meetings, one event stands out. That is the Annual Reunion which has continued throughout the school's history. The reunion is now held at school, the annual meeting being held in the Gertrude Pratt Hall and the dinner in the Dining Room. Guests include Miss Shaw, representatives of the school staff, the Prefects, representatives from other schools, and the President of the Combined Old Girls' Association. This has always been a successful occasion and the school appreciates the loyalty of its old girls.

The past pupils of any school become scattered throughout the world and this is more the case in a school such as Morongo which draws its scholars from a vast area. In 1955, an old girl organised a reunion in London and eleven past pupils and two former members of staff met in her flat. More recently, in 1965 during her world tour, Miss Shaw was able to get in touch with many old girls in Holland, Scotland, Canada, and, of course, London, when another reunion was held.

Nearer home, in Victoria, a Melbourne Branch of the Old Collegians has long flourished as has the Western District Branch centred at Colac. More recent is the Goulburn Valley Branch centred in Shepparton, and the newest group is the Wimmera Branch in Horsham, begun in 1963. Each of these subsidiaries holds

a reunion, annual meeting and Church Service each year, and Miss Shaw makes a point of attending some of these important functions, despite the long distances involved. Miss Shaw is the connecting link between school past and present for she never fails to show an interest in all activities of the Old Collegians Association.

Morongo is indeed fortunate in having such a strong, lively association of past pupils.

MORONGO PRESBYTERIAN GIRLS' COLLEGE  
GEELONG

OPENING AND DEDICATION  
of the  
GERTRUDE PRATT ASSEMBLY HALL

on  
SATURDAY, 11th JULY, 1959  
at 2.30 p.m.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

The doors will be locked at 2.20 p.m.

The Official Party, including Miss Gertrude Pratt, Sir Francis and Lady Roland, Mrs Norman Faichney (wife of the Moderator of the General Assembly of Victoria), the Moderator of the Presbytery, the President of the Old Collegians, with Mr J. N. David, the Chairman of the Council, the Chaplain, and the Principal, will pass through a Guard of Honour formed by the girls of the School leading from the House to the Assembly Hall.

PRESENTATION on behalf of the Architects (Messrs. Buchan, Laird and Buchan) to Miss Pratt by Mr E. C. Laird. Miss Pratt opens the door and invites the Official party to enter.

The President of the Old Collegians (Mrs. S. J. McColl) unveils the Commemorative Plaque in the Foyer.

The Official Party enters the Hall, whereupon Miss Pratt says to the Chairman of the Council:

In token that this Assembly Hall has been erected in my name for Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College, to you the Chairman of the Council, I deliver the keys and ask that we now proceed to the Dedication Ceremony.

The Chairman replies:

In the name of the Council of Morongo Presbyterian Girls' College, I accept these keys. It is our earnest prayer that this Hall named in your honour, The Gertrude Pratt Hall, will lead to the enrichment of the life of the School and to the greater Glory of God.

MORONGO

From the back of the Hall:

The Moderator of the Presbytery of Geelong (The Reverend L. W. Hatton) shall say:

Peace be to this Hall and all who worship therein,  
Peace be to those that enter and go out therefrom,  
Peace be to those who love it and love the name of  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Official Party will then take their places on the Platform during the singing of  
PSALM 100:

The Chaplain of the School (The Reverend K. MacLean) shall say:

Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it. Our help is  
in the name of the Lord from henceforth and for ever. Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and  
ever shall be, world without end.

All say:

Amen.

The Chaplain shall say:

Let us pray:

O Thou who art everywhere, without whom no foundation standeth sure; we  
beseech Thee to bless all that is done this day. We recall with thankful hearts  
all friends, benefactors and former scholars who have generously offered their  
substance for the furthering of this work. We thank Thee for the wisdom of  
those who have governed and directed the affairs of this School. Grant that  
we may ever keep them in grateful remembrance and prove worthy of the  
heritage into which we have entered.

Let Thy glory dwell in this Hall for ever, that year by year the girls of this  
College may grow in the wisdom of sound learning and of enlightened leisure,  
and that they may gain the true inward happiness and serenity that comes from  
living close to Thee. So grant that, being devoted to Thee with their whole  
hearts and united to each other with pure wills, they may ever be found stead-  
fast in faith and active in work for the honour of Thy Holy Name. This we  
ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, O  
Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end.

All say.

Amen

And as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we humbly pray:

Our Father . . . .

ANTHEM: There is a Secret Place of Rest                      CHOIR

(Dr A. E. Floyd)

LESSON: Psalm 121—Read by the Senior Prefect, Janice Gray

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

(The people stand)

Sir Francis Rolland:

For as much as it hath pleased God to put into the hearts of his People to  
build an Assembly Hall for the use of the girls of Morongo and to link it with  
the name of the School's first Principal, let us now fulfil the purpose for which

we are gathered together, of dedicating this Hall to the honour of God's most Holy Name.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we do this:

To the glory of God the Father, who has made us all of one family,

To the glory of the Son, who gave Himself for us,

And to the glory of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us,

We dedicate this Hall.

Response: Amen.

Sir Francis:

In commemoration of the devoted service of the first Principal, Miss Gertrude Pratt, whose ideals and influence contributed so largely to the building up of a tradition worthy of a great College.

We dedicate this Hall.

Response: Amen.

Sir Francis:

For the use of the Staff and students as a place of combined worship and fellowship in intellectual pursuits or indoor recreation:

We dedicate this Hall. Amen.

Response: Amen.

Sir Francis:

And now as we gather in this College built by Thy Church for Thy children:

In the unity of faith,

In good will to all,

In gratitude for the enrichment of the School,

We dedicate ourselves anew to the service of Thine everlasting Kingdom,

In the name of the Father,

And of the Son,

And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ANTHEM: Panis Angelicus (Cesar Franck) THE CHOIR

ADDRESS by Sir Francis Rolland.

SCHOOL HYMN:

To Thee, O God, our hearts we raise  
In humble supplication,

For those who seek in childhood's days  
A lifelong consecration.

To Thee we come with vows renewed,  
The right from wrong discerning,

O send us forth with power endued,  
With zeal and courage burning.

O Saviour Christ to Thee we pray  
With heavenly manna feed us,  
Thyself the life, the truth, the way,  
Through all life's changes lead us.

When fails the heart in warfare long,  
When faith and love are dying,

O make us in our weakness strong  
While on Thy might relying.

O Holy Spirit, fount of life,  
Through all our days protect us;  
Our help in need, our shield in strife,  
With sevenfold gifts direct us.  
Inspired with love and holy fear,  
And pledged to high endeavour,  
O grant us grace to persevere,  
And seal us Thine for ever.

The Chairman (Mr J. N. David) speaks on behalf of the Council.

Statement by the Principal (Miss Lucy Shaw) :

The President of the Old Collegians hands a cheque to the Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman acknowledges the gift.

VOTE OF THANKS: MR CEDRIC HIRST

COLLEGE SONG: 'SINT LUCERNAE ARDENTES.'

NATIONAL ANTHEM:

BENEDICTION: THE MODERATOR OF THE PRESBYTERY.

Old Collegians and Friends will be interested to know that at the conclusion of the Opening Ceremony, Miss D. G. Pillow will plant the first rose tree in the Hall garden, which is to bear her name. Bearing in mind Miss Pillow's keen love of flowers, the Council has planned this rose garden to recognise her devoted service to Morongo P.G.C. since 1933. It is fitting that the garden is adjacent to the Gertrude Pratt Hall, as Miss Pillow was for many years associated with Miss Pratt at Morongo.

During the afternoon a tree will be planted by Mrs R. Venters, President of Corio Region, Red Cross, to commemorate the Centenary of Red Cross.

Afternoon Tea will be served at the Junior School, in the Marquee and the Old Hall.

The Old Collegians wish their members and friends to know that their Hall Fund is still open, and gifts (which are tax free) may be given to the Secretary, Miss J. Rentoul, 286 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong.

#### *Parents and Friends' Association:*

Morongo's Parents and Friends' Association began in 1923. The aim was to help parents meet each other and, by enjoyable social functions, to raise money for the school. Over the years, there have been innumerable efforts with very gratifying results for Morongo. The aim of the society was to provide the extras, even luxuries, that make such a difference to school life. The Gertrude Pratt Hall is a beautiful building and many people shared the great work in raising the funds, but it was the Parents and Friends who provided chairs and a grand piano to complement it. The girl with her eye on the clock during an examination has the Association to thank for its clock system. These are the types of things provided. The money is raised, Miss Shaw is consulted and needs are met. Since 1923, gifts have included the first golf links, tennis courts, a tennis wall, film projectors, an electric clock system, scholarships, chairs and television sets. Yet this list is by no means comprehensive.

Some years ago, it was decided to confine fund raising to one large effort in the year, and to enlist the help of the Old Collegians and the Junior and Senior Auxiliaries. The occasion is the Morongo Fete which is held early in first term. Both the organisation and timing for this event are excellent and it is always a pleasant day's outing. The main support comes from Geelong but the Fete day has become one on which most boarders' parents visit the school, and so is one of the few occasions when boarders' and day girls' parents can mix. Being early in the year, parents of new pupils can get to know the school and other parents easily, free of formality. Given good weather, Morongo is an ideal setting for a garden party—the stalls are colourful, worthy citizens are manning skittle alleys and lucky dips, members of staff are the waitresses at the afternoon tea and last year's matriculation girls are wearing their smartest clothes to impress those who knew them in tunics only three months ago. The whole day is a lighter side to school life for which Morongo is grateful to the Parents and Friends and others.

The Fete means that other meetings of the Association are mainly social. It sometimes seems in these days of the affluent society, that every social occasion is basically for money. The Parents and Friends are singularly free of this.

The Ladies' Auxiliary (Senior) has monthly meetings to which a guest speaker is invited and subjects range from 'Problems between adolescent children and parents' to beauty demonstrations.

The Association also hold an evening when they are hosts to the staff. The entertainment varies: sometimes it is a dance, crazy whist or maybe a theatre party. One thing never varies and that is that it is a purely social evening and any mention of a daughter's school life is rare indeed. In fact, relationships between staff and parents are most cordial and, no doubt, this stems from the excellent presidents of the association: Mrs Simson, Mr David, Mr Badger, Mr G. Hedley, Mr Hirst, Mr Fidge (later Sir Roy Fidge), and Mr A. L. R. Lucas. As one of them, Mr C. L. Hirst, who gave ten years' service as president, said 'the aim is to be of service to the school without interference in the administration so that good will exists between the parents and the school.' The association has been most successful in living up to Mr Hirst's statement in the past. Their immediate aim for the future is to work for a major project over the next few years. Several suggestions have been offered and the decision rests with Miss Shaw, the staff and the school council. Meanwhile, parents keep in touch through their meetings and the excellent little news publication, 'The Bell Post Bulletin'.

#### *Junior School Auxiliary*

The Junior School Auxiliary began in 1935 and has long been a flourishing society. In fact, it seems that meetings and activities were so enjoyable that many mothers missed them when their girls entered senior school. This played a big part in the creation of the Senior Ladies' Auxiliary in 1956. Then too, the Junior School has always had a certain autonomy—first in Elizabeth Street and later, as a separate building at Bell Post Hill, which creates a smaller and more closely knit group of parents.

The meetings are held monthly in the city—for many years at McPhillimy

Hall. A baby-sitting service is organised so that a young mother can take her pre-school child along and know that she will still enjoy the afternoon. A guest speaker is invited and the talk is followed by discussion and tea. It is not surprising therefore that these meetings are popular.

Money is raised for various purposes and the Auxiliary joins with other organizations in the running of the annual Garden Party and, of course, has a share in the proceeds.

One annual expenditure is the provision of toys for every child at the Christmas concert at the end of the year, when Father Christmas makes his appearance. A social evening is also always held in December when Miss Courtney and the Junior School staff are chief guests.

As with other associations of the school, much has been given to the school by the Junior Auxiliary ranging from trays for the Nursery to pianos, refrigerators and outdoor play equipment. Yet the Auxiliary is most generous to other appeals and large donations were given to the Gertrude Pratt Hall fund and the St Hilda's Appeal in 1962. It is most encouraging that mothers today can see future benefits for their daughters in a university college as well as the immediate benefits in equipment bought for the school. The Junior Auxiliary is now thinking in terms of a long-range project. Morongo wishes it long and continued success in the future.