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FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FUND RAISING

**A Brief History of the
OLD GEELONG COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION**

By Geoff Neilson

INTRODUCTION

At the cocktail party at the Geelong Club on 10 November 2001 to celebrate the centenary of the Old Geelong Collegians Association, Past President Gary Bent proposed the toast to the College and the Association.

In doing so, he related the account given by Past President Bill Wishart of an experience while in Changi prisoner of war camp in Singapore during the Second World War.

Bill had been sitting amongst a group of depressed and forlorn prisoners when suddenly he saw one of them wearing a familiar green football jumper. "Is that a Geelong College jumper?" he asked. "Yes," came the reply.

From that moment on, some of the frustration and the pain of imprisonment was eased as the two of them engaged in a long and nostalgic conversation about teachers and students they had known and reminiscences of activities they had experienced while at school. No doubt many anecdotes were shared – probably exaggerated a little as stories about one's schooldays tend to be.

Gary said the story emphasised the point that there is a strong bond between all Old Collegians, whether of similar or different age, in good times and bad.

That bond is the second of the three original objectives adopted on Friday 3 May 1901 when the decision was taken to form the Old Geelong Collegians' Association: *To unite and foster good fellowship amongst the Old Boys*. Of course "Old Boys" must now be read as "Old Collegians".

The first objective was: *To hold an annual social reunion of past Collegians*.

These two objectives cover the fun and fellowship of the title of these notes.

The third was: *To promote the welfare of The Geelong College*. Throughout the hundred years of the Association's existence, Old Collegians have been generous in their support of the College. Innumerable facilities have been provided and scholarships financed from that generosity.

A restructuring of the Association following Mr Thwaites' appointment as Principal caused fund raising to receive a far greater focus than before. After a few years of continuing appeals, however, there was resistance to this emphasis, until finally there was agreement that the Association would concentrate on fun and fellowship, leaving fund raising to the Geelong College Foundation.

The notes which follow trace the development of the Association through its various phases.

In the early days when the College was a private institution, the Association committee was consulted by Norman Morrison as if it were the school council, and even after a council was appointed in 1908, the office-bearers and committee continued to have an advisory role.

The Association provided strong support when the College seemed close to collapse. Its importance grew during the two World Wars, when many Old Collegians served, and some died, in the various theatres of conflict. Friendships made at school were maintained and messages from the College revived memories of happier times.

There was a period when the focal point of the year was the gala Boat Race Ball.

Then, a sea change occurred when the first executive officer was appointed and, by agreement between the College Council and the OGCA committee, the Association's role focussed on fund raising for the school.

The alumni system of year groups was introduced.

As mentioned before, fund raising was later handed over to the Geelong College Foundation.

Then came the introduction of female Old Collegians.

Today, social gatherings such as year group and branch reunions are the principal activities, while the Association continues to support the College as it has for the whole of its first hundred years.

This short account cannot do justice to the innumerable leaders and workers who have given their time and talents to ensure the Association fulfills its objectives. The few who are mentioned are representative of the many who remain anonymous, but who deserve similar recognition.

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THE FIRST DECADE

In 1911, a jubilee history of the College was written by G McLeod Redmond. He was an Old Collegian who entered the College in 1891 and was dux in 1894.

The seventh chapter of that book was devoted to the Association.

As Mr Redmond was an eye witness of the formation and development of the Association in its first ten years, no better source of information can be found about that decade than that chapter. Mr Redmond would have known the first Principal, Dr George Morrison, and the second Principal, Mr Norman Morrison.

He writes:

“Always at Geelong College, there has existed a strong Old Collegian sentiment. Dr Morrison fostered and encouraged it. He saw in it the assurance of a great future for the school and curiously it was his death which ultimately brought about the formation of the Old Geelong Collegians’ Association. Before the College had been established ten years, prizes presented by Old Collegians were being competed for every year.

“The first reunion of Old Collegians was held in 1878. That was the year in which the College football team played a series of famous matches against Geelong Grammar School. Great enthusiasm was created, and the season was concluded by a match against a team of Old Collegians. The boys won, kicking five goals to one. The Old Collegians’ goal was kicked by H. Upton. After the match the Old Boys dined at the College, and the evening was given over to an impromptu concert. “It is intended,” said the Doctor in the report for 1878, “that this shall be an annual reunion, and now that so many Old Collegians are scattered through the length and breadth of the land, it will, we are sure, be looked for with increasing interest.” At the Annual Sports held in December of that year, the “Old Collegians’ Cup” was won by C. McCormick of Geelong, with E. W. Longden of Melbourne second, and P. Dwyer of Geelong third. The race was the first definite link between the Old Collegians and the College. The Sports Dinner also became an annual function; Old Collegians were regularly invited to it.

“In 1884 the Old Collegians’ Cup was made a triple event. It included races over 100 yards, 200 yards, and 440 yards. A. Garrard, a master at the Geelong Grammar School, was the first to win it under these conditions, a performance which he repeated in 1886, after securing second place in 1885. It was chiefly by the aid of contributions from Old Collegians that the College Boat Club was inaugurated in 1888. Four boats – a pair, a four-oared gig, and two pleasure boats were purchased. Dr H. Salmon, of Ballarat, was chiefly responsible for this form of Old Collegian interest, and the following year presented the prizes for which six scratch fours competed, while in 1890 he and a number of other Old Collegians gave the boat club a racing boat by Fuller of Melbourne. The Old Collegians had been contributing for some years to the Athletic Sports Fund, but about this time the amount received from them began to assume great importance.

"There were 96 Old Collegians entered for the Cup in 1891, and there were over 50 of them present at the Annual Sports. The Sports dinner was a well attended function that evening. It was Norman Morrison's first year as Vice-Principal. Every year saw more Old Collegians mustering on sports day. "We are always pleased to see the faces of old schoolfellows on our Annual Sports Day", said the report for 1894, "which is a day of reunion when reminiscences are exchanged and friendship renewed."

"It was in 1896 that the Old Collegians presented the Boat Club with a single-streak racing four. It was christened "Pegasus", and was fitted with outriggers and roller slides. The Old Collegians' Cup was turned into a 120 Yards Race in 1896, and run in heats. A 100 Yards "Consolation Race" for Old Collegians had been included some years earlier. Both these races attracted large fields every year.

"Dr George Morrison died in February, 1898. The many Old Boys who attended his funeral asked Mr Neil Campbell and Mr Stanley Calvert to inaugurate a movement to perpetuate his memory, and this they did. A strong committee was formed, as follows: Messrs G. Braham, W. M. Bell, L. G. Calvert, Jas. Campbell, J. L. Currie, Neil Campbell, Len. Calvert, T. Cole, Stanley Calvert, Jack Dowling, J. Garbutt, A. F. Garrard, E. Greaves, C. Howell, G. R. Hope, Gus. Kearney, Professor Kernot, Sam Leon, Arthur Longden, Wm. McMullen, Chas. McLean, J. McLaughlin, J. N. McArthur, J. Osborne, H. O'Hara, H. B. Reid, E. R. Sparrow, H. R. Salmon, D. E. Stodart, L. A. Whyte, R. Willey, and D. Whitelaw. The movement thus originated ended in the handing over on 27th May, 1899 to Norman Morrison, of the key to the Memorial Library which has been erected on the south side of the College building at a cost of some 400 pounds, all of which was contributed by Old Collegians.

"Mr Neil Campbell presided at the opening, which was attended by a splendid gathering of Old Collegians. The opening ceremony was performed by Professor Kernot. Speeches were made by various Old Collegians. One who spoke, Mr James Osborne, said that the reunion of so many Old Collegians suggested to him that an association might be formed to keep them in close touch with one another in the future. All those present received the suggestion with the greatest favour, and it was decided at a meeting in the Prince of Wales' Hotel that night that a Memorial Committee should be entrusted with the task of carrying it into effect. That was the beginning of the Old Collegians' Association.

"Messrs. Neil Campbell and Stanley Calvert set diligently to work to create the Association. It took the whole of 1900. They received the warmest support from Old Collegians everywhere, and in the early part of 1901 the formation of the Association was assured. The first reunion was held on 3rd May of that year. A football match, Old Boys against Present Boys was played in the afternoon. Those present were afterwards entertained by Norman Morrison in the College dining hall. In the evening rules were agreed to, office-bearers elected, and the Association formally launched. Then followed a banquet in the Geelong Town Hall. There was a splendid muster of Old Collegians of various years, while letters of congratulations were received from Old Collegians all over Australia. The membership of the Association numbered 350.

"A day scholars entrance examination was presented to the College by the Association in the first year of its existence. The Principal decided to hold the fees from this scholarship in trust, so as to establish a Geelong College Exit Scholarship. At the same time there was established the "Dux Prize", a set of books presented to the Dux of the College, and the "Association Prize", a trophy for a 100 Yards Handicap, competed for at the annual sports. These first two prizes have been presented every year through the Association by some member of it. The generosity of Old Collegians had been stimulated by the formation of the Association, and a magnificent lead had been given by Mr J. L. Currie, when in 1902 he presented to the Boat Club a fine 8-oared racing boat – the "Lorna Mary".

"A special boat fund was established by the Association after that, and on 7th October, 1905 a racing eight of latest pattern was handed to the College and launched at the sheds by Mrs Morrison, who christened it "The Old Collegian".

"When Gus. Kearney died a movement was originated by the President of the Essendon Football Club and the Old Geelong Collegians' Association to establish an annual prize in memory of him. The sum of 100 pounds was collected, and invested at 4 ½ per cent. This prize is awarded annually on the lines of a modified Rhodes' Scholarship. That prize was awarded for the first time in 1908 – the year in which the College again became a public school.

"The Committee of the Old Geelong Collegians' Association did little more than arrange for the annual reunion until 1907. In that year Norman Morrison was actively engaged in negotiations with the Presbyterian Church for taking over the school. He discussed everything before a largely attended meeting of the Committee held in the Geelong Town Hall, of which Mr J. L. Currie was Chairman. In the end it was decided to ask for representation on the Council of the school. Professor Kernot, Mr S. Leon, and Dr Norman McArthur were appointed to confer with the church authorities. As a result, the Association obtained the right to nominate three members of the Council. The members nominated were the President (Mr J. L. Currie), the Vice-President (Mr L. A. Whyte), and the Honorary Treasurer (Mr Neil Campbell). The General Assembly, at the request of Norman Morrison, had included in its representatives Dr Norman McArthur and the Hon. Secretary (Mr Stanley Calvert). There were thus five Old Collegians on the Council. Then a vacancy occurred through the resignation of Mr Graham Balfour. Another Old Collegian was appointed in Dr R. H. Morrison. This was after Norman Morrison's sad death, and had the effect of retaining the Morrison influence in the control of the College. Mr L. A. Whyte died, and Mr W. Reid was nominated by the Old Geelong Collegians' Association in his place.

"The next work in which the Old Collegians engaged was that of erecting a Jubilee Hall. A meeting of committees was held at Scott's Hotel, Melbourne, and this project, which was very dear to the heart of Norman Morrison, was definitely undertaken. Before the meeting separated the sum of 950 pounds was promised.

"The death of Norman Morrison nearly broke up the Association. He had been one of the chief movers in it, and the life of the movement seemed to be gone with him. A faithful band of Old Collegians who had been intimate friends of Norman Morrison's were, however, resolved to carry on what he had begun. They kept the Association together, and by using it to perpetuate his memory, made it stronger than ever. The new headmaster was publicly welcomed to the College by the Old Geelong Collegians' Association, and the movement was continued for the building of the hall, which was converted into a memorial of Norman Morrison. It had been projected by him to celebrate the jubilee of the College. The Association have carried out his idea, and perpetuated his memory at the same time,

"Three men stood out above others in connection with the work of the Association. To Stanley Calvert, the original Honorary Secretary, is due much of the credit for the shape the Association has assumed. As secretary, he was untiring, and endeared himself to all old boys by his kindly tact and ready understanding. He had a hard working and enthusiastic associate in the Honorary Treasurer, Neil Campbell, who, when Stanley Calvert was laid aside by ill-health, worked day and night to keep the Association moving ever ahead.

"Dr Norman McArthur has been the other. He was confidential friend and adviser of Norman Morrison, and since his death Dr McArthur has striven with all his power to realise the ideals which Norman Morrison held both for the school and the Old Collegians' Association. He has spared neither time nor trouble, and both as a member of the Council and President of the Association, has worked with untiring energy. The successful building of the Memorial Hall is in very large measure due to Dr McArthur's enthusiasm as an Old Collegian and loyalty to an old friend. With him has been associated Mr James D'Helin. During the months before the Jubilee, when the work was heaviest, Mr Neil Campbell in his turn was overtaken by ill-health. Mr D'Helin, however, as Assistant Honorary Secretary, worked with redoubled energy. He proved himself indefatigable, tactful, and businesslike. So long as the Association has men like these who are prepared to give time and thought and energy to its affairs and the future of the College, there will be no fear for the future. Both will continue to increase in power and prosperity and importance."

The meeting on the evening of 3 May 1901 to which Mr Redmond refers and at which the Association was established was held at 5.30 pm in the Federal Hall in Ryrie Street, Geelong. Mr Neil Campbell explained to the large and representative gathering that the objects of the meeting were "to establish an Old Collegians Association, adopt rules and elect office-bearers for the year. Mr S Leon proposed and Mr E R Sparrow seconded "that an association be formed under the title of the Old Geelong Collegians Association".

The chief objects of the Association were to be "A. To hold an annual social re-union of past Collegians, B. To unite and foster good fellowship among the Old Boys, C. To promote the welfare of the Geelong College.

Old Boys were to be eligible to become members on payment of two shillings and six pence enrolment fee. Former masters who had taught for at least eight terms, plus present masters were to be ex officio members.

The first office-bearers were – President: Professor W C Kernot, Vice-Presidents: Mr Stewart McArthur and Dr Harry R Salmon, Secretary : Mr Sanley B Calvert, and Treasurer: Mr Neil Campbell.

Professor Kernot held office as President for the first five years. There is some uncertainty about his being an Old Collegian.

In an article entitled *The Kernot Engineers* in the December 2002 issue of the Geelong Historical Society's magazine *Investigator*, Old Collegian Jim Ferguson wrote: "When the Old Geelong Collegians Association was established in 1901, William Kernot was elected the first President. Actually, he was not an Old Collegian, as he was never a pupil at the school. William Kernot obviously kept in close contact with George Morrison, not only when preparing for his matriculation exam, but also when he came home from the university for weekends and vacations. He frequently expressed his appreciation for Morrison's influence by saying "I owe an untold debt of gratitude to him". This could explain the interest Kernot had in the development of the Geelong College."

The centenary history, *The Geelong College 1861 1961*, written by G C Notman and B R Keith, refers to William Kernot as "one of the very first pupils, a matriculant of 1861". It lists W W C Kernot in the register of pupils as attending in 1861. Redmond's jubilee history lists W W C Kernot in its register with the year 1864 against his name.

Professor Kernot was obviously held in very high regard. He had been a full time lecturer at the University of Melbourne since 1875 and he was appointed in 1883 as Professor and Dean of Engineering. In 1904, he donated the "Association Plate" as a sports trophy.

The first committee meeting was held in the Prince of Wales Hotel on Monday 9 September 1901 at 4.30 pm. It was resolved that at least one football, cricket and tennis match be played against the present boys each year.

In the early years, the President rarely attended committee meetings, which were usually chaired by either of the two Vice-Presidents.

On 14 May 1903, a special committee meeting was held to consider indefinitely postponing the annual meeting scheduled for 22 May "owing to the thoroughly disorganised state of the railway service caused through the strike of the VR engineers and firemen". However, when the strike was called off, the meeting went ahead on the planned date after all.

The charge for the dinner was fixed at 7 shillings and sixpence, the catering cost being 5 shillings. A resolution was passed at the meeting and handed to the press, protesting against the cancellation of the 10.55 am train from Melbourne for the Boat Race and the return train at 5.55 pm.

In 1905, the idea was presented to the committee of presenting a racing boat "in view of the plucky effort on the part of the school crew at the last Henley Regatta". The members decided that, "if the present boys choose the name 'The Old Collegian' for the racing boat, the Association agrees."

An important committee meeting was held on 8 January 1908 when, according to the minutes, "Mr Morrison placed before the meeting a suggested scheme whereby the College would become a Public School and gave full particulars in connection with same". A resolution was carried unanimously "that this Association affirms the desirability of the Geelong College becoming a Public School". In another motion, it was resolved "that if the financial proposals are satisfactory to Mrs Morrison and Mr C N Morrison, this Association approve of the offer of the Presbyterian Church to purchase the Geelong College".

From its formation in 1901 until the appointment of the first Council in 1908, the Association seems to have been consulted by Norman Morrison on major policy decisions. As a young man, he doubtless looked to experienced old boys for advice and guidance.

The original annual members' subscription was two shillings and six pence (25 cents), but at the annual general meeting in May 1908, this was raised to five shillings (50 cents) and the life members' fee was fixed at five guineas. At the same meeting, it was decided to award the first Gus Kearney Memorial Prize, "something on the lines of the Rhodes Scholarship". At the committee meeting in November, the rules for selection were adopted on the basis of 50 per cent for proficiency in school work and 50 per cent for proficiency in sport.

The first Old Boys' badge was produced at this time. A stock of 100 was ordered. The price was to be 2/6, but a few months later it was changed to one pound.

The close relationship between the Council and the Association at that time is illustrated by a motion passed at a committee meeting in 1909 that: "a sub-committee consisting of Messrs E R Sparrow, W H Reid and Dr Elvins be appointed to confer with a sub-committee of the Council for the purpose of preparing plans of the present buildings and also plans of any future building scheme in connection with the Geelong College".

The first Old Boys' major fund raising effort was for a hall to be a memorial to Norman Morrison and to mark the school's jubilee. Norman Morrison had been killed in a shooting accident on 12 November 1909. A special meeting was held in February 1910 in the Geelong Town Hall. The new Principal, Mr W R Bayly attended. The cost of the hall was estimated at 3,500 pounds (\$7,000). A circular was sent to all Old Boys with details of the proposed hall and photos of the College and the grounds. An advertisement was placed in the *Australasian*. Each committee member was asked to canvass ten Old Boys and ask for five pounds from each.

In February 1911, the committee resolved to spend 2,500 pounds on the erection of the Norman Morrison Memorial Hall. The foundation stone was laid by former OGCA president, Dr A N McArthur during the three day jubilee celebrations in October 1911. The celebrations included a Friday night ball, Saturday afternoon sports program, Saturday night smoke social, and Sunday church service at St Georges conducted entirely by Old Boys. At the sports, Old Boys competed in the Veterans' Plate, Old Geelong Collegians' Cup, and 440 yards handicap. A jubilee badge was struck.

About twenty tenders were received for the building of the hall to plans by Tombs and Durran. Mr G F Taylor's tender was accepted.

The official opening on 31 May 1912 marked the end of a highly successful fund raising effort, in which the Old Boys had provided the bulk of the 3,000 pounds required.

THE GREAT WAR

The period between 1911 and the Great War was one in which the Association grew under the leadership of some outstanding presidents, two of whom served also on the College Council. Norman McArthur who was OGCA president for the first part of the jubilee year, was a council member from 1908 to 1947, and was made a life member of the Association. Dr R H Morrison, president in 1916-17 remained on the council from 1911 to 1932.

Another who gave notable service to both Association and council was Stanley Hamilton Calvert. Secretary of the OGCA from 1901 to 1939 (but strangely never president). Mr Calvert was a member of the council from 1908 to 1939 and chairman from 1908 to 1939.

Another stalwart was Neil Campbell, OGCA treasurer from 1901 to 1917 and council member from 1908 to 1912.

Behind the scenes, and never an office-bearer, James D'Helin was indefatigable as assistant secretary. His real estate office in James Street, Geelong served as the Association's office.

In 1913, the constitution was amended to provide that the committee would comprise past presidents, the office bearers, the Principal, and twenty elected members. The expectation of members' attendance could not have been great, as the quorum was fixed at five.

It would be interesting to know why the committee found it necessary to resolve in 1914 that an additional qualification be added to the criteria for the Gus Kearney Memorial Prize; namely that "it shall be an essential condition that the successful candidate shall have devoted his prowess to the service of the best interests of the College". Was one of the potential recipients choosing to play football or tennis with a local club instead of the school?

The committee kept itself busy organising social functions. In 1914, for example, an Old Boys Dance was held on 4 June, followed two days later by the annual reunion and dinner.

In 1915, it was agreed to proceed with the reunion despite there being over one hundred Old Boys away at the war. In 1916, the reunion was scheduled to coincide with the Head of the River, which returned to the Barwon. The toasts at that year's dinner were to The King, Our Allies, Education Lessons Learned from the War, Public School Boys at the Front, and Our Guests. Five toasts must have provided ample opportunity for stirring speeches!

At the annual general meeting in 1917, Charles Shannon, who had been chairman of council since 1908 and who was to continue to hold that office until 1921, was made the Association's first honorary life member and presented with a gold badge.

A resolution was passed unanimously at the same meeting that "an Old Geelong Collegians War Memorial Scheme Fund be opened to Old Boys, parents of Old Boys and friends of the College soliciting contributions, the final decision as to the definite scheme to be decided at the next Old Boys Day." Fund raising was certainly in vogue, with a war memorial fund following so closely after the Norman Morrison Hall appeal.

At the 1918 annual meeting, the follow up resolution stated that "an endowment war memorial fund be established, the interest from which is to be applied to scholarships and bursaries, and in special conditions for a War Memorial building or monument bearing names of those who have served their country; the fund to be controlled by Trustees elected by the Old Geelong Collegians Association." Later in the year, it was decided that preference would be given in awarding bursaries to sons of Old Boys killed in the war. Master A Longden was awarded the first bursary in 1919. The form of the war memorial building or monument was, however, undecided for many months, until in 1921 Old Boys' donations of 3,000 pounds were applied towards the cost of the new preparatory school in the north west corner of the school and the "convalescence hospital". Other Old Boys were to be invited to donate further funds towards the balance of the cost. An honour board was also to be provided, to record the names of Old Boys killed in the war.

The 1919 reunion was postponed because of the influenza pandemic.

An invitation was given to Old Boys to subscribe for a presentation to Mr Walter Thomas Price who was leaving the College after 21 years' service. He had joined the staff in 1898, and succeeded Mr William Reynold Bayly as Principal in 1915.

The Association was about to meet the fifth Principal.

THE ROLLAND YEARS

The minutes of the OGCA committee meeting held on 18 February 1920 record that the Rev F W Rolland attended his first meeting.

The College was at a low ebb, and committee members must have wondered how this tall, spare Presbyterian minister was going to cope, having had no experience in the education profession other than as a student. Was his experience as an inland missionary and army chaplain going to be enough?

The severity of the school's financial crisis must have been apparent when council chairman Charles Shannon accompanied by his colleague Mr H B Gibb attended the OGCA committee meeting held at the College on 24 April 1920 and urged that Old Collegians earmark their donations to the Presbyterian Peace Fund for reduction of the College's debt.

Celebrations of the College's diamond jubilee in 1921 included a ball, plus the "usual smoke night", annual general meeting, and church parade, as well as the opening of the new preparatory school and convalescent hospital, and the unveiling of a memorial tablet to Dr G E ("Chinese") Morrison, a famous Old Collegian who had died in 1920.

Younger Old Boys expressed concern in 1922 at the 15 shillings cost of the annual dinner and so a "Tea" at the College was held instead. A reunion was held in London in 1923. For the local 1924 reunion, "a drag was engaged to leave the Victoria Hotel at 2 o'clock, tickets 4/6 each". An option was taken over "60 comfortable rooms in approved quarters where breakfast may be obtained also" for visiting Old Boys. Community singing was introduced to the reunion programme in 1928.

The secretary's report at the 1924 annual meeting recorded that, for an endowment fund to reduce the College's debt, 13,000 pounds had been raised to add to the existing 6000 pounds. The visit to the OGCA committee in 1920 by Mr Shannon and Mr Gibb had obviously been fruitful. The Rev J B Rentoul had visited many Old Collegians in the Western District of Victoria, canvassing for donations. Once again, the Association was involved in major fund raising!

In 1925, it was decided to approach the Old Geelong Grammarians' Association about the possibility of forming a joint team to compete in the Victorian Amateur Football Association. This foreshadowed the development of the Old Geelong Football Club which competed in the Association decades later.

The importance placed by the Principal on gaining the Association's views in the '20s is illustrated by Mr Rolland's consultation with the committee over the design of blazer pockets. In February 1926, the minutes state that the committee "decided" that the College coat of arms would designate honour awards and the Pegasus for lesser distinctions in sport or otherwise.

At the 1929 annual general meeting of the Association, Dr Wettenhall expressed his fear that the establishment of a kindergarten as well as a preparatory school was too much for one Principal. This was supported by Mr A W Dennis, and it was agreed to convey the view to the school council. However, the council had already taken action and begun a kindergarten at the preparatory school. A few years later, its growth warranted its move to a separate building in the north west corner of the grounds, and decades later to the Minerva Road site.

A problem which was to concern APS headmasters periodically was old students' behaviour at the Head of the River. The committee received a letter in 1929 from the Old Scotch Collegians' Association conveying a suggestion from the APS head prefects that Old PS Boys seen in public under the influence should be disciplined by their Old Boys' association. The committee agreed and replied that the OGCA was behind any move to discourage over indulgence of liquor on the part of Old PS boys. Over the future decades, there were to be several instances in which former students were suspended from the OGCA because of excessive exuberance at the river and on the school grounds at Boat Race time.

Another suggestion emanating from the Old Scotch Collegians at this time was for the formation of a Combined Old Public Schools Club in Melbourne. This led to the formation of such a club in which some Old Geelong Collegians took a prominent part over the years.

The beginning of the great depression in the 1930s was evidenced by the decision in 1930 to hold a smoke night at the College on sports day instead of a reunion. At a smoke night at the ABC Café in 1931, toasts were proposed to those who had left in each year successively, beginning with 1930 and working backwards. No report is given in the committee minutes of the condition of the diners when 1861 was reached. Perhaps only those years represented by Old Boys in attendance were toasted.

Reunions were being held in other parts of Australia including Perth and Brisbane. In Wagga, an Old Victorian Public School Boys' Society was formed.

The 1932 reunion dinner was held at the Victoria Hotel in Malop Street, when the toasts were restricted to (perhaps after the 1930 experience) – "The King", "The College", "the Chief Guest", and "Kindred Guests".

An OGCA tie was designed in 1930 and 300 ordered. Orders were placed by Old Boys at the Association's office in James Street and passed on to the suppliers, Bright & Hitchcock.

At the committee meeting in December 1933, in the middle of the depression, it was decided to construct a war memorial building – first mooted in 1918. Mr Arthur W Coles offered a gift of 3,000 pounds towards the cost. In 1935, Mr Coles was nominated as one of the Association's representatives on the College Council, beginning a long period of outstanding service, culminating in his appointment as chairman in 1941.

Fund raising came to the fore again in 1935 when it was decided to raise 2,000 pounds for a sports oval on the "cow paddock" as a gift for the school's 75th anniversary. In fact, however, a price for constructing the oval of only 439 pounds, 2 shillings was accepted from Mr W L Grinter in April 1936. The 75th anniversary fund paid also for the addition of a turf wicket. Two practice areas were developed on the Noble Street side, Mr A N Shannon paying for one and the anniversary fund the other.

An intriguing decision was made by the committee in June 1935 "to send a recommendation from the Old Boys Committee to the Principal and Council that every encouragement and opportunity be given to select a crew truly representative of the College". Boys could row as well as play cricket in those days. Perhaps rowing was not taken seriously enough. Was it coincidence or did this communication have some mysterious part in the College's first Head of the River win in the following year, 1936?

An interest in retaining archives of the College's early years was expressed by the committee in 1936 when it was resolved that the College Council be asked to restore and preserve the old photographs and records which form part of the College traditions, and that they be made available and displayed in a suitable way. This desire emerges in the Association minutes periodically over subsequent decades.

The 1938 reunion was held on speech day, when the Governor-General, Lord Gowrie, opened Mackie House. There was concern at this time at the high cost of *Pegasus* and also the rise in the annual OGCA subscription to 10 shillings. Lindsay Hassett was a member of the OGCA committee for a short time, beginning in 1938.

When Mr Stanley Hamilton-Calvert died in 1939 after 38 years as secretary, Mr T A David reported to the committee that "the financial position of the Association was known only to our late secretary". Negotiations with the College on the price charged for *Pegasus* were therefore deferred until up to date accounts could be prepared. The College council generously granted 150 pounds towards the first year's honorarium for the secretary and the cost of *Pegasus*. In 1940, following the beginning of the Second World War, the committee decided to seek a larger membership so that the Association could afford to send free copies of *Pegasus* to Old Boys serving in the armed forces.

Mr B R Keith's long and outstanding service as a member of the committee began in 1940. "Bert" had been a student from 1916 to 1919 and a member of the teaching staff from 1927. Minutes of committee meetings disclose his frequent suggestions and his active participation in Association activities for the fifty years following his appointment to the committee. Few if any Old Collegians have served the OGCA with greater enthusiasm and dedication.

Mr Harry Fallaw was appointed as OGCA secretary in 1939. His efficiency, and the growing number of members are reflected in the decision to establish a card register of members. However, it was difficult to persuade Old Boys who had not already joined the Association to do so. In a recruitment effort, 1,200 letters were mailed, but only 9 life members and 37 annual members were signed up. People were doubtless preoccupied with the first dismal years of the Second World War and still suffering from the aftermath of the Great Depression. The cost of a dinner was considered too great and instead a smoke night was held in Melbourne 1941 on boat race night.

In March 1942, Mr Fallaw asked for leave of absence for the duration of the war as he had decided to enlist in the RAAF. In March 1943, Mr Doug Walter took over as secretary.

After Mr Rolland's first twenty years as Principal had elapsed, the committee (meeting in the George Morrison Library in those days) decided in October 1941 to commission Charles Wheeler to paint a portrait of the popular headmaster. However, in February 1944, it was decided to return the portrait to Mr Wheeler "to have it altered to the satisfaction of the committee". Apparently the matter was still alive eight months later as the minutes of the committee meeting in October 1944 record that "Mr Rolland said he thought that should the portrait be unsatisfactory, which was most likely, Charles Wheeler would be willing to paint him again." The committee received a letter from Dr R R Wettenhall and Mr P McCallum in December expressing their opinion that altered the portrait was satisfactory. Then, in April 1945, it is recorded that committee members' opinions of the portrait varied considerably but it was agreed that the altered version would be accepted for hanging.

Mr Rolland addressed the OGCA committee in October 1944 and outlined the problems facing the College. At a special meeting of Old Collegians held a month later, three needs were identified – the completion of the quadrangle as a war memorial, extra superannuation for masters, and a new preparatory school. It was agreed that an appeal be launched. Once again, fund raising was on the agenda. At the annual general meeting in April 1945, a letter was read from the Presbyterian Church stating that "a fund to be called the Geelong College War Memorial Fund is to be established with the object of advancing the general welfare of the College in various directions; that the initial amount to be aimed at be 50,000 pounds, and that a committee is to be formed consisting of two members of the College Council and such members as the Association appoints." The committee at its meeting during the following month agreed to launch the appeal for funds "for a War Memorial for which several objects might be indicated but not closely defined and for a masters' superannuation fund".

In August, it was decided to employ an appeal organiser. Mr Rolland prepared an appeal brochure. The residue of the 1914-18 war memorial fund was transferred to the new fund.

A small appeal was launched also for the erection of gates near the House of Music as a memorial to the greatly loved and respected groundsman, Teddy Rankin. Each donation was not to exceed one pound to avoid damaging the Council's appeal for buildings and the masters' superannuation fund.

At the end of 1945, Mr Rolland retired, and he was elected as an honorary life member of the Association. His dreams of a war memorial wing and new preparatory school were to be realised during his successor's tenure.

POST-WAR YEARS

Shortages of supplies and continuing rationing of some goods created problems for the College in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, but the Association went on as usual with its annual reunion on Friday 12 July 1946.

At afternoon tea during the traditional football clash with Geelong Grammar School, the opportunity was taken by Old Boys to meet the new Principal, Dr Arnold Buntine. That night was spent at the movies. An Open Day was held on the following day, with football and tennis matches between Old Collegians and the school teams. A dinner took place at the ABC Café that evening, and on the Sunday morning, a special church service at St Georges featured an Old Collegian preacher and choir.

When Doug Walter retired as secretary in July 1946 because of his managerial appointment at Strachan & Co, an advertisement was placed in the *Geelong Advertiser* seeking applications. The choice came down to two well known Old Collegians, and, in a secret ballot of committee members, Matthew ("Matt") Wright was appointed. He was to hold the position for thirteen years and become President in 1963. Matt's real estate office in Little Malop Street became the Association's office.

The 1947 annual dinner was in the form of a buffet meal at the Hall of Honour, the price being 12 shillings and six pence (\$1.25). New rules for the Association were adopted. A Melbourne reunion dinner was held at the Hotel Australia on the day of the PS Combined Sports.

Mr Percy Everist (father of OGCA President Ian and school architect and Council member Neil) was appointed paid organiser of the war memorial appeal. In 1948, the OGCA committee set a target of 6,000 pounds. The association minutes record appreciation of the generous donation by A W Coles. Because of the importance of this appeal, it was decided to defer seeking funds for a score box on the senior oval to honour the memory of former Vice-Principal, Mr A H MacRoberts.

The longstanding practice of holding a Ball on the night of the Boat Race heats began on 16 April 1948, as a result of a committee resolution moved by Jack Hawkes, seconded by George Ewan. It was held at the Geelong West Town Hall, and made a profit of 150 pounds, which was donated to the Food for Britain Appeal. It was decided that the profit from the following year's Ball would be given to the War Memorial Fund.

Far sighted as always, Bert Keith moved in August 1949 that the committee write to the Council recommending that a new history of the College be written for the centenary in 1961. Bert was not to know then that he would be the author in collaboration with G C Notman. In 1950, the committee received a letter from the Council offering 500 pounds towards the cost of a history. Mr Alan Tait offered to write a history "for editing", but this was not to eventuate. Mr Austin Gray offered to compile a register, which did eventuate.

The long standing practice of donation boats to the Rowing Club continued in 1949 when a group of Old Collegians donated an eight named "Pegasus".

The 1951 reunion dinner featured prominent Old Collegian sportsmen – Lindsay Hassett (cricket), Jack Iverson (cricket), Vic Profitt (football), Don Macmillan (athletics) and Russell Mockridge (bicycle racing).

Fund raising continued in a modest way with 720 pounds received for a memorial to former matron "Maggie" McOuat, 1,235 pounds for the MacRoberts Memorial Scoring Box, and in 1952, 700 pounds for two practice eights plus oars. The Rankin Gates were erected at a cost of 829 pounds, from money raised in earlier years. A group of Old Boys donated the F W Rolland Cup for the winner of the College tennis singles championship.

For the 1953 Boat Race Ball at the Palais Royal, the price was one pound per person. Mrs Ganly had quoted six shillings and nine pence per head for catering. (Her quote of 7/6 in 1954 was considered too high.) Because of misbehaviour at the Boat Race, the headmasters decided that a position on the river bank would be allocated to each school in future. A total of 583 people attended the 1954 Ball. The idea emerged in 1954 of acquiring a speedboat for the 1st VIII coach, to be named the "JHC" in honour of J H Campbell, a greatly loved teacher and warden of Warrinn boarding house – himself an Old Collegian. A new boat, "Riverina", paid for by Riverina Old Boys was christened in 1954.

In 1953, the committee decided that an honorarium of 150 pounds would be paid to the secretary and 50 pounds to the treasurer. Some concern was expressed about the Association's finances as a deficit of 65 pounds was estimated. A letter was sent to 400 Old Boys who had not joined the Association, urging them to do so.

The 1953 annual reunion dinner was held in the College Dining Hall, but the Presbyterian Church Temperance Committee requested that no liquor be served. Whether because of that or not, the 1955 dinner was held at Aberdeen House.

An Old Collegian from London sent 100 pounds in 1956 to be used for a scholarship for an aboriginal boy, to be known as "The Olympic Scholarship" (the Olympic Games being held in Melbourne in 1956). The proposal seems to have lapsed and the money was eventually repaid. The Association wrote to four Old Collegians congratulating them on participating in the Olympic Games – rowers Bob Aitken, Jim Howden and Michael Aikman, and long distance runner Don Macmillan.

In 1956, because the Boat Race was in Melbourne, it was decided not to hold a Ball. The usual function at the Palais resumed in 1957. The 1958 attendance fell to 340, plus 60 guests, and the 1959 Ball was cancelled because of lack of support. However, the Ball was held again in 1960 and made a profit of 190 pounds.

An offer by Old Collegian David New to write the centenary history was accepted by the Council in 1957, but, as with Alan Tait, Mr New later withdraw. Bert Keith then approached Claud Notman, who accepted. The two of them collaborated in the writing of the book, published four years later.

In 1958, the Council made a decision which was to prove highly significant for the Association. The Council agreed to underwrite the cost of engaging National Fund

Raising Counsel Pty Ltd (NFRC) or the Wells Organisation to conduct a fund raising appeal for the new Preparatory School in Aberdeen Street, if the Association supported the proposal. At a special committee meeting in February 1959, Mr A L Knight, one of the two NFRC directors, presented the plans for the appeal and it was unanimously resolved to "accept the scheme as outlined". At the OGCA committee meeting in March, appointments to appeal committees were made. In June, the decision was made to launch the appeal at dinners on 9 and 10 February 1960.

NFRC was to have a big influence on the College and the Association. It had been established following a successful appeal at a Sydney school, in which a teacher, "Lin" Knight, worked with a professional fund raiser, "Bill" Howard. The two formed a fund raising company, and later a consulting firm, "Knight Howard & Associates", which played a dominant role for over two decades in guiding educational institutions in Australia.

Another decision arising from the appeal planning was the inauguration of a newsletter, to be called *Ad Astra*.

After thirteen years of devoted service as secretary of the Association, Matt Wright resigned and Geoff Neilson took his place.

Plans for the 1961 centenary occupied most of the committee's attention in the two years leading up to the celebrations. The Rev G A ("Pat") Wood, an indefatigable worker for the College and leading member of the Council, headed the centenary planning committee appointed in 1959.

Dr Buntine decided to retire at the end of 1959, and in 1960 he and Mr George Logie Smith were made honorary life members of the OGCA. Portraits were painted of Dr Buntine and Sir Arthur Coles (knighted in 1960) for the centenary. Old Collegians were invited to contribute to a farewell gift to the departing principal.

The combination of Dr Buntine's leaving, Mr Peter Thwaites' arrival, the centenary, and the Centenary Building Fund Appeal, made these few years possibly the busiest ever experienced by the Association, but more was to come.

A NEW ERA

The arrival of Mr Peter Thwaites, coinciding as it did with the centenary of the College and the building of the new Preparatory School, brought a new enthusiasm to the Association.

This was perhaps reflected in the success of the boat race ball, which attracted 436 participants and made a profit – albeit modest – for the building fund. Unfortunately, Old Boys' behaviour demonstrated excessive enthusiasm at 1961 boat race time, and even at a cricket match earlier in the year. A letter deprecating the excesses was written by the President, Mr Harry Fallaw, and published in *Pegasus*, and letters of censure were sent to five of the offenders.

Two hundred attended the 1961 reunion, and 475 enjoyed the Centenary Ball at the Palais de Danse in Melbourne.

The Centenary Building Fund appeal had received a generous response. Only four months after its launch in February 1960, promises had exceeded 150,000 pounds.

In 1962, the committee agreed that the OGCA would lend the Council 11,000 pounds unsecured, at 5 per cent interest, to help with the purchase of "Mossgiel" on the south side of Noble Street. This was the first of many such loans.

Mr Bert Keith's experience when President in 1959 of hearing the lusty singing at the Scotch and Wesley Old Boys' reunion dinners led him to try to introduce community singing at the OGCA reunion dinners. With Mr Logie Smith providing vigorous accompaniment at the piano, Bert gamely led the diners for a few years in singing a few well known choruses such as the Eton boating song and some College songs of earlier years, but enthusiasm soon waned and the practice was abandoned. More success may have been achieved if some Gilbert & Sullivan songs had been tried, as these were the years of highly successful annual G & S operas.

At the 1962 annual general meeting, an amendment to the constitution was passed permitting the committee to decline an application for membership without having to provide an explanation. What gave rise to this decision is not revealed in the minutes, but it may have been associated with the unsatisfactory behaviour of Old Boys in 1961.

The practice of inviting the school captain to attend committee meetings began in 1963, with M Paton being present at the May meeting.

Interest was shown in collecting and preserving the Association's archives as well as those of the College. A committee representing both bodies was appointed in 1962 and the Council began planning a suitable storage area. In 1964, a cupboard was provided, made from wood which Bert Keith had obtained from Knowle House in Skene Street, which was being demolished. Knowle House had been the original site of the College.

The committee was informed in May 1963 that the Council had decided to conduct a further appeal in 1965 for the building of a new boarding house, a sports centre, and the extension of the Norman Morrison Hall. The NFRC was to supervise the appeal. In addition, thanks to a generous gift by Sir Arthur Coles, a science block would be completed in 1964.

A major change in the structure of the Association began with another visit by the redoubtable Mr "Lin" Knight of NFRC to the committee on 27 August 1963. Mr Knight explained the "alumni system" adopted by some old collegians' associations. A committee was appointed to "investigate the possibility of re-organising the Association along Alumni lines".

At the annual meeting in July 1964, members were told of the plan and that a new constitution was being proposed. Membership of the Association was to be based on donating to the College Building Fund. The draft constitution was discussed at several committee meetings and a letter from Sir Arthur Coles, Chairman of the College Council, was received on 1 September 1964.

It read as follows: The College Council is most encouraged by the proposals of the Old Geelong Collegians' Association to link in future closely to the College Building Fund. We are anxious to co-operate in every way we can, consistently with the responsibility we have both in regard to the Building Fund and to the general finances of the school

We consider that the provision of space and staff to administer the affairs of the Association can well be made as part of the provision of space and staff for future administration of the Building Fund and a public relations service for the College generally. In adopting the conditions of membership you propose in the suggested new constitution, and in directing the aims of the Association so clearly towards the Building Fund, the three administrative activities will be so closely associated that they can obviously be conveniently dealt with by the same staff as a single function.

I would like, then, to set out what the Council is prepared to undertake if the proposed constitution of the Association is adopted and the Association is prepared to actively give its support, as it has always done in the past, to the Building Fund..

- 1. Space will be provided at the College for staff and to house the records of the Building Fund and the Association.*
- 2. A suitable person will be engaged as a member of the College staff, to carry out the functions of managing the Building Fund and acting as the College public relations officer. He will be selected in consultation with the Association and will be available for appointment as Executive Officer of the Association in the terms of the new constitution.*
- 3. In addition to the Executive Officer, other necessary staff will be engaged or made available to carry out the administrative requirements of the Building Fund, the public relations functions and the Association's activities.*

4. *Subject to the Association contributing from its own income such annual sums as the Council may consider reasonable, to cover that part of the expenses of administration which do not relate to the Building Fund or public relations, the Council will meet the costs of administration in part from the Building Fund itself, and in part from its other revenue. The amount of the Association's contribution can, no doubt, be arrived at by agreement from time to time in discussions between the Association and the Council.*
5. *The Council is prepared to have the records of the Building Fund so kept that the contributions by members of the Association, and by members in their Year Groups, can be made available when required. Individual contributions will, of course, be kept confidential. The Council is also prepared to respect as far as possible the wishes of donors in regard to special uses of specific gifts to the Fund.*

We feel that, on the basis of the expressions of agreement and intention, the Association can go ahead with its plans, and needless to say the Council wishes it every success in its new programme.

Yours sincerely

A W Coles

Chairman

The new constitution was duly adopted at an extraordinary general meeting on 28 November 1964 on a motion proposed by then President George Ewan, seconded by immediate past president Matt Wright. Seventy four members voted in favour, while three were against.

So began a new era: year groups, membership based on contributions to the Building Fund, an executive officer, and the Association based at the College instead of at the secretary's office. The constitution included the words, "All Old Boys shall be encouraged to participate in the activities of The Geelong College Building Fund".

The Association was one of the first schools to adopt the alumni scheme being fostered by NFRC throughout Australia, with fund raising and public relations being at the heart of the new relationship with the Council. Mr Thwaites was greatly involved in the new arrangements and in many other administrative and educational advances at the College.

At the next committee meeting, in December 1964, it was decided to appoint NFRC as "consultants for the reorganisation of the Association on the terms proposed by the company and agreed to by the Council". Year group lists were prepared and year group chairmen appointed by the alumni planning committee in January 1965. A contract between the College, the Association and NFRC was signed after advice was received from the Association's honorary solicitor, Harry Fallaw.

The committee recommended to the Council that the proposed sports centre be named after Sir Francis Rolland, whose biography Bert Keith happened to be writing at the time

The alumni planning committee was authorised to appoint the Association's first executive officer, and the general committee, meeting on 4 May 1965, ratified the appointment of Mr A J R ("Mac") McVittie, an officer in the armed forces who had taken early retirement. He began work on 10 May 1965. A well presented, short man, dapper in his reefer jacket, was soon seen everywhere, making a good impression as an efficient and congenial colleague. Mac's salary as executive officer was 2,250 pounds plus reimbursement of travelling expenses. Before Mr McVittie's appointment, Mr R Purves from NFRC had filled in as acting executive officer. He had begun assembling the year group lists and membership register, and presented to the committee an organisation chart and implementation plan for the alumni system.

The first year chairmen's conference was held on 6 August 1965, thirty eight attending and being instructed by NFRC director Bill Howard.

Anxious to protect archival records from the risk of fire at the school, the committee arranged for a metal trunk to be deposited in the vault of the National Bank at the corner of Moorabool and Malop Streets. It contained the first two minute books of the Association, a complete set of Pegasus, annual reports and accounts from 1930-31 to 1963-64, and the original of Sir Arthur Coles' 1964 letter. Years later the trunk was moved to Gary Bent's office, and then to the College's archive rooms in the refectory block – full circle.

The Association was abuzz with excitement about the alumni scheme. The 1965 boat race ball attracted 475. The 1966 annual reunion programme was extended to include a church service at St David's, followed by cocktails at Aberdeen House, and then dinner in the College dining hall. This function had the highest attendance for any reunion, other than that for the centenary of the College. The year chairmen's meeting in February 1966 was "most successful", and 50 attended the corresponding meeting in 1967. Ken Nall was the first chairman of the Alumni Executive Committee. Geoff Neilson succeeded Ken, and later Gordon Murray led the alumni organisation for a long period beginning in 1967. The committee at its October 1966 meeting was told that there was a 16.3 per cent "participation" in the building fund appeal. Moves were made to form OGCA branches in Albury, Bendigo, Lake Bolac, Tasmania and Western Australia. In 1968, reunions were held in Sydney, Ballarat, The Grampians, Horsham, Mildura, Perth and Tasmania. Support for the Building Fund was sought at these functions, not always as discreetly as some would have preferred. It was facetiously suggested that invitations should carry a warning like that required on cigarette packets about smoking being a health hazard: "This function is a wealth hazard".

An attempt to enter a team in the Victorian Amateur Football Association, initiated by College staff member and First XVIII coach Ross Quick, was unsuccessful. The application was declined by the VAFA, which required prior experience in a district league.

The OGCA committee decided in October 1966 to introduce a senior category of honorary member, to be called "Fellow of the Old Geelong Collegians' Association".

The Association offered a loan of \$4,000 to the College, at 5 per cent interest, to assist with the purchase of the "Riverflats Land" near the new preparatory school.

Longstanding representation of the OGCA on the College Council by Harold Anderson, Austin Gray and Ken Nall, changed in 1967 when Matt Wright replaced Harold Anderson. Another change occurred when Geoff Neilson stood down as secretary in 1968 and Bert Keith took over. Later in the year, Bert took over from "Mac" McVittie as executive officer. He was appointed for two years, beginning on 1 December 1968, on the same terms as those for McVittie. The Council was asked to make Bert available for his new duties. Bert's long and devoted service thus continued, in an even more intensive manner than previously. His appointment was welcomed by everyone, and his unequalled knowledge of Old Collegians provided a unique personal touch at reunions and meetings. In 1970, his term was extended until July 1971.

In 1968, President Frank Brown's annual report stated: "To my mind, the Year Group approach is probably one of the most important steps the Association has taken towards building up strength for the future". Matt Wright accepted chairmanship of a new year group chairmen's advisory committee, formed mainly for the social side of OGCA activities. The minutes record the comment: "Year chairmen need not now be active fund raisers any further than they wish to be". Was this the first sign of a reaction against the emphasis on fund raising? However, over 700 Old Collegians gave \$24,658 to the Building Fund through the annual giving programme in 1968.

It was decided in 1969 to grant honorary membership of the Association to non-Old Collegian members of the Council. Honorary life membership had been extended for many years to long serving members of staff, and the appointments at the 1969 annual meeting included head groundsman, Les ("Snow") Hobbs.

At the same meeting, the first Fellows of the Association were announced – Sir Arthur Coles, long serving Council chairman and generous benefactor, and Mr Lou Whyte, who had virtually given the Aberdeen Street land to the College for the new Preparatory School. Sir Arthur was retiring as Council chairman and handing over to another well-known Old Collegian, Dr Norman Wettenhall. It was decided to make the Council chairman an ex-officio member of the Association committee.

In May 1969, Alan McI Scott became assistant secretary of the OGCA, and sub-committees were appointed, one to take an interest in younger Old Collegians and also boys still at school, and the other to stimulate interest in the 30 to 35 year old segment of the members.

In October 1969, the first meeting was held of an Advisory Council of the OGCA, to review the past five years and the role of year chairmen. Bert Keith said that the Association was performing its function more effectively since the establishment of the office at the College and there had been an increase in branch and sporting activity. Financial support to the College had enabled a start to be made on the Rolland Centre. Mr Thwaites spoke at the meeting on State aid to independent schools, Mr Geoff Betts talked about the Council's building programme, and Matt Wright explained the year group organisation.

At the committee meeting in February 1970, Gordon Murray reported that all but \$900 had been raised of the \$50,000 target for 1969 fund raising. Later in the year, it was announced that \$330,000 had been raised in total in the "Project Pegasus Appeal", with over 1,000 Old Collegians having contributed. However, concern was expressed at a committee meeting that the only occasions when year group chairmen met was when fund raising was the subject. More rumblings!

Significantly, outgoing President Geoff Neilson reported at the 1970 annual meeting that: "On the advice of experienced organisers, the two forms of activities, fraternity and fund-raising, were to be operated jointly by the Year Groups under the direction of Year Chairmen. While some of our members accepted the idea, others found it objectionable, there was some open hostility, and a number of Year Chairmen resigned and could not be replaced".

The reaction affected attendances at the annual dinner, but year group reunions continued to be well supported. The Old Melburnians Association sought information from the OGCA about the year group arrangements, having heard of its initial success. The boat race ball continued for the time being but with lower numbers than at its peak. In 1971, a special reunion of those who had left the College before 1930 was held in conjunction with the opening of the Rolland Centre. There were some emotional meetings between men who had not seen each other for over fifty years.

In August, Tom Clark was appointed Executive Officer, succeeding Bert Keith. Tom quickly endeared himself to Old Collegians with his congenial personality and ability to make friends with everyone he met.

A paper was presented to the committee in February 1972 on the operation of the 1964 constitution. It was agreed "rejuvenation" was needed, and the objectives of year groups needed "clarification" to emphasise fellowship amongst Old Collegians. A sub-committee was appointed later in the year to investigate ways of augmenting the Association's own revenue. Suggestions included publications, a gymkhana, cattle raising, a wine club, and cocktail parties. Meanwhile 200 attended a Melbourne dinner dance and 132 the annual reunion dinner. The committee decided that the "president one year out" would be made responsible for keeping order at the annual dinner. Was it those boisterous young Old Boys being noisy again?

The committee in 1972 decided to ask the Principal to appoint the Rev Ewen McLean as archivist. Mr Thwaites concurred and established a historical display at the north east corner of the ground floor of senior school.

Twenty three years after the decision to create a memorial to greatly loved matron "Maggie" McOuat, it was resolved at last to name the matron's quarters in the "Mossgiel" boarding house, the Maggie McOuat Memorial.

As a result of Alumni Chairman Gordon Murray's report to the committee in May 1973 that there was antagonism against the continuing requests for donations, it was decided to suspend annual giving until 1975. However, the Council asked the committee to reconsider the decision, and it was agreed to continue.

President John Urbahns reported to the 1973 annual meeting that the Association had 16 branches – 11 in Victoria (including two new ones in Bendigo and Camperdown) and 5 interstate. Ten branches had held reunions in the preceding year.

Difficulty in recruiting year group chairman pre-1940 was attributed at the November 1973 committee meeting to some not understanding the “more recent concept of year groups” – namely not for fund raising.

Council chairman Norman Wettenhall informed the committee at the same meeting that it had been decided to enrol girls at sub-primary level. Mr Thwaites stated at the February 1974 committee meeting that the Council would be considering enrolling girls at all levels in 1975. It was at this time that three staff members were elected as the first female honorary members - Mrs Pat Wood (librarian), Mrs Joan Sweetman (kindergarten directress) and Miss Evelyn Hair (secretary to the Principal).

The appointment in 1974 of the OGCA President, Keith Doery, as one of the Association's representatives on the Council began a long period of Keith's distinguished service, including terms as chairman of the finance committee and deputy chairman of the Council, and culminating in his being made a Life Governor.

Falling attendances at most Victorian Public Schools' Old Collegians' functions at this time led to many being dropped from the calendar of events. For the OGCA, this included the Melbourne dinner dance, which was replaced in 1974 by an “At Home” at Keith Doery's home. Financial constraints led also to the decision to send *Pegasus* only to those who had left the College in the previous year plus those who completed a request form. A year later, it was decided to send the magazine to only those willing to pay for it.

In 1975, a new organisation, the Independent Schools Past Students' Association (IPSA), was formed with over 50 schools attending the initial meeting. It was agreed by the Association of Victorian Public Schools Old Boys that it would continue to operate, at least for the time being.

It was in the same year that a very significant move took place in the formation of the Albert Bell Club. Fifty nine joined at the inaugural meeting on Thursday 10 April, and Stewart McArthur was elected as the Club's first president. By October, the membership was 143.

The Association was active, with 4,160 on the members' register, eleven branches holding reunions and 225 attending the boat race ball. The Pegasus Ski Club was formed. (In 1976, the Pegasus Alpine Club was registered as a co-operative society, and work began on a prefabricated lodge.) It was reported that Old Collegians had raised 71 per cent of the Project Pegasus Appeal total of \$310,444. However, numbers fell dramatically at the annual reunion. Was this through opposition to fund raising? In 1976, the boat race ball was replaced by a woolshed “barbecue dance”.

The first reference to an allowance for the President appears in 1975, when the amount quoted was “not more than \$150”.

The change to co-education caused the OGCA constitution to be changed at the 1976 annual meeting to provide for female members. There was a suggestion that a separate division of the Association be created for females, but common sense prevailed and the preference for "complete integration" won the day. It was arranged for Mrs Pat Wood, a OGCA honorary member, to attend the annual dinner to accompany any of the eligible four female Old Collegians who wished to come.

Five more Fellows were elected in 1975 and 1976 – the greatly loved teacher J H Campbell, the principal Peter Thwaites, council chairman Norman Wettenhall, fund raising leader and council member Geoff Betts, and former vice-principal Des Davey.

The new constitution adopted at the annual meeting in 1977 provided for the general committee to comprise the president, two vice-presidents, all past presidents, the secretary and treasurer, the council chairman, the principal, 18 elected members and up to two co-opted members. An advisory council was to be appointed composed of the general committee members, the year group chairmen, and branch presidents. Contributors to the College Building Fund were deemed to have paid a subscription to the Association. Secretary Alan Scott was thanked for his work on the new constitution. Regulations to the constitution were adopted by the committee in 1978. Life membership was reintroduced in 1979.

At this time, the committee was beginning to build its financial strength, holding almost \$29,000 in the general fund. But it was decided to discontinue the boat race ball or dance because of lack of interest. Also, the experiment of holding informal Geelong lunches proved unsuccessful, with numbers decreasing until the idea was abandoned.

In a move obviously designed to take some heat out of the fund-raising controversy, the "annual giving committee" became the "finance committee". Gordon Murray continued as chairman.

The appearance on the scene of female members was evident when, in 1977, a girl was a member of the Old Collegians' tennis team which played against the school team, which included two girls. Two girls were amongst the 66 who attended the 1978 Melbourne dinner, and Kirsty Elliott and Vicki Law became the first female committee members when they were co-opted in November 1978.

The College Council sponsored a dinner in October 1978 for past OGCA presidents, committee members and branch presidents. Eighty eight attended, including 29 wives.

CHALLENGES AND RELATIONSHIPS

The last two decades of the Association's first century began inauspiciously.

In 1979, Alan Scott resigned as OGCA president following the end of his membership of the College teaching staff.

The Principal, Mr Peter Gebhardt, informed the committee that the College would not continue to pay the salary of the Association's executive officer, Tom Clark. The committee asked Mr Gebhardt to defer the decision for twelve months and asked the president, Ian Everist, to confer with the Principal on his view of the Association.

Although Mr Gebhardt had been given a standing ovation after he spoke at the annual dinner following his appointment, he had subsequently alienated some Old Collegians, particularly those in the traditional boarders' communities of Hamilton, Camperdown and Warrnambool, because of a perception that he intended to wind down boarding at the College. Reassurances from the Council failed to assuage their anger.

In December 1979, the OGCA executive received a letter from Mr Gebhardt addressed to the President, stating that Tom Clark could continue on the staff until 31 March 1980. The College would pay for sixteen hours of Mrs McKeown's time per week, plus telephone, postage and one copy of *Ad Astra* (which had become a College publication in 1975). The College would pay 11 per cent interest on the Association's loan and would try to repay the principal as soon as possible. The Association was invited to nominate two representatives on the *Ad Astra* committee. In future, the Principal must approve the appointment of the executive officer. The College would contribute \$5,000 per annum if the Association decided to establish its office away from the College.

The executive decided to accept the offer and agreed to advertise for a part time executive officer.

It is clear that Mr Gebhardt and Tom Clark did not see eye to eye. To what extent this was influenced by the sometimes malicious and vindictive attitude of some Old Collegians towards the Principal is not clear.

The College repaid the \$23,000 loan from the Association. OGCA membership funds were withdrawn from the College and deposited in the Association's bank account. In February 1980, Mrs McKeown agreed to undertake some of the executive officer's duties with support from various sub-committees, and Tom Clark duly retired when he turned 65. Bert Keith offered to control the updating of the records of members' addresses, and his assistance was acknowledged by the committee later in the year in the following words: "This committee notes with thanks the support and work that Bert Keith has given in an honorary capacity whilst Acting Executive Officer and Editor of *Ad Astra*."

In February 1981, Tim Hill, an Old Collegian, was appointed executive officer on the basis of 20 hours per week, his remuneration being reimbursed by the College. Mrs McKeown assisted Tim for ten hours a week, paid for by the Association.

Bert Keith had obviously worked harmoniously with Mr Gebhardt, as the minutes of the committee meeting in February 1981 record that "The Principal stated that he had enjoyed working with Bert Keith and he had learned a great deal about the Association. He further added that he believed he now understood the Association better and believed he could make further contributions to help it achieve its aims and objectives".

A special sub-committee comprising John ("Syd") Weddell, Michael Betts and Sam Coulson, was appointed in November 1980 to review the Association's activities and present a written report to the committee. The report, presented in February 1981, included the comment that "the idea of fund raising for the College is considered a highly undesirable activity of the Association".

Four more Fellows were elected in this period: Ewen McLean (greatly respected Preparatory School teacher and later Chaplain and Archivist), Geoff Neilson (former OGCA treasurer, secretary and president, and Council chairman), Brian Thom (long serving treasurer and then president), and Matt Wright (former OGCA secretary and president and Council member).

The 1981 annual dinner was held in the Geelong Art Gallery, as other venues could not accommodate the number expected to attend. Subscriptions were raised to \$85 for life members and \$20 for annual members. The Council was asked to include a life membership subscription to pupils' final account with the school.

The Principal arranged for senior staff members to attend some committee meetings to explain their role at the College and the developments taking place. The first was John Nelson, followed by John Gibson.

The "Weddell Committee" said that year groups were ineffective as a permanent organisation because of the geographical spread of members. The Association's regulations were changed to refer to year group convenors instead of year group chairmen. This may have reflected gender sensitivity. At the time, Debra Trembath was co-opted to the committee. She wrote to all female Old Collegians in a letter mailed with *Ad Astra*, encouraging them to participate in OGCA activities. The response was disappointing.

Committee members were allocated branches with which they were to liaise, following concern that several had become inactive. Meanwhile, the Association's funds had grown to almost \$80,000 in 1986, and there were 5,300 Old Collegians sent *Ad Astra*. The Association office moved upstairs in the building formerly used as the Principal's residence before the Noble Street home (now Davey House) was built.

The new Principal, Old Collegian Paul Sheahan, told the Sydney branch in 1986 that, "In its approach to educational issues such as co-education, academic achievement, music, drama and the arts, The Geelong College of today is a better school than at any time in its history". Council chairman Garnet Fielding invited the OGCA president to attend Council meetings as an observer.

The Association moved into the electronic age in 1986 with the installation of a computer terminal in the office. All records were transferred.

The committee decided in 1987 that its meetings in future would follow dinner in the "junior dining room" in the refectory block. For some time, the meetings were held in the same room, but later were moved to the Alexander Campbell Room above the Principal's office.

A major decision taken by the Council in 1987 was the formation of The Geelong College Foundation. Mr Sheahan informed the committee that "the Foundation will form an umbrella for the various organisations connected with the College and act as the senior body to tie all together". In October 1987, Elizabeth Farrow attended an OGCA committee meeting to provide more information about the Foundation, and it was resolved that the Association become a corporate member of the Foundation. In 1989, the OGCA president was invited to sit on the Foundation Board.

The sad and sudden death of Tim Hill in 1988 created a vacancy in the position of executive officer. Tim had made many friends during his seven years in the job. The position was advertised and, from twelve applications, David Whitcroft was appointed in January 1989. The arrangement with the College was that David would be a full time member of the administrative staff, working two days a week for the Association and the balance spread over the Foundation, the boarding house, rowing and general school duties. The Association would pay \$10,000 towards his salary in the first year, \$5,000 in the second, and nothing after that.

Typically, Tom Clark had stepped in and undertaken secretarial duties along with Raema Walter, during the vacancy. Fred Elliott had also helped.

The Association's financial strength continued to grow, with the \$7,500 surplus in 1988 taking the assets to just under \$100,000, of which \$78,000 was a loan to the College. Incorporation under the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act was first proposed in September 1988, and implemented in 1989.

Although the Foundation had taken over the fund raising role once undertaken by the Association, the OGCA continued to provide facilities for the school. These included \$4,000 towards the cost of a new racing eight, with the Albert Bell Club contributing \$10,000. Encyclopaedias were donated for Mackie and Mossgiel boarding houses. Oars were presented to successful Head of the River crews.

Foundation executive officer Bob Grant told the committee at its December 1989 meeting that 95 members of the Foundation had promised a total of \$800,000, and that an annual giving programme would be introduced.

Possibly as a result of the formation of the Foundation and some confusion about the future role of the Association, the committee in May 1990 expressed some "unease about a lack of direction". President Ross Hepburn proposed to allocate portfolios to committee

members to overcome the risk of their losing interest. A brainstorming day was suggested, with a theme of "Moving into the '90s". Key people from the branches were to be involved, and the meeting was to have a structured agenda. Subsequent committee minutes do not reveal whether the meeting was held.

Activity amongst Old Collegians continued around Australia in 1991, with reunions in Camperdown, Wagga, Ballarat, Shepparton, Launceston, Sydney, Grampians, Hamilton, Queensland and Adelaide, together with a 10 year out and a 15 year out reunion back in Geelong. However, the hockey club had disbanded in 1989. The venue for the annual dinner continued to change, with the 1990 function being held in the College dining hall and the 1991 event taking place at the Lincoln Reception Rooms in Toorak.

Ad Astra was being produced by the College, although four of the eleven pages in the first 1991 issue were devoted to Old Collegian material. The committee decided to ask for a representative on the editorial committee.

In 1991, some concern arose whether David Whitcroft was able to devote sufficient attention to his OGCA duties, with the pressure of his other responsibilities. In March, Fred Elliott was appointed "Executive Liaison Officer" and asked to "examine the way in which the executive officer manages his time and balances the demands on him". President Ross Hepburn's report referred to a five part strategy plan – promoting the welfare of the College, fostering fellowship between Old Collegians and the school, fostering fellowship amongst Old Collegians, contributing to budgeted projects (such as a recently introduced bursary fund), and maintaining the purchasing power of Association funds while contributing to welfare and administration.

That same annual meeting was notable for the election of Debra Holding (nee Trembath) as the first female president of an Associated Public Schools old scholars' association in Victoria, possibly Australia.

In December 1992, the committee appointed and formulated terms of reference for four sub-committees – the annual dinner, sporting activities, branches, and communication with the school. It was noted at the same meeting that Old Collegians "did not feel comfortable" about the telephone follow up by the Foundation for the annual giving programme, directed to year groups.

To administer the Association and the Foundation, along with the College public relations activities, a Development Office had been created under the direction of Bob Grant, who was responsible to the Principal. In November 1991, a "management committee" was formed to co-ordinate the various activities. It comprised the Principal, the Presidents of the OGCA and the Foundation, and Bob Grant.

The mailing list at the time included convenors or presidents of branches or groups of Old Collegians in Adelaide, Ballarat, Brisbane, Camperdown, Canberra, Gippsland, Gold Coast, Grampians, Hamilton, Mornington Peninsula, Perth, Shepparton, Sunshine Coast, Sydney, Tasmania and Wagga. A "branch committee day" was held in February 1992.

However, only Camperdown and Grampians branches were represented. A 45 years out and a 30 years out were poorly attended, as was the annual dinner. On the other hand the Albert Bell Club dinner attracted 140. The 1993 head of the river reunion incurred a loss of \$800. The OGCA Golf Day continued to be a great success, with 78 Old Collegians and 54 Old Geelong Grammarians participating in 1993. As in the past, the committee pondered long and hard to find the right formula for successful social functions. The association's loss in 1993 was \$8,403, this also causing much "soul searching". Consideration was given to holding the annual reunion dinner only every second year.

The rationale of the Association's lending some of its money to the College was explained at the May 1992 committee meeting. It was pointed out that the OGCA was earning 6 per cent from its investments but the College was paying 12 per cent on its overdraft. The Association's loan to the College thus provided welcome support.

Another form of support came in the sponsorship of a music tour of the Western District of Victoria.

The committee agreed to moves suggested by Dougal Morrison and others to strengthen the tie between the footballers of the College and Geelong Grammar School in their joint OGS team in the Victorian Amateur Football Association.

The OGCA constitution was altered to allow College part time staff with the equivalent of more than five years' service to become honorary members of the Association. Over fifty Old Collegians took part in the College careers night – an activity which continued to be supported year after year.

In May 1993, Robynne Wilkinson-Beards resigned from the position of secretary in the Development Office to become part time clerical assistant for the OGCA. Later in the year, Bob Grant retired from the Development Office and David Whitcroft resigned as OGCA executive officer.

A new organisation, Friends of the College, was formed, and the committee wondered from where its membership was to be drawn. What would be its role? Would it further diminish support for the Association, which was facing some challenges? How would it relate to the Foundation and the OGCA?

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND THE ASSOCIATION

College Principal Paul Sheahan settled on the Pegasus as the College symbol, replacing the coat of arms, which bore some resemblance to that of Geelong Grammar School. Another significant decision by the Head was the appointment in 1994 of Maria Smith as Director of Community Relations. Her brief included co-ordinating OGCA activities with the assistance of Andrea James.

At the annual meeting held in October, OGCA president Scott Chirnside described Maria Smith as "a gust of fresh air to our school". He continued: "I have never seen anybody ... who has so much positive energy".

The committee at its meeting in August 1994 heard from Maria about renewed activity in the form of reunions and branch activities. The annual dinner at the Melbourne Zoo was a sell-out, with Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett as guest speaker. A celebration of the 21st anniversary of the introduction of co-education was planned. A communication news sheet for branches was introduced, Phil Taylor being appointed a committee of one for this purpose.

Maria organised a workshop to discuss whether OGCA operations and practices "reflect the College's image as a leading co-educational school".

Reunions were planned for 6 months out, 5, 10, 15 and 25 years out. Twenty one years' anniversaries were to be celebrated for both the Albert Bell Club and The Pegasus Alpine Ski Club. The Albert Bell Club decided to raise \$100,000 for a new boat shed for the College.

Of the \$85,000 raised by the 1994 annual giving programme, 47 per cent was contributed by Old Collegians.

The intensity of activities was maintained in 1995, including an afternoon tea for the original female students to celebrate the 21st anniversary of co-education. In 1998, a luncheon for female Old Collegians was inaugurated. A wall sculpture by Noel Essex was also commissioned in 1995 to mark the anniversary. The celebrations included also a well attended revue, compered by Sarah Henderson and featuring sixty performers.

The gift in 1995 by five families of Old Collegians of a sculpture of Pegasus added a splendid feature to the College grounds.

At an extraordinary general meeting in February 1995, the long standing practice of placing Old Collegians in year groups bearing the year in which they did, or would have entered first form (year 7), was abandoned for students in year 12 in 1970 and later, in favour of using their year 12 year as the basis.

A directory of Old Collegians produced commercially was approved in April 1995, and by October 30 per cent of those on the Association's mailing list had agreed to participate.

Two more Fellows were elected in 1995 – Ken Nall, a past president and council member, and Paul Sheahan, who was retiring as Principal. Long serving bursar Bruce Jamieson had been elected a Fellow in 1988.

A loss of approximately \$8,000 was incurred for the “21st birthday weekend” – the celebration of 21 years of co-education. The committee noted that members seemed to prefer reunion dinners in their own districts rather than in Melbourne or Geelong.

The Community Relations Office was moved in 1995 from the original 1871 College building to Davey House, which became the base for not only the Association, but also the Foundation, Friends of the College, and other support groups. The organisations were co-operating in several ways. In 1997, a barbecue for senior staff leaving at year end was hosted jointly by the OGCA and the Parents’ Association. The Association organised an art show as part of the College carnival. A joint Foundation and OGCA community dinner was a great success. The OGCA president became ex officio a member of the Foundation Board. A representative of the Albert Club was attending OGCA committee meetings. The role of the Community Relations Office in co-ordinating the activities of the support organisations was clearly working well.

The new Principal, Dr Pauline Turner, was welcomed to her first OGCA committee meeting in February 1996.

Old Collegians were shocked to learn in 1996 of the accidental death overseas of Doug Cameron, who had been joint auditor of the Association for many years. Past President Michael Betts was appointed to fill the vacancy.

A reunion was held at the College early in 1996 of the members of the 1946 and 1947 First Elevens – the first College cricket teams to win APS premierships.

Committee members were disappointed that, after deciding to hold the 1996 annual dinner in the College dining hall, a loss of \$711 was incurred, even after \$1,000 had been donated for sponsorship. Only 50 paying guests attended. Maria Smith suggested that the branch and reunion programme might make the annual dinner outdated, unless it was a combined function with the Foundation.

A strategy review meeting took place in July 1997 and an action plan was adopted. Sub-committees were appointed for the annual dinner, arts, strategy review, business directory, recruitment and liaison, branches, and sports.

In 1997, the Association supported a dinner organised by the Foundation and held in the Geelong Football Club’s “Alex Popescu Room” at Kardinia Park. This was the occasion for the launch of the appeal for a new aquatic centre at the school. The Association agreed to give \$50,000 for the project.

At the Sydney reunion that year, the Principal was presented an autographed book showing work by an Old Collegian, Clement Meadmore, one of world’s foremost sculptors.

Innovations in 1998 included the inaugural female Old Collegian luncheon, and a "Sic Itur" luncheon for those who had left the College 50 years ago or more. The latter was to take place every second year.

The Association's finances were in a healthy state in 1998, its assets including a \$100,000 loan to the College and a portfolio of shares costing almost \$34,000.

The 1990s saw the formation of the Lindsay Hassett Club, formed to support cricket at the College. Interest grew, and the 1998 dinner was attended by 55 people.

Maria Smith left at the end of 1998. The President "thanked her for her input and enthusiasm with organising Old Collegian events, and the new direction she had brought to the committee". Carol Barnard took over the position of Director of Community Relations and OGCA Executive Officer early in 1999. The President's report in 2000 praised the work of Carol and Kristen Fry and said that the development of the community relations office was being copied by other schools.

In 2000, Bill Phillips retired as president after the unusually long term of four years. He had been secretary some years earlier, and continued to take a prominent part in the Association's activities after leaving office.

At a special function in 1999 focussing on College football, a "legends team" was announced, comprising outstanding members of the First Eighteen in the 20th century.

A ball held in the Rolland Centre in 1999 to mark the opening of the aquatic centre and 25 years of co-education was described as the "largest and best supported sit down dinner ever held within the College community".

The College Council resolved in 2000 that "a person will be eligible to be appointed a Life Governor if he or she has been a member of the Council and has, in the opinion of the Council, given long and meritorious voluntary service to The Geelong College". Former council chairman, Dr Norman Wettenhall, was the first person honoured with the new title.

The year 2000 was an active one. One hundred members of the 1990 year group attended a dinner in the Dining Hall. The Community Relations Office produced a brochure entitled *Everything You Need to Know About Joining The Old Geelong Collegians' Association*, copies of which were given to year 12 students in July. An OGCA section of the College website appeared under the heading, "College Community". The Association's assets exceeded \$200,000 – a target set a few years before. A booklet was prepared for the 30 year reunion, including memories of the College and information about post-College activities. A junior committee was appointed to arrange events for members under 25.

Preparations were begun for the OGCA centenary year in 2001.

It was decided that the Gala Dinner planned for the College's "Federation Festival" would be the official OGCA annual dinner for the year. Phil Taylor was appointed

organiser of a four day art exhibition to be held in the aerobics room in the Rolland Centre, as part of the Festival.

In May 2001, a special presentation was made to David Jarman to mark his forty years of continuous membership of the OGCA committee. He joined the committee in March 1961, after having organised the Boat Race Ball in 1960. He had also been organiser of the annual golf day for many years. David was elected a Fellow of the Association.

Activities in the centenary year included a women's lunch, attended by 31, a 10 year out reunion which attracted 139 Old Collegians, and a dinner in the Dining Hall for the 1953, 1954 and 1955 year groups.

The official celebration of the centenary took place at the Geelong Club on 10 November. The rooms and the garden of the Club were filled with 155 nostalgic men and women, and President Dan Simmonds extended a welcome in a marquee set up in the northern section of the garden. The toast to the College and the Association was proposed by Past President Gary Bent, and responded to by OGCA President Dan Simmonds.

So the first 100 years of the Old Geelong Collegians' Association ended in party mode, celebrating a history of fun and fellowship, and abundant and continuing support to its *alma mater*.

NOW AND THEN

When Neil Campbell and Stanley Calvert managed in 1900 to muster enough Old Boys of the College to form an Association, they were unlikely to have thought that, a hundred years later, the OGCA would comprise thousands of members scattered throughout the world.

They could not for a moment imagined that the names and addresses would be recorded in electronic form in a computer and that, amongst the names, there would be some hundreds belonging to female Old Collegians. Nor could they have guessed that many on the list had travelled from Singapore and Hong Kong to attend the College.

How astonished they would be to learn that members could travel from Melbourne to Geelong in an hour in air conditioned motor cars, listening as they drove to their favourite compact discs; even more amazed that the President could fly to Perth or Brisbane for a branch reunion.

A female Principal? Extraordinary! A female President of the Association? Unbelievable!

Smoke nights no longer possible? Most men don't smoke? What's the world coming to?

When David Waterhouse became the 72nd President of the OGCA in 2002, he could look back with pride on the efforts of his predecessors in fulfilling the objectives adopted on 3 May 1901, quoted in the Introduction.

The resources provided to the College during the 100 years in the form of money, physical assets, and also time and talents, are incalculable.

The fun and fellowship enjoyed at OGCA functions have been the bond by which innumerable friendships have been preserved.

The Old Collegians in 2101 will ponder how the "dinosaurs" of 2,001 could have lived in such a backward and technically undeveloped world.

Just as Neil Campbell and Stanley Calvert couldn't have foreseen the developments of the past one hundred years, David Waterhouse and his colleagues cannot even fathom a guess what the Association will be like in 2,101.

We trust that the College will still be a school of which Old Collegians can be truly proud, and that they will continue to provide enthusiastic and dedicated support as their predecessors have done from 1901 to 2001.

OFFICE-BEARERS*Year of Appointment**Year of Appointment***PRESIDENT**

1901	W C Kernot	1946	A T Tait
1906	S Leon	1947	J D Rogers
1907	J L Currie	1948	J B Hawkes
1908	F A Campbell	1949	F D Walter
1909	A N McArthur	1950	H A Anderson
1911	Stewart McArthur	1953	A A Gray
1913	A Greenwood	1955	E W McCann
1914	J Baxter	1957	J A Taylor
1916	R H Morrison	1959	B R Keith
1917	H F Richardson	1960	H C Fallaw
1918	R C Bell	1962	K S Nall
1919	F C Purnell	1963	M T Wright
1920	J A Gillespie	1964	G W Ewan
1921	W A McPherson	1966	E G Cook
1922	W W Hope	1967	F W Brown
1923	J W Hewison	1969	D G Neilson
1923	A Philip	1970	W Wishart
1924	W A Waugh	1971	D I Carmichael
1925	H E B Armstrong	1972	J G W Urbahns
1926	R R Wettenhall	1974	E K Doery
1927	K McK Doig	1975	F W Elliott
1928	R E Reid	1977	G L Bent
1929	W J Dennis	1979	A McI Scott
1930	J F S Shannon	1979	I C Everist
1932	A E Pillow	1981	B G Thom
1933	J B Tait	1983	J S Weddell
1934	P G Brett	1985	M J Betts
1935	N M Freeman	1987	T W Sproat
1937	A W Dennis	1989	R Hepburn
1938	A W Coles	1991	D Holding (nee Trembath)
1939	F E Moreton	1992	S M Chirnside
1943	C N Brown	1994	L Wall
1944	F E Richardson	1996	W Phillips
1945	P McCallum	2000	D Simmonds
		2002	D Waterhouse

SECRETARY

1901	S B Hamilton-Calvert
1939	H C Fallaw
1942	F D Walter
1946	M T Wright
1959	D G Neilson
1968	B R Keith
1971	A McI Scott
1979	R W Farrow
1981	M J Betts
1983	S J Coulson
1988	G N D Simmonds
2000	J Marendaz

TREASURER

1901	N Campbell
1917	A W Gray
1939	H C Fallaw
1942	F D Walter
1946	M T Wright
1950	D G Neilson
1960	G A Stevens
1963	B G Thom
1980	W C Phillips
1983	R G Carr
2001	S Skoglund

FELLOWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A W Coles
 L M Whyte
 B R Keith
 A A Gray
 H N B Wettenhall
 P N Thwaites
 J H Campbell
 G J Betts
 D D Davey
 E C McLean
 D G Neilson
 M T Wright
 B G Thom
 R B Jamieson
 K S Nall
 A P Sheahan
 D A Jarman

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1965	A J R ("Mac") McVittie
1968	Bert Keith
1971	Tom Clark
1981	Tim Hill
1988	David Whitcroft
1994	Maria Smith
1999	Carol Barnard