

COMBINED OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

AGM 2014

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2014

Hillsley Gallery, 8-10 Noel Street, Ivanhoe



School Tour: Commenced from Hillsley at 1.30pm

Conducted by Dr Heather Schnagl AM (Principal of Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School)
& Anna Aughterson (IGGS Community Relations Manager)

MINUTES

Chair – Rachel Connor, Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians' Association

1. WELCOME:

Dr Heather Schnagl AM, Principal of Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School, welcomed attendees to the AGM. Dr Schnagl outlined the importance of the associations' work in providing opportunities for past student to keep in touch and noted the challenges of the future in keeping the connections alive. She extended best wishes for a productive afternoon

2. ASSOCIATIONS PRESENT:

Firbank Old Grammarians' Association [Pam Hammond, Elizabeth Cook]
Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians Association [Karen Frost, Liz Taylor, Sue Lees, Dana Jeffrey, Shannon Wilson, Annie Paras, Rachel Connor]
Korovian Club [Jan Miller, Freya Coker, Elspeth De Fanti, Sarah Morgan]
Loreto Toorak Past Pupils' Association [Liz Parker, Chrissie Collins]
Lowther Hall Old Grammarians' Association [Donna Doughty, Sue Isles]
Melbourne Girls' Grammar School Old Grammarians [Judy Wilkinson]
MLC Old Collegians' Association [Kathryn Ann St John]
Old Strathconians' Association [Laura Loftus]
PLC Old Collegians' Association [Belinda Steel]
St Catherine's Old Girls' Association [Phoebe Olsen, Deb Berry, Meg Begg]
The Mangarra Society (Canterbury Girls' SC) [Angela Veysey, Prudence Lombardi, Roxanne Allen]
Tintern Old Girls' Association [Carol Robertson, Jenny Brown]
Toorak College Old Girls' Association [Jacqueline Ross]

3. APOLOGIES:

College of our Lady of Sion [Robyn McCann]
Firbank Old Grammarians' Association [Melissa McLean, Sally Cooper, Victoria Breidahl, Mary Trumble]
Korovian Club [Anique Muttiah]
Lauriston OLA [Prudy Barker]
MacRobertson Girls' School
Morongo Old Collegians' Association [Jeanette Joseph]
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College [Shane O'Neil]
Sacre Coeur Alumnae Association
Shelford Old Girls' Association [Judy Ciolli]
Star of the Sea [Kris Johnstone]
Old Geelong Collegians Association
Old Strathconians [Karina Skourletos]
The Hermitage Old Girls' Association [Ann Tyers]

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COGA AGM 2013

The minutes of the 2013 AGM held Lauriston Girls' School were accepted with amendments to the typographical errors.

Moved: Tintern Old Girls' Association
Seconded: Ivanhoe Girls' Old Grammarians' Association

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

COGA sub-committee report

Carol Robertson, Tintern OGA, provided an update on the progress of the sub-committee. Attempts were made to convene the group before Christmas, but a meeting did not eventuate. It was still considered worthwhile pursuing, but more time would be needed to fully explore the issues. An update on the survey idea was intended to have been presented by [Prudy Barker, Lauriston] however she was an apology for this meeting.

It was proposed that a meeting be convened for a Sunday in March 2015 so that those interested could either attend or follow up on the minutes and action items from that meeting.

The Chair requested that those interested add their names to a list at the end of the meeting so that Carol Robertson could follow up to convene the March 2015 meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence.

7. GUEST SPEAKER

John Gunston, Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School, Coerwull Association, provided an outline of the Association's Mentoring Program. The program was established in 2008 and operational from 2009 and is still a work in progress. It utilizes the vast resources of the school as its mentors, including drawing from past and current parents and former students. The program assists girls to further their career goals and can assist those re-entering the workforce after a break, to understand the changed environment in some professions.

Marketing of the program is via the school's Careers Night and the IGOGA GAB newsletter. The ideal target market is recent tertiary graduates, so more targeted marketing at the one year and five year reunions would be pursued. Consideration is underway to extend to the Years 11 and 12 cohorts.

Discussion and questions from meeting attendees indicated that several schools were considering offering a mentor program also. There could be opportunities to share resources between schools.

Hard copies of the program documentation was made available at the meeting and will be circulated with the meeting minutes.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Survey analysis – broad results

The Chair thanked the associations for their responses. 21 were received in total, which included some multiple responses from the same associations.

Responses to the general questions revealed that the roles of associations varied; generally it included supporting past students and maintaining links, but some have fundraising roles and some have an historical and archival role.

Open discussion – current challenges

(i) Younger members

Challenges noted were around attracting younger members and keeping them involved and engaged. Some associations have the previous year's school captain join the committee, and others have other selection methods.

The discussion noted that associations can provide opportunities for young members to develop professional skills.

Some associations incorporate a "young old girl" sub-committee which has been successful in retaining the contribution of the younger association members.

(ii) Alumnae / networking

A range of events were discussed, including business breakfasts, careers days with past students presenting on their careers and networking events. At times the cost of these types of events can be prohibitive, and it was noted that costs can be reduced if the school is able to host the event.

(iii) Events / activities

Several other activities were noted, including fun runs, social justice groups, cooking events and attendance at grandparents' day at the school.

(iv) Use of social media and other online communication tools

The use of Facebook and LinkedIn is growing and these are considered useful communication tools. There were differences across the associations in terms of who has control of the content on Facebook and association websites; the school or the association independently.

(v) Format of COGA meetings

The format of the COGA AGMs were discussed. Views were expressed regarding guest speakers, panels of speakers and the ability to have enough time for a general discussion to share ideas and challenges.

It was agreed that the format of the AGM would be left to the discretion of the host association. The survey conducted this year was considered a good initiative, as it allowed information to be gathered and distributed ahead of the meeting date. A suggestion was made to conduct a survey ahead of the 2015 AGM to seek agenda items.

(vi) IGOGA website archive

It was agreed that IGOGA would continue to host archives of the COGA AGM Minutes.

The Lowther Hall OGA representative offered to share its 5 year strategic plan with associations and will forward it to IGOGA for inclusion with the COGA documentation.

The Korovian Club representative provided an update on the International Women's Day Parliamentary event for 2015 which will focus on Beijing 1995, 20 years on. Information will be forwarded to IGOGA for circulation with the minutes of this meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The potential for a COGA Facebook page was discussed. It was agreed that this would be an item for discussion at the sub-committee meeting.

It was noted that this is the 80th anniversary of the COGA, a considerable milestone.

The Chair extended thanks to the Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School staff who had assisted with the arrangements for the meeting.

Sue Lees (IGOGA) thanked Rachel Connor for chairing the meeting so capably and to other IGOGA members who were on the sub-committee preparing for the meeting and following up with all the associations.

10. HOST AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

2015 – Firbank (FOGA) – meeting date TBC

2016 – Korowa (Korovian Club) – meeting date TBC

2017 – Melbourne Girls' Grammar School Old Grammarians - TBC

2018 – St Catherine's Old Girls' Association – TBC

11. ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES

- Coerwull Mentoring Program Booklet
- NCWV: International Women's Day 2015 Special Event for Students at Parliament House flier
- COGA 2014 survey – responses from associations.

MEETING CLOSED: 3.45 PM

Afternoon tea served in the Hillsley Gallery