

Meeting Notes
COGA Meeting – Sunday 18 August 2007
St Catherine's

Interschool Tennis Challenge Cup

- Held on 25 March 2007 with 8 schools competing
- Gennezzano were winners, defeating Toorak College
- 19 June 2007 a meeting was held to discuss ideas for next year
- Sunday 13 April 2008 is the date for next year's event. Interested schools to provide contact details and email address to Jayne Dance (Korowa) *Karen left personal email address with Korowa rep*

Philanthropy

- Discussion on ideas and strategies for fundraising in private girls' schools
- Sylvia Walton, Acting Principal St Catherine's spoke of her observations of philanthropy providing the ability to "touch those who we would like to have involved with us" She spoke of "Ardoc Youth Education" which provides funds to address "needs" and keep children in school.
- Strict management structures exist in large philanthropic organizations and there are changes over time in who they are supporting.
- Sylvia gave an example of a failed attempt at Tintern where a specialized program was implemented to assist those with learning, speech and dysphasia issues. 110 students attended from the area and in conjunction with Southwood Boys' School.
- Many philanthropic organizations visited the school but none were willing to provide support. Perception that private schools are not in need of the funds.

Reunions and Events

Strathcona:

- 1st year and every 5 years, drinks and nibbles on a Friday night
- 1958-64 - lunch
- pre 1942 – event at the school
- Birthday cards sent for 80th birthdays, then every year after that
- 1924-42 – about 100 on the list. A newsletter is sent out to this group twice a year

Toorak College:

- Cocktail party for school leavers
- Every 10 years – Sunday lunch at school, catered for by the school
- Country reunions – 1 or 2 a year
- No reunions planned for 2007 as 2008 is the 100th birthday and they are hoping for large attendances at the birthday events.

Lowther Hall"

- Every 5 and 10 years – off site

Shelford:

- 1st year off site
- Have noticed since 9/11 that people have a desire to “regain their roots” and attendances have picked up.
- Old Girls pick up the tab (*majority of schools present advised that they charge for events*)

Firbank:

- Every 5 and 10 years – considered going to just 10 years but some girls have passed away so the majority wanted to catch up every 5 years
- 1st year reunion has changed – now at the start of 2nd year so the girls can talk about their first year at Uni, work, etc

Ruyton:

- Year level rep chooses the date and venue for the reunion

Morongong

- 10 year anniversary reunion – booked to stay at a guesthouse

Presentation College and Morongong:

- both keep their own past student records. All other schools present advised that the school kept the records.

MLC:

- Off campus for younger past students
- Reunions held every 5 years.
- Older members (>55 years since left school) combine lunch with a chapel service. Around 200 attended recent event
- Reunions for boarders
- Considering “decade” reunions i.e. left school in the 60’s, 70’s etc as well as the regular reunions, to pick up those who may have missed their specific year level reunion.

Events:

Firbank:

- Miss Cameron’s Birthday Lunch – been going for 20 years. Held on the same date each year, so the day of the week changes from year to year, meaning that the attendees changes each year (due to work commitments, etc)

Lowther Hall

- Golden Mitre – special group for those who have left the school at least 50 years ago
- Annual event for these members – differentiate between young and old members

- Don't want to "hit members for money". The aim is just to get them back to the school.
- Music Society – held every few years. Old Girls play for an afternoon tea.

Ruyton:

- Event for Old Girls to show off their businesses to the school community. This concept works well at boys' schools. Held at 6-9pm on a Thursday evening. Not a fundraising event – networking and social
- Business Breakfasts for recent old girls. Old girls with established careers (and friends of staff, etc) invited to attend so that one "mentor" sits at each table. During the course of the breakfast, these guests are interviewed with brief questions, basically "How did you get to where you are".

Caulfield Grammar:

- Events for younger members include "lunch at the pub" (paid for by the Committee). Around 25 attended a recent event.
- Committee sporting teams which play the school sides. Consideration of a "Sports Gala Day" with sporting events over a full day (held on a weekend)
- Business Network Breakfasts for younger members. Held twice a year with past students as guest speakers covering particular industries or career groups, e.g. one event may include doctor, paramedic, nurse, etc. Invitations sent to past students via email. Up to 60 attendees.

Membership Fees and Committee Issues

Caulfield Grammar

- Two past student Committees. The older one made up mostly of older men, the younger group mixed (due to the introduction of co-ed). Younger group has 4 year level reps, a girl and boy from each campus. If they perform well, may be elected to stay on the committee!