

COGA 2014 survey – responses from associations

Responses were received from the following associations:

- Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association
- Loreto Toorak Past Pupils' Association
- MLC Old Collegians' Association
- Firbank Old Grammarians' Association
- Star of the Sea College
- Korovian Club
- The Mangarra Society (Canterbury Girls' Secondary College)
- Sacre Coeur
- Toorak Collegians (previously TCOGA)
- Old Strathconians' Association
- Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association
- Tintern Old Girls' Association
- PLC Old Collegians' Association
- St Catherine's Old Girls' Association

Q3: What role does your association currently play, both in relation to your school, and in regards to your members? Has this role changed over time?

Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association	Our main objectives are to promote good fellowship among former students, and to further the well-being and progress of the school. We provide a magazine to our members twice a year, offer several member activities, and assist with various school functions. We also fund an annual prize for current students, and in the past have helped to set up funding for prizes, scholarships and an archivist. While we sometimes donate funds to specific projects, our focus is not fundraising, as there are other associations within the school community who do this. As part of the school community, IGOGA holds a permanent seat on the School Board.
Loreto Toorak Past Pupils' Association	Supporting past pupils and the aims and purposes of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Australia in regards to social justice and education of women. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide an opportunity for members to communicate with each other through various activities and events 2. Assist the aims of and give support to the Sisters of the IBVM. 3. Build networks and to provide assistance to individual, or groups of past pupils to support the various roles of women today. 4. Provide the opportunity for spiritual growth. 5. Give support to and participate in nominated social justice issues and organisations. 6. Give support to the Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak School Community. 7. Actively bring, by the Association or its individual members, the Spirit of Loreto into local, national and international affairs. 8. Facilitate fundraising.
MLC Old Collegians' Association	The Methodist Ladies' College Old Collegians' Club exists primarily in order to maintain positive, ongoing connections between the College and its former students. It does this through communications and organising events for old collegians, such as school reunions, golf days and networking events.
Firbank Old Grammarians' Association	The role of FOGA has evolved over time, due to a greater level of support from the School. The School has recently employed a full-time staff member whose role is focused on building the broader school community, including alumni. The role of the association encompasses the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President of FOGA has a quarterly meeting with the Principal, and regular contact with Director of Community Relations and Events Coordinator. 2. FOGA provides funding for a number of ongoing school activities, for example scholarship, archivist, prizes for Presentation Night, co-funding the annual luncheon for older FOGA members, valedictory gifts for the Year 12 girls, and involvement in fund raising campaigns as needs arise. 3. The President (and other Executive members where appropriate) are invited to key school events including the Anniversary Service, Presentation Night and the Valedictory service

Star of the Sea College	<p>Fundraising for the Chapel Appeal</p> <p>Support to the school in terms of scholarships, bursaries, assistance with funding magazine produced twice a year.</p> <p>Provides a mentoring programme for members and provides assistance to the careers department for speakers.</p> <p>Annual events are held for members - Star Women Speak and School Tours, reunions etc.</p>
Korovian Club	<p>The club represents all old girls of Korowa. The Korovian Club provides awards to current students and makes donations to the school in varied ways. The club has varied roles and contributions throughout a school year. The school employs staff who organise and manage reunions and events for alumni. The Korovian Club attends these events and speaks on behalf of Korovians. The Korovian Club also organises its own events for alumni. The Korovian Club Committee has a strong relationship with the woman who coordinates and maintains the school archives.</p>
The Mangarra Society (Canterbury Girls' Secondary College)	<p>We are seen as very important to our school by the leadership team and council, as there a very few non-selective Government schools with an alumnae association.</p> <p>We aim to foster links between the old and current students.</p> <p>We support the school financially - donate to student welfare (needs fund) including occasional one off requests and awards annually. Numerous other projects over the years eg principals' portraits.</p> <p>Very important to the old ex-students and ex committee. Not the younger ones overall. We are trying to change the role to become an association for both current and former students, so they know who we are before they leave school and then will become financial members, hopefully.</p>
Sacre Coeur	<p>We run several events each year open to all age groups and also facilitate many reunions throughout the year. We participate fully in whole school community events and are increasing our role in this regard.</p>
Toorak Collegians (previously TCOGA)	<p>Link between the school and past students</p> <p>Initiatives that introduce current year 12s to how life as a past student might unfold for them - sports competitions, forums, part of 'back to' experiences.</p> <p>Very strong archival responsibility</p> <p>Reunion program which has been tweaked to improve engagement</p> <p>140th book which celebrates the lives of 100 past collegians</p> <p>Fund raising for restoration projects</p> <p>This role will continue to change with changing communications platforms and changing school and past student expectations</p>
Old Strathconians' Association	<p>The OSA is overseen by an elected Committee of past students. The Committee undertakes a number of activities each year to promote and foster relationships between past students, present students and the school. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning and assisting with the running of reunion celebrations held each year (12 held each year). 2. Liaising with Strathcona staff to facilitate the involvement of past students as speakers in the Liberal Studies program, as panel members on Careers Night and as mentors through the OSA Mentors Program. 3. Keeping the wider school community informed of activities of past students through contributions to the OSA pages of the Strathcourier (published twice a year by the school). 4. Organising various fundraising initiatives, both for the OSA itself and for the school. Examples have included running stalls at the school fair and the preparation and publication of 'Best Recipes', a cookbook with recipes from the school community. Best Recipes recently featured in the Age Good Food supplement and was rated as "top school cook book" in Victoria. 5. Supporting past students who wish to continue their involvement with Strathcona in other ways. For example, the OSA Cabaret team is one such group who came to us with the idea for a show performed by past students. They ran three very successful shows using School facilities over 3 years from 2011 to 2013. The OSA Committee assisted by providing front of house support and selling refreshments at interval. 6. Awarding the "OSA Scholarship" each year - contributes 40% tuition fees to a student for year 11 and year 12. To be eligible, the student must have had a mother, grandmother or other family relative attend the school. Open to current students or students not currently attending the school. The role has evolved over time to increase its involvement with the school and the current school community (with a greater presence at school events and contribution to current school activities).
Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association	<p>We are considered to be an integral part of the school as we are the history of the school. We are an association with over 1000 members but we really only see most of our members, especially the younger ones, every five years at reunions. Our role within the school hasn't changed</p>
Tintern Old Girls' Association	<p>Member of the School Board and an increasing awareness of the importance of Alumni</p>

PLC Old Collegians' Association	<p>Fundraising for scholarships and promoting activities for friendship.</p> <p>Scholarships funded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Hailes Memorial Scholarship – awarded every 2 years • Melba Music Scholarship – awarded yearly • Old Collegians' Scholarship – awarded yearly <p>With the help of our Community Relations Officer we organize the reunions, dinners, etc. We also fund equipment for our archives- usually more storage cabinets.</p>
St Catherine's Old Girls' Association	<p>SCOGA was established to promote the welfare of its members and the School. To do so we:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organise reunions, with assistance from the School's Community Relations Officer 2. Sponsor golf and water polo teams 3. Provide book prizes at awards nights and a valedictory gift to each Year 12 girl 4. Hold a biennial lunch or dinner. In 2015 we will be hosting a series of career specific networking events, a joint initiative with the School 5. Profile high achieving Old Girls for our ongoing Nil Magnum Nisi Bonum project 6. Produce the Old Girls' Bulletin, a section of St Catherine's News, published by the School and distributed to the wider School community twice a year 7. Join with PFA to hold a Tennis Day every two years 8. Support School fundraising initiatives, as required 9. Donate funds to the School for specific projects 10. There are 2 positions on School Council for Old Girls nominated by SCOGA

Q4: Where do you see your association in ten years' time?

Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association	Continuing to support our members as a link between the school and past students. Offering a more diverse range of activities to cater for members of all ages.
MLC Old Collegians' Association	Personally I would like to see the Old Collegians' Club organise more events for young professional graduates.
Firbank Old Grammarians' Association	<p>More engagement with members, particularly those members who have recently left school.</p> <p>Improved networking/mentoring opportunities, including enhanced use of the web-based platforms.</p> <p>Ability to provide an enhanced level of financial support to daughters / granddaughters of old grammarians. For example, the provision of more scholarships.</p> <p>A well established philanthropy in the community</p>
Star of the Sea College	Difficult to say - this is my first year in the role and I only work one day a week so still getting my head around the annual cycle.
Korovian Club	The Korovian Club is an incorporated association. It is hoped that it can maintain the same role as it currently does with the help of its dedicated committee members.
The Mangarra Society (Canterbury Girls' Secondary College)	If we do not increase our membership with new blood, we will still be struggling along. If we cannot get new committee members along the way, may not exist.
Sacre Coeur	I believe we are growing both in numbers and in "visibility" and are continuing to play a strong role in networking for our members.
Toorak Collegians (previously TCOGA)	<p>Very social media savvy</p> <p>Heightened philanthropic focus</p> <p>Successful mentoring programs</p> <p>A network of working groups formed as and when required for particular projects</p> <p>Responsive to the school's and past students' expectations</p>
Old Strathconians' Association	<p>The key role is unlikely to change greatly and the Committee is likely to be responsible for promoting and fostering relationships between past students, present students and the school.</p> <p>We feel that there are a number of things that are working well – our reunions, contributions to careers night which we would like to continue in the same manner.</p> <p>This year we launched our mentoring program so we would like to see that develop over the next few years.</p>
Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association	Probably in the same position as it is now. We as an association are undertaking a strategic plan for the next 5 years as Lowther Hall as a school will be turning 100 years old during the next ten year period. We may be in a position to provide more financial support to the school due to the membership growing over this time.
Tintern Old Girls' Association	Mainly run by younger members to maintain relevance

PLC Old Collegians' Association	Very hard to anticipate. We only have two younger members on our main committee. They are very active but it is difficult to attract more members. All our branches have elderly membership and some will probably be meeting in 10 years' time.
St Catherine's Old Girls' Association	Having well established networks and mentoring program for members as a result of recent initiatives. Increased role in promoting a culture of philanthropy. Maintaining a broad age range on the Committee to best represent our members, and having strong representation of younger members.

Q5: What are the greatest challenges facing your association into the future? How are you addressing these challenges?

Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association	Finding activities to interest members of all ages. Involving recent school leavers to ensure successful independent continuation of the association and its committee.
Firbank Old Grammarians' Association	Maintaining contact with all ages and stages of our membership and an ageing committee.
Star of the Sea College	Capturing younger members Gentle encouragement, organising speakers who will have wider appeal.
Korovian Club	Committee has a good representation across the ages with the hope that it can continue to go from strength to strength. We have been placing a particular focus on recruiting recent school leavers and encouraging them to have leadership roles within the committee. The Club is well placed to tackle challenges into the future. There has been times when people have questioned our existence but in the last 5-6 years we've turned this around and it is no longer an issue.
The Mangarra Society (Canterbury Girls' Secondary College)	Number of financial members. Being relevant and having something to offer each age group. See previous statement.
Sacre Coeur	The changing face of communication is a constant challenge, older people prefer postal invitations but these are of course costly, the middle group like email and the younger group only respond to social media. Remaining relevant to such a wide age group is a constant challenge and the many demands on people's time and resources.
Toorak Collegians (previously TCOGA)	Having the resources to gear up to changing communication models and learning to use them really effectively Being relevant to both the oldest and the youngest past students Achieving 'across the board' financial or in kind support from past students for projects happening at the school today Resolving some pervasive database (past student) issues Addressing these with a strategic plan and sub-committees which are researching, working and reporting back recommendations to the committee
Old Strathconians' Association	Remaining relevant to younger generations, fundraising to be able to make significant contributions to the school. We have set up a Facebook page and are trialling online payments for reunions (a first for us!) to try to improve response rates to events. Traditionally all correspondence has been sent by post only. We are thinking about increasing our presence on social media in the next little while.
Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association	While we have a membership base growing on an annual basis, we have the same issue as all associations have is fundraising and how do we maximise our dollars in order to support our school financially
Tintern Old Girls' Association	Involvement / engagement / ownership
PLC Old Collegians' Association	Attracting younger members. We hold activities such as a "High Tea" with a younger speaker which depending on her leaving year will attract girls in her year level to come to the activity. Using the younger members of our committee to encourage attendance however Facebook and Twitter as well as emailing activities are very successful.
St Catherine's Old Girls' Association	Being relevant to younger members. We are addressing this by launching a series of networking events, as previously mentioned. Better engagement with members. Exploring platforms for alumni engagement. SCOGA closed group page on LinkedIn established.

Q6: How does your association attract younger members to join or participate in your association?

Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association	Increasing use of online communication (email and Facebook). Each year, two students from the previous year's Y12 are invited to join the committee as Y12 reps, and fulfil certain roles (including helping to organise their one year reunion).
Loreto Toorak Past Pupils' Association	Communication via social media. Invite to the AGM Cocktail Party. Establish Sub-Committees, Past School Captains have to join the PPA. Our Development Office.
MLC Old Collegians' Association	All former students are members of the Old Collegians Club. There are a few younger members (including myself) that have voluntarily joined the Council. To encourage further participation of younger members in the Club's activities we are organising a young professionals career evening and invite interesting guest speakers to our networking breakfasts (e.g., the CEO of Oroton).
Firbank Old Grammarians' Association	A subcommittee for young members was recently created (Firbank Young Graduates Alumni – FYGA) to target members of 10 years and less. Our FYGA group would be delighted to share their experience and would be interested in collaborating with other schools – hopefully to share a super network of young graduates. Looking at more career-based networking events for members of FOGA and FYGA combined, whereby the young can learn and network with our older members. FYGA is led by Mary Trumble, one of the FOGA vice-presidents and can be contacted via email – fyga@outlook.com
Star of the Sea College	Not very successfully at this stage
Korovian Club	The school recommends school leavers that it thinks might be interested in joining the committee. Along with an email that goes to all school leavers, the President sends an additional encouraging email to the recommended students. This has worked very well over the time. We then encourage others to let interested friends know that they are welcome to attend.
The Mangarra Society (Canterbury Girls' Secondary College)	We now offer a membership and badge for \$20 for all of their school years. Very few takers, but we have had a disjointed "marketing" approach. Hope to do better with current Grade 6s on orientation this year. Offer a heavily discounted membership for 5 or 10 years to Year 12s as they leave. Try and push our Facebook page.
Sacre Coeur	We run one or two events specifically targeted at the youngest members.
Toorak Collegians (previously TCOGA)	Combined events during Year 12. Most recent initiative is the Wilderness Shield Sports Competition and Dinner (swimming, tennis, netball, badminton and bocce) – Collegians vs Year 12 in the first week of the year. Current Year 12s can't wait to be on the other side competing as past students. Joining the Association is now a default position – every student who enters the school becomes a Collegian on leaving the school at whatever level. Participation and engagement are works in progress but the recent 140th anniversary book preparation, publication and launch (celebrating the lives and successes of 100 inspirational collegians) was an enormous success in terms of broader engagement.
Old Strathconians' Association	We are fortunate to have a relatively young committee – the majority of the committee members finished year 12 within the last 10 years. This has helped ensure that the OSA is not regarded as "a bunch of old ladies" and has assisted us to promote participation at many events.
Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association	That is the 64 million dollar question. We have organised cocktail parties and held high teas try to attract younger members without too much success
Tintern Old Girls' Association	We invite school captain and vice-captain to join the committee.
PLC Old Collegians' Association	Facebook, Twitter, Word of Mouth. Emailing details of the activities if we have their current email address.
St Catherine's Old Girls' Association	The previous year's School captains are invited to join the committee as ex officio members. A committee member speaks to School leavers about what life membership of the Association has to offer. 5 year reunion. Committee membership is being increasingly seen as an opportunity to develop skills, gain experience and contribute to the community. Networking events planned for 2015. Increased use of online communications.

Q7: Which association events or services are currently the most successful?

Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association	Interschool sports competitions (golf, tennis). One year reunion (other reunions are organised by the school). Annual church service. Ad hoc events for specific celebrations, such as a high tea for our association's 85 th birthday. We used to organise an annual Xmas dinner, but attendance dwindled.
Loreto Toorak Past Pupils' Association	Class reunions, Annual dinner
MLC Old Collegians' Association	Annual chapel service, golf day, networking breakfasts, school reunions, tennis day
Firbank Old Grammarians' Association	Networking events Reunions (5 and 10 year peer groups) Annual luncheon (55 years + group)
Star of the Sea College	Star Women Speak series always attracts a good audience. Year Level reunions are popular but are essentially organised by the students themselves
Korovian Club	We have a Korovian Movie Night that has been successful. The one year out cocktail party is always well attended and well received. The book stall at the Twilight Fair run by the Korovian Club is a popular stall. Golf events for Korovians are always well received.
The Mangarra Society (Canterbury Girls' Secondary College)	None a great success!
Sacre Coeur	Cocktail parties, events with good speakers and of course reunions.
Toorak Collegians (previously TCOGA)	Wilderness Shield Sports Competition and Dinner. Reunions. Speakers. Bursaries. 1 Year out Cocktail Party. Archival Initiatives and Work. Preparation and Publication of 140th Anniversary Book. Year 12 Gift Giving. Photos and material written for school magazines. Fund raising for restoration projects.
Old Strathconians' Association	Reunions are generally well attended (some more than others) and we have been able to assist the school with the organisation of its careers night which is always very well attended by past students.
Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association	Lowther Hall has a Golden Mitre Club reunion for anyone who attended the school 50 years ago and this seems to be a well-attended event as we can always attract out older members back to the school.
Tintern Old Girls' Association	AGM / Speakers
PLC Old Collegians' Association	High Tea held every August attracts an enthusiastic attendance
St Catherine's Old Girls' Association	Reunions, including an annual reunion for older members (Pre 55 leavers)

Q8: What use does your association make of online communications, including email, website and social media?

Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association	We have been working to build up our email database for members, though keeping it up to date is always an issue. News is emailed to our database, and is posted to our website, and our Facebook page. An electronic version of our magazine is now produced alongside the hard copy for distribution twice a year. The electronic version is now the default delivery for new members, and has been offered to all existing members, with a good uptake thus far. We anticipate moving to a predominantly electronic publication, but will maintain the physical version for the foreseeable future.
Loreto Toorak Past Pupils' Association	School Website (under Community) and on Loreto Toorak's Facebook page. We use all current media options available.
MLC Old Collegians' Association	Events are posted on our website
Firbank Old Grammarians' Association	School website, School e-mail address, School e-newsletter, Facebook page for FOGA and private Facebook group (FYGA members), LinkedIn private group – Firbank Grammar Alumni
Star of the Sea	Extensive use of email despite the issue of keeping the database up to date.

College	Occasional tweeting, a Facebook page which is steadily, but slowly attracting interest and the schools website are all used to promote events and showcase past students.
Korovian Club	We have a generic email address for the association which works well. The school runs a Korovian Facebook page which is very successful. They have just introduced Wayback Wednesday and they put up random photos from the past. This has had an overwhelming response. There is a Korovian section on the website which houses our generic email address. We would get up to 10 emails a year about change of contact details. The Korovian Club also have a page in the school magazine that comes out twice a year. The President provides a report for each edition.
The Mangarra Society (Canterbury Girls' Secondary College)	Send our newsletter and invitations via email to all that have it. Financial members receive the school's newsletter via email. Facebook page and that depends on how much our girls who look after can put in. We have a section on school website, which needs a major revamp of what is written on it
Sacre Coeur	We use all of the above with much support from the school.
Toorak Collegians (previously TCOGA)	All of the above but we are looking to be much much better at it!
Old Strathconians' Association	Invitations to reunions are still sent by post, although for other events email is becoming more common. We do not have a central "OSA" email address and all correspondence is directed to the community relations office at the school. There is an OSA page on the school website which is used to some extent but perhaps not at its full potential, and we have a Facebook page. While we have made use of online communications we are certainly not using them as well as we could.
Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association	Our association is on Facebook and makes regular updates on this. The school has recently updated its web page and now we also have a web page on this.
Tintern Old Girls' Association	Extensive
PLC Old Collegians' Association	We use these online communications frequently as these reach a much larger demographic – even the older members of our association.
St Catherine's Old Girls' Association	Email address for alumni, section on School website, Facebook, closed group page on LinkedIn

Q9: Are there any agenda items that you wish to raise at the AGM?

Firbank Old Grammarians' Association	Share ideas and brainstorm new ideas for expanding alumni capabilities
Korovian Club	Look forward to learning from others ideas and the challenges that they face. Successful initiatives for others.
Sacre Coeur	Thank you for contacting us and for the work you do. I look forward to seeing the minutes. Unfortunately we have an event and so cannot attend.
Toorak Collegians (previously TCOGA)	Looking forward to an opportunity to learn from others on the Remaining Relevant theme and for us taking it a step further towards Being Indispensable
Old Strathconians' Association	Would be interested to hear how other associations make use of social media and other online communication tools.
Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association	I think we need to look at the format of these meetings as they are only once a year and I think we would like to know what other associations are doing or have been doing during the past 12 months and how successful they have been as that we can leverage off that as association.
Tintern Old Girls' Association	Tried to get a networking group together however availability of members of subcommittee meant that it didn't happen.