



**Sacred Heart College Geelong Alumni Association
2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes
Sunday 29 October 2023, 10.00am
Onsite - Large Gathering Space (Innovation Precinct)
or via [Zoom](#)**

Attendees:

- Committee: President - Anne Mathieson (1971), Treasurer - Enza Hughes (1987), General Committee: Laura Doherty (1976) Daniela Pavlovic (2001, Di Spence (1968), Alumni & Development Officer: Jo Welch. Principal's Representative: Catherine Middlemiss (1982)
- College: Anna Negro (1981).
- Guest: Clare Gorden (Carey, 1987)
- Via Zoom: Kelly Suvoltos (1991)

Apologies: noted below in script

Welcome - Anne Mathieson

President Anne Mathieson welcomed everyone to the 2023 Annual General Meeting for the Sacred Heart College Geelong Alumni Association and outlined the seven principle meeting objectives:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
2. To receive the President's Report
3. To receive the Treasurer's Report
4. To receive the Alumni Association Trustee Committee Report
5. To receive the College Report
6. The re-election of Committee Members and Office Bearers for 2024
7. To address any general business

Acknowledgement of Land - Anne Mathieson

Prayer - Laura Doherty

Apologies - Anne Mathieson

I advise that the following apologies have been received:

- Denise Giles (Black 1972)
- Stacey Harris (Ward 2001)
- Jade Hovey (2011)
- Catharina Koopman (1963)
- Sue Marshman (1965)
- Gael Perry OAM (Brennan 1962)

Vale - Anne Mathieson

President Anne Mathieson remembered our alumni who have passed away since the last AGM.

- Amity Bishop (1995)
- Carmel Dingemans (Carew, 1941)
- Eva Graham (1966)
- Janet Johnson (McDonald, 1951)
- Janice Henderson (McMahon, 1955)
- Jessie Horvath (2004)
- Joan Pargeter (1946)
- Judy O'Brien (2006)
- Karen McLeod (Woodmansey 1968)
- Lois Deppeler (1945, Hynes)
- Louise Marie 'Lou-Lou' Upham (1964)
- Margaret McMahon (1991)
- Marian Egberts (1962, Evans)
- Marie Therese Watkins (Nairn, 1942)
- Mary-Rose Kelly (Kenyon, 1957)
- Patricia O'Donnell (1943 O'Toole)
- Paul Ward (1950s, Junior Boy)
- Sam Flanders (1960s, Junior Boy)
- Sheridan Walker (2007)
- Sister Mary Dolores Tunnecliffe (1953)
- Sr Margaret Collis (1958)
- Veronica Keys (1957, Beretta)

May they rest in peace. Amen.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the previous 2022 AGM - Anne Mathieson

Proposed: A motion was called that the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be accepted
Moved: Laura Doherty
Seconded: Di Spence

2. President's Report - Anne Mathieson

Thank you everyone for joining us today, via Zoom or onsite for our AGM.

I am pleased, as the current President of the Sacred Heart College Geelong Alumni Association, to present the Annual Report for 2023.

The key purpose of the Alumni Association is to be the link between the College and its past students.

The Association is one of the largest female Alumni Associations in Australia. Our aim is to provide multiple opportunities through the Alumni Association for our members to connect, reconnect and network.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Association's Strategic Plan is based four Pillars:

1. Networking
2. Experiences
3. Giving Back
4. Communication and Sharing Stories

The Alumni Committee has been working on initiatives and projects based on these four pillars for the past two years.

Networking – the identification, sourcing and implementation of an interactive database for all Alumni to update and keep in touch. A platform for networking, mentoring and inspiring each other.

Current Status: In conjunction with the College a platform has been identified that will provide a more interactive platform for keeping in touch, support a strong mentoring program and enable Alumni members more ways to connect. Implementation of this platform is planned for 2024.

Experiences - Providing experiences where our Alumni can gather and connect or reconnect with both their year levels and Alumni from other years, to share experiences and build a stronger Alumni community

Current Status: Year level reunions have been fully reinstated this year and, of course today we are holding our Golden Girls reunion for those who attended the school in the years up to and including 1972.

Giving Back – identifying smaller charities or organisations that are aligned with our Mercy values and where our support can make a real difference. Working with those organisations to raise awareness within our Alumni community.

Current Status: This year we have re-engaged with Mercy Works and will be supporting them in their endeavours in 2024 with a donation of \$10,000. We have made a donation of \$2000 to Project Offspring to support Kristi Davidson (Van Es 2001) In addition to this we have with our Alumni to identify and support a number of charitable and community organisations by buying tables to events and offering tickets to our members to attend.

Communications and Sharing Stories – Building regular, informative and interesting communications across all mediums. To capture the stories of our Alumni experiences and share them with our Alumni community using Maptivate and other accessible communications.

Current Status: We have the quarterly online Maguire magazine going out to all our Members with lots more stories to be shared in 2024.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING

We continue to fund academic and equity scholarships to current College students. These scholarships are funded through our membership fees, collected from current students. In 2024 the Committee is going to fund a full Years 7 to 12 full scholarship for the first time.

COMMITTEE

We welcomed returning Committee members Laura Doherty and Di Spence during the year and new members Daniela Pavlovic and Jade Hovey. Gael Perry retired from the Committee during the year and Kelly Suvoltos has completed her six-year term. Enza Hughes continues to be a stalwart of this Committee and a wonderful Treasurer.

We still have some vacancies that we will be filling progressively over the next year to build a strong, committed and enthusiastic Committee to progress the Strategic Plan and to represent the opinions and ideas of our broader Alumni community.

I wish to thank all of my fellow Committee members for their dedication and efforts during 2022/2023. Thank you. I would especially like to thank Kelly for her commitment to the Alumni Committee, first as our Alumni Officer and then as a Committee member.

If you are considering joining the Committee please contact myself or Jo Welch our Alumni Officer at the College to find out more about what is involved.

COLLEGE SUPPORT

Jo Welch continues to be a terrific resource for the Committee. Jo assists the committee in managing the Alumni database, and will be involved in the implementation of the new Gradway platform. Jo has been instrumental in ensuring our reunion events have been very successful this year and has worked very hard on today's Golden Girls event.

I must also take this opportunity to thank Catherine Middlemiss. Catherine has been invaluable in her support of the Strategic Plan and all Alumni events and initiatives. I personally have enjoyed a very close working relationship with Catherine, who will leave the College at the end of this year to pursue other professional opportunities. She has been a wonderful sounding board for myself and as an Alumni herself, will always be supportive of our efforts in the future

I would also like to thank Anna Negro for her constant support of the Alumni Association. You both provide us with knowledge and opportunities to be involved and connected to the school in ways that we feel we can make a difference. We value and are grateful for your commitment to the Alumni Association.

2023-2024

The coming year will come with new challenges and opportunities. We have exciting projects to work on and deliver and we are looking forward to having events and communications that will improve engagement and connections with the whole Alumni Committee.

The key areas that we will focus on in 2023/2024:

- A new way of working – restructuring how often we meet and planning meetings that are focused on key areas.
- Refining and expanding the initiative to identify professional and community events where we can bring together Alumni from different year levels and professions to broaden the scope of networking opportunities.
- Building connections with current students who are the next generation of Alumni members and leaders, so that we don't lose that connection when they leave SHC.
- Reviewing our governance documents with a view to ensuring that they are relevant to how we operate today and will operate in the future.

Anne Mathieson, President

Proposed: **A motion was called to accept the President's Report**
Moved: **Enza Hughes**
Seconded: **Daniela Pavlovic**

3. Treasurer's Report – Enza Hughes

Good morning and welcome.

I draw your attention to the financial reports within your folders and hereby declare that the 2023 Alumni Association's financial performance has been audited by the College's Finance Manager, Ms Rachael Postuma. I take this opportunity to highlight the following:

Our main source of funds, as always, is our membership fees from the College which amounted to \$72,150. This is double previous years as a result of an increase in membership fees from \$25 per year to \$50 per year.

The major outgoings this year included a full mailout to alumni members to enable us to update our database which cost \$10,516.06, alumni keyrings which cost \$5,335 and the hosting of the Year 12 Breakfast costing \$8,745. Scholarships and awards paid totalled \$8,900.

The CDF Term Deposit, which is under the management of the Alumni Association Trustee Committee, held its two meetings for the year as required.

The Funds was fully invested in a CDF Term Deposit during the 2022-2023 year at around an average of 2.25% return. The interest earned for the year was \$3,277.60. The term deposit matured on the 1st April 2023 and we are now happy to advise we have secured a rate of 4.6% for the next 12 months.

This year we also subsidised our members to enable them to attend some networking events around Geelong which cost \$3,012.50.

I would like to thank everyone on the Committee who have supported me this year, especially Catherine for her unwavering support and guidance, Jo and Anne.

Proposed: A motion was called to accept the Treasurer's Report
Moved: Dianne Spence
Seconded: Daniela Pavlovic

4. Alumni Association Trustee Committee Report – Dianne Spence

Good morning and thank you for giving me the opportunity to present the Alumni Association Trustee Committee Report today.

The Sacred Heart College Geelong Alumni Association Scholarship Trust Fund exists to provide funding for equity scholarships to support present or future students in their education at the College. The former Old Collegian's Bursary Fund was established in 1996, and in 2016 the remaining capital was used to develop the Alumni Association Scholarship Trust Fund. The trust fund's ongoing capital now consists of the 'establishment capital' plus any amounts gifted or raised specifically for investment. No funds, other than the interest earned on the capital, shall be expended by the Trustee Committee. Only the interest can be applied towards the provision of equity scholarships and expenses such as audit fees. The fund is administered by the Alumni Association Trustee Committee, with a minimum of two meetings to be held each year.

The Committee includes the Alumni Association Treasurer (Enza Hughes), two Alumni appointed Trustees (Enza Hughes & Dianne Spence), the Principal (Anna Negro) and Acting Business Manager of the College (Rachael Postuma).

The Committee has met its obligations by holding two meetings in the 12-month period as per Clause 10 of the Trust Fund Rules. Since 1 October 2022 we had meetings on 31 May 2023 and 16 October 2023.

On 1 October 2023 the term deposit of \$145,566.24 with Catholic Development Fund (CDF) earned \$474.27 interest at a rate of .65%. It was then invested for another six months at 3.85%. On 1 April 2023 we received \$2,803.33 interest. The total interest received was added to the Term deposit and \$148,843.84 was reinvested for 12 months at a rate of 4.6%. This will mature on 1 April 2024.

In total, the amount under the management of the Trustees is \$148,843.84 as at 30 September 2023.

As interest rates are rising we are happy to continue to invest in term deposits especially given the current volatility of financial markets at the moment.

The Alumni Association Trustee Committee is looking forward to being able to increase the amount of scholarships it can provide to current and future students of SHC and we are committed to providing a full six-year scholarship to a student or students that fit the school criteria.

In accordance with Scholarship Trust fund rules 3 and 5, I now nominate Clare Gordon (Carey, 1987) to be appointed to the Alumni Association Trustee Committee.

In accordance with Scholarship Trust fund rule 7, I seek reappointment to the Committee for a further 12 month period.

Proposed: A motion was called to accept the reappointment of Dianne Spence to the Committee for a further 12 month period.

Moved: Laura Doherty
Seconded: Daniela Pavlovic

I now call for a motion to accept the Alumni Association Trustee Committee Report and accept the nomination to appoint Clare Gordon (Carey, 1987) to the committee.

Proposed: A motion that the Alumni Association Trustee Committee Report be accepted together with the appointment of Clare Gordon (Carey, 1987) to the committee is moved and carried.

Moved: Clare Gordon

Seconded: Di Spence

5. College Report Principal - Anna Negro

At the end of each year, we reflect by looking back, not so much in awe and wonder but instead with a sense of achievement. This sense of achievement is often coupled with weariness as we recognise and acknowledge that the achievements that truly matter are the ones that take great energy, determination, perseverance, and call for an unrelenting 'can do' attitude.

The school year was launched in February at GMHBA Stadium at the annual Maguire Celebration. College Captains, Ella Goodwin, Georgia McCardel and Hannah Brady together with our student leaders launched the 2023 school theme, 'Act with Love'. This theme reflects Catherine McAuley's belief that our greatest gift is to welcome one another and share the love that warms our heart.

Although received with some trepidation, April saw the launch of Timetable 2024. This new structure provides opportunities and experiences that better reflect our current and future world. Timetable 2024 acknowledges that learning must be student centred and flexible whilst enabling students to build habits that support wellness and establish lifelong positive behaviours. The Timetable harnesses the belief that every day can look different whilst still providing some routine and predictability. Each day is broken into units of time that vary in length. The use of diverse delivery methods will better facilitate links to external programs - local, national, and global.

A positive result from the pandemic experience is the ready availability to students of course materials through the Canvas learning management platform where learning intentions and success criteria are well embedded across all levels. The access to course materials supports self-directed learning and empowers students to work at a pace appropriate to them. In 2022 we were able to leverage our remote learning experience with VCE Unit 2 students taking part in flexible Friday which gave them the opportunity to engage in self-directed learning from home, on site in one of our collaborative spaces or to attend tutorials run by their subject teachers. We also piloted virtual VCE where students from St Bridget's Horsham enrolled in our online Physics course giving them full access to CANVAS, Edrolo and weekly 1.5-hour tutorials via zoom. This was supplemented with 1 day per term onsite intensive learning, collaborative discussion, and practical experiences. In 2023 Semester 2 we offered Unit 2 Ancient History.

Faithful to our Mercy tradition, students continued House fundraising efforts and they responded on multiple occasions to the local need for non-perishable food items to support St Thomas Aquinas pantry as well as hosting, in Term 3 the Refugee Holiday Program. Work on the SHC Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and the Laudato Sí Goals has continued with both projects now in their second year.

Learning partnerships with industry continued. With the support of staff, our students were able to build and donate a magnificent shed to Cottage By the Sea. This project gained SHC recognition by the Australian Institute of Builders (AIB) as an organisation that has displayed exceptional corporate social responsibility.

This year the Design Futures Lab students created a series of pavilions that acted as sensorial walkways through which to approach and contemplate the wonder and potential future of creating with reclaimed waste materials. The pavilions featured in Melbourne Design Week. The exhibition showcased three

experimental transition spaces that challenge our perceptions of how our waste can be utilised as an alternate resource in creating the world we want - a world where we rethink and reimagine the circular lifecycle of materials in the built environment. Pavilion 1 was created with 13,010 used and donated disposable coffee cups.

VCE results in 2022 were not as strong as the previous two years. An analysis of these results further supports the need to ensure that students develop strong study habits during Years 9 and 10. The 2022 and 2023 cohort completed Years 9 and 10 during COVID lockdown.

- 201 students received an ATAR score and 195 students applied for a university placement of which 99% received a first round offer.
- 7 x 3/4 units were completed by Year 10 students, 1 of whom obtained a study score above 40. The average study score for the Year 10 students completing a Unit 3/4 was 34.8
- 216 x 3/4 Units were completed by Year 11 students. 36 students obtained a score of 40+. The average study score was 30.9
- 100% of students satisfactorily completed VCE
- 4 Year 12 students completed university units through the Deakin Accelerate at Deakin Geelong campus in Criminology x 1, Management and Law x 1, Law x 2. Results included: 5 x Distinction and 2 x Credit. 1 Year 12 student completed university units through the University of Melbourne One students who completed university units obtained an ATAR above 90
- The State Average ATAR for girls was 71.2. SHC Average ATAR was 73.2
- Only 13 students received an ATAR below 50
- Two students received study scores of 50, one of whom completed Further Mathematics whilst in Year 11.

Committed to creating a physical environment that reflects contemporary learning the Leadership Team and the Planning and Facilities sub-committee undertook a Master Plan refresh capturing our findings in a report which has informed SHC Master Plan 2024 and Beyond. This document will be presented to the Mercy Education Board in November 2023.

Having received approval in 2020 from the Board of Mercy Education Limited Master Plan Stage 5 Sports and Wellness Precinct is now awaiting approval from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and is now at the Planning Stage. The Sports and Wellness Precinct is designed to locate activities associated with sport and wellness to the northwest of the College. The Sports and Wellness Precinct will see the existing O'Dwyer Centre (ODC) double in size to the north in order to provide an appropriate gathering/function space for students and staff of the College. The Wellness Space, a two-storey addition to the south of the ODC will incorporate health and wellbeing. The Sports and Wellness Centre will take a multi-dimensional approach to wellness comprising psychological, cognitive, social, physical, emotional wellbeing and strengths (Using a proactive approach, our young people will have agency and they will be empowered to improve their wellbeing literacy; they will know how to improve their wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.

Media attention in 2023 has been mixed. Although alumni continue to feature in local media in a positive way including, in the performing arts - Sarah Krndija who is starring in Mamma Mia the musical and appeared in Class of '07 (Prime Video); in sport - Maggie Foley -Trio Rowing for Gold and Lucy Gummer current Year 9 tagged in the Geelong Advertiser as the 'Joey's' girls on a roll (cricket), whilst Christy Chudosnik (graduand 2015) was acknowledged for her work in creating the breath taking mural that adorns the Ukrainian Hall in Pakington Street.

I take this opportunity to thank Director of Development, Marketing and Communication – Catherine Middlemiss, College Alumni Officer – Jo Welch, and President of the Alumni Committee Anne Mathieson and the Alumni Committee who continue to enact the SH Alumni Strategic Plan.

Proposed: A motion was called to accept the College Report
Moved: Enza Hughes
Seconded: Laura Doherty

6. Election/Reappointment of Alumni Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2024 - Anna Negro

In accordance with the Alumni Association Constitution, expressions of interest for the following vacant committee positions were called for eight weeks prior to today's AGM.

- **Treasurer**
- **General Committee – four positions**

Re-nominations have been received for the executive positions from the following committee members:

- **President, Anne Mathieson (1971)**
- **Treasurer, Enza Hughes (1987)**

In accordance with the Alumni Constitution, these re-nominations are now accepted and ratified.

Re-nominations have been received for non-executive positions from the following committee members

- **Laura Doherty**
- **Dianne Spence**

In accordance with the Alumni Constitution, these re-nominations are now accepted and ratified.

During 2023 the following Alumni joined as non-executive positions members. We have now received and accepted nominations from:

- **Jade Hovey**
- **Daniela Pavlovic**

In accordance with the Alumni Constitution, these nominations are now accepted and ratified.

The following general committee members have announced their retirement from the committee. We thank them for their time and dedication to the Association:

- **Gael Perry (1962)**
- **Kelly Suvoltos (1991)**

2023 Alumni Committee

It's with great pleasure I announce the 2024 Alumni Association Committee as follows:

Executive:

- **President/s: Anne Mathieson (1971)**
- **Treasurer: Enza Hughes (1987)**

General Committee:

- **Laura Doherty (1976)**
- **Jade Hovey (2011)**
- **Daniela Pavlovic (2001)**
- **Dianne Spence (1968)**

Principal Representative 2024:

- TBA

Alumni Officer:

- Jo Welch

Anne Mathieson

Before we move to General Business, I would like to thank the committee members who are continuing for another term. I look forward to working with you in 2024..

I would also like to thank and acknowledge our outgoing committee members for their time, knowledge and expertise. We wish you well in your future endeavours.

- **Gael Perry (1962)**
- **Kelly Suvoltos (1991)**

A gift of acknowledgement and thanks will be sent to each member.

7. General Business

Nil

Date of next AGM

The next AGM will be held on Sunday 27 October 2024.

Close of Meeting

Anne Mathieson hereby declares the 2023 Annual General Meeting officially closed at 10.37am.