



LORETO
Mandeville Hall Toorak

AN INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS ELC TO VCE

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Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak Alumnae eBulletin | Term 4, 2015



Dear Past Pupil,



As 2015 draws to an end we look back over the 17 Reunions and 8 Alumnae events as well as the myriad of communications ranging from facebook posts to handwritten cards and we celebrate another positive year of keeping our Alumnae connected. I am most grateful for your words of wisdom, memories of your 'old school days' and to hear what your Loreto education means to you. Please feel free to keep in touch and share whatever news you have with the wider Loreto Community.

Though email is our main form of communication, we also occasionally rely on post particularly for the sending out of the Mandevillian. So if you do not receive the Mandevillian that means we do not have your postal address on your School Record. Please email me to update your details to ensure you do not miss out on the happenings at Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak.

Until next time, happy reading and Merry Christmas,

Chrissie Collins
Development Officer - Alumnae

Past Pupils' Annual Sapphire Dinner – Save The Date

We are delighted to announce that our inaugural annual Past Pupils' Sapphire Dinner will be held next year on Thursday 14 April. This Dinner is an initiative inspired by our Principal, Dr Susan Stevens, to bring together our Alumnae to share an evening in recognition of the years spent at Loreto Toorak. The venue for this event is the Hawthorn Arts Centre. Our Guest Speaker is Sr Trish Franklin ibvm who has recently returned after 20 years in Vietnam. Invitations will be sent out in the near future, but as there are limited seats, please book early to be part of this momentous occasion.

A Message from Louise McNamara (Whelan, 1982) 2016 PPA President

I am very honoured to be given the opportunity to be President of the Loreto Toorak Past Pupils' Association. We have a dynamic Alumnae keen to stay connected to each other and their School and indeed proud of their association with Loreto.

We have also learnt from the Past Pupils' Survey that our Past Pupils are also eager to take an active role in Social Justice through the School and are keen to both attend and provide Mentoring and Networking opportunities.

We are excited about the inaugural Annual Past Pupils' Dinner and we look forward to continuing to provide a forum to embrace the spirit of Loreto amongst us.

2016 Loreto Toorak Past Pupils' Committee:

President: Lou McNamara (Whelan, 1982)

Vice Presidents: Liz Parker (1972) and Emily Russell (2007)

Secretary: Annabel Jones (2011)

Treasurer: Caroline Mortimer (1975)

General Committee Members:

Amy Pereira (2012)

Angela Kos (Lamanna, 1980)

Emily Rodrigo (2014)

Emma Quirk (2011)

Jane Nathan (Laidley, 1967)

Kate Russell (Normanhurst)

Katie McNamara (2013)

Liz Papapetrou (2015)

Madeleine Tehan (2013)

Maggie Dunn (2015)

Loreto Networker Newsletter December 2015

Please click [here](#) to read the latest news from our Loreto Provincial Office. If you wish to receive this newsletter directly, you can sign up via their [homepage](#).

Are you looking for the Perfect Christmas Gift?



Then look no further than the Loreto Toorak Development Office, where a selection of wonderful, unique award winning publications are available for you to purchase, which will be beautifully gift wrapped at no extra cost. Choose from our two Loreto Community Cookbooks – **Loreto Cooks** and **Cooks@Loreto**; **A Row of Goodly Pearls** – a magnificent edition detailing a history of Loreto in Melbourne; or **Mandeville Christmas** – an anthology of Christmas treasures.

Take advantage of the generous discounts offered when purchasing the gift sets. To order any of these publications, please click [here](#) to purchase and collect your items.

A Past Pupils' Reflection - Loreto's Unsung Heroes by Virginia McInnery (Keogh, 1990)

I walked up the stairs of the Mansion feeling anxious and self-conscious. It was our 25-year Reunion and I was suddenly regretting my outfit choice. The old School Uniform seemed like a fun choice at the time, but as I entered the cool recess of the Oak Parlour - totally alone, I suddenly felt very self-conscious. Greeted instantly by a sea of warm smiles and laughter, my anxiety soon dissipated and I began to feel right at home. The scene was set for a fun and relaxed atmosphere that carried into the night.

Like many Reunion go-ers, I was nervous and hesitant about heading back to School. Life's big questions start to tick over in your head a few days before hand. Have I done enough with my life? Will I be judged on what I've accomplished since leaving School? Is that a blemish coming up on my face? However my experience that night put these questions to rest, as I came to a much deeper understanding.

As I chatted with my old classmates, the focus wasn't on 'success' or 'achievements.' The discussion was about good memories and life in general. One thing became clear - a good education doesn't shield you from the curve-balls that life throws at you. What we all had in common was life experience. It goes deeper than that though. As I listened to

everyone's stories, it struck me how each and every one of us is doing incredible things in our day-to-day lives without even realising it.

It's only natural to praise the achievements of women doing extraordinary things; work that's facilitating a dramatic impact on the world, whatever that field may be. But as I spoke with this group of women and heard their stories; stories told with no pretense whatsoever, I felt such admiration and an overwhelming need to acknowledge the achievements of these 'unsung heroes'. And it's not just this year level of course, it's so many of Mandeville's Past Pupils who deserve this recognition.

Stay at home mothers; working mothers; women studying in order to leave well-paid jobs for more altruistic careers; women who couldn't have children; women who have separated from their partners, tirelessly juggling kids and work; mothers raising children with special needs; women managing depression; women who've followed a dream; women working in jobs like teaching and nursing, bettering the lives of others. The list goes on.

These are the women who give 100 percent of themselves every day. In the midst of our daily routines, we lose sight of what an amazing job we are all doing. The 'every-day' gets in the way of recognising the extraordinary. The fact that so many other women are doing the same thing should not undermine the significance of these achievements or our contribution. Raising children, overcoming obstacles, or just being there for someone in need - these are the acts, no matter how small they seem, that make us and the world a better place. These are the women that I'd like to acknowledge and say, "You have achieved enormous things, and you make the world a better place. Thank-you"

An undeniable theme surfaced with each conversation that night: Resilience. Strength. Values.

I heard stories of life challenges, successes and triumphs. Not once did I hear complaints, sadness, bragging or ego. What I saw was an indelible strength, a relaxed humor and inherent respect for others. We are fortunate to have been able to attend a high achieving academic School but just as important as our academic education were the values, core beliefs and respect for others that we learnt at Loreto. We absorbed this both in the classroom and in the 'hidden-curriculum,' which was simply the 'Loreto way of being'. Sure, we gained resilience and inner strength on our life journey, but we are blessed to have had such strong foundations to start our journey.

So here's to you - you awesome ex-Mandeville women! Never have doubts about your contributions and the life you lead. To paraphrase our good friend Mary Ward, "You're doing good and doing it well." Finally, when that next Reunion comes around, embrace it! Go along knowing that you have more in common with your old class-mates than you realise. Go along feeling proud of what you do, because you really are making a difference.

(PS. The uniform was a hit. All the worry was for nothing. If I still fit into it in 5 years, I might even wear it to the next Reunion!),

My Regards, Gin

Past Pupils' Reunions and Events

Please refer to our [website](#) for further Information.

Friday 12 February	New York Reunion with Dr Susan Stevens, 6:00pm, The Living Room Times Square	W
Monday 21 March	Diamond Luncheon (Mandeville Hall) 11.30am	
Thursday 14 April	Annual Past Pupils' Sapphire Dinner, 7:00pm, Hawthorn Arts Centre	
Thursday 21 April	Adelaide/SA Reunion with Dr Stevens, 6:00pm, Venue TBC	
Friday 22 April	Class of 2011, 5 Year Reunion (Mandeville Hall), 6:00pm	
Friday 13 May	Past Pupils' Golf Day, Woodlands Golf Club	
Friday 13 May	Class of 1986 - 30 Year Reunion (Mandeville Hall) 6:00pm	
Friday 20 May	Class of 2006 - 10 Year Reunion (Mandeville Hall) 6:00pm	
Sunday 22 May	PPA Afternoon of Reflection 2.00pm	
Friday 3 June	PPA Card Day (Mandeville Hall) 10.30am	
Saturday 25 June	London/UK Reunion with Dr Stevens, Venue and Time TBC	
Friday 29 July	Class of 2001, 15 Year Reunion, (Mandeville Hall) 6:00pm	
Friday 5 August	Sydney/NSW Reunion with Dr Stevens, 6:00pm Venue TBC	
Friday 12 August	Class of 1966 50 Year Reunion Lunch (Mandeville Hall)	
Friday 19 August	Class of 1976, 40 Year Reunion, 6:00pm (Mandeville Hall) 6:00pm	
Wednesday 7 September	14 th GLS Womens' Breakfast, 7:00am, MCC (due to popular demand)	
Wednesday 14 September	Class of 2015, 1st Year Reunion Cocktail Party, 6:00pm (Mandeville Hall)	
Friday 16 September	Brisbane/Queensland Reunion with Dr Stevens, 6:00pm Venue TBC	
Friday 21 October	Class of 1996 - 20 Year Reunion (Mandeville Hall) 6:00pm	
Thursday 27 October	PPA AGM (Conservatory) 6.30pm	
Sunday 27 November	PPA & LFI Annual Mass (Chapel of Christ the King) 10.00am	

Keeping our Loreto Friendships Alive

Past Pupils who wish to update their contact details, career information or contribute to the Mandevillian – Where Are They Now section, please contact:

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