

LORETO TOORAK PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

STRATEGIC PLAN 2000

CONNECTING PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

“Women in time to come will do much”

Revision April 2003

BACKGROUND

Mother Gonzaga Barry arrived in Australia in the 1880s at a time when the education of women was still questioned. She was one of the earliest proponents of a 'whole' education – of mind, body and spirit - an education which “should begin in the infant school and end in the University”. Owing to a shortage of professionally trained teachers, in 1884 Mother Gonzaga established a Teacher Training College in Dawson Street, Ballarat and by 1896, a similar one in Melbourne, Albert Park College.

She introduced a wide range of activities into the school curriculum, including science, astronomy, languages, maths, drama, archery, a school orchestra, University Extension lectures, etc., often things that were not taught at other schools and certainly not at girls' schools.

The Loreto sisters soon ran other schools, first the parish schools at Portland and South Melbourne in the 1880's, then Loreto schools in Sydney from 1892, Perth in 1897, Adelaide in 1907, Mandeville Hall Toorak, Melbourne in 1924 and Brisbane in 1927 with the order taking charge of St. Mary's College at Melbourne University in 1917. Until the 1960's the work of the IBVM sisters was exclusively in schools.

In Melbourne the first past pupils joined the national Loreto Old Girls Association in 1929. With the growth of the schools, and a desire for individual recognition, a separate Association was later formed for each Loreto school. A separate constitution for the Loreto Toorak Past Pupils Association was submitted and approved in 1969.

The aims of the Association are:

- To encourage a spirit of Loreto, ie the spirit of Mary Ward, amongst members, and bring members into close touch with one another, and with the Sisters of the IBVM.
- To assist in any aims of the Sisters of the IBVM (locally, nationally and internationally).
- To take an active Christian role in local, national and international affairs
- To raise funds for and subscribe to any local or other charities and such causes as shall from time to time be deemed advisable.

There are currently approximately 1,200 financial members of the Association (of a total 3,700 ex-pupils on the database).

Since its inception, the Association through its members has devoted itself to many causes:

- Financing bursaries, awards and prizes to students,
- raising money for Loreto Missions both here and overseas,
- purchasing, renovating and maintaining Loreto Cottage at Blairgowrie for the use of the nuns and students

- restoring school treasures,
- collecting and amassing memorabilia,
- assisting the nuns financially through gifts of equipment when needed,
- holding the Loreto Debutante balls,
- having a voice on the National Council of Women,
- membership of the Combined Old Girls Association,
- producing a directory of past pupils,
- organising sporting teams,
- organising business networking groups, and
- devoting countless hours to community service and fundraising for charities.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

“To maintain, reinforce and enhance the spirit of Loreto”

Two 50% bursaries for school life.

Through the Mary Ward Scholarship Fund, bursaries offering up to 50% remission of school fees are awarded at the discretion of the Principal, to the daughter of a past pupil, who through unforeseen circumstances, would not otherwise be able to continue to afford such an education for her daughter.

School Prizes

The Association awards The Loreto Spirit prize at the final assembly each year, to the student nominated by staff as having exhibited exemplary school spirit throughout her school life.

Federation

The Association is a member of the Loreto Federation, a national link between all Loreto schools in Australia, which was the dream of Mother Gonzaga Barry. This gathering of the Federation meets biennially to discuss and take action on issues of interest on a social and spiritual level.

There is reciprocity of Association membership allowing members to join activities of other associations in different States.

Cottage at Blairgowrie

The Association purchased this property and maintains it for the use of the Loreto Community. The Community pays for the day to day running costs. The Cottage is used for relaxation, retreats and study on a regular basis.

Functions

A formal Jubilee Dinner for members was held in 1999 to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Loreto in Melbourne in 1924.

Class Reunions are the most popular activity of past pupils.

Film nights are organised by the committee to raise funds. These are usually at a cinema located not far away from the school and feature a popular latest release. The Development Office at Loreto Mandeville Hall provides invaluable assistance with the organisation of the functions. They keep records of all past pupils. It

would be greatly appreciated if members notified the office when changing address.

Speakers' evenings are held at school and speakers include past pupils from all walks of life and of all ages, discussing their career paths and providing entertainment and insight to attendees who are invited to ask probing questions.

Loreto Family International

This was created by one of the members of this Association and espoused by the Loreto Federation. Individual past pupils contribute annually to the upkeep and maintenance of the IBVM activities in India particularly in the area of caring for and educating young girls there.

Spiritual Activities

Each year there is a Remembrance Mass in the school chapel, followed by morning tea in the Oak Parlour for all members to attend.

There is an annual Day of Reflection.

Sport

The Association holds an annual Golf Day.

The netball team requires new enthusiastic members.

There is occasional involvement in the Sun Tennis Cup, again relying on interested members.

Historical Tours

Functions are held in The Oak Parlour. Annual tours are given through The Historic Building.

Memorabilia

Members are actively involved in the collection of memorabilia, maintenance of the traditions through magazine articles and books, restoration and care of the building and its traditional contents.

Past pupils have contributed substantially to the collection and restoration of memorabilia and its display in the Historic House. The school now has an archivist who will accept, record and put on display donated items. The archivist is engaged to record school memories and is interested in collating the history of Loreto Mandeville Hall

AIMS OF THE LORETO TOORAK PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION

- 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 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.**

STRATEGIES

1. Provide an opportunity for members to communicate with each other through various Activities and Events by

- A Improving lines of communication with members by**
 - the website,
 - contribution to “The Mandevillian”
 - provision of an annual newsletter and calendar of events
 - encouraging members to read the notices in the magazine and to visit the website and put the calendar in a prominent position.
 - To advise the development office of changes in personal details.
- B Developing marketing strategies and image development.**
 - to develop a higher profile within the school and in the wider community.
 - to encourage participation in community activities.

Involving members in committee and sub committee activities, particularly the organising of functions.

Marketing the attractions of the Federation through a national network of the IBVM and the international community.

Encouraging further participation in the historical and cultural background of the Association by interaction by members with current students.

Nominating students of year 12 to liaise for the continuing contact with their fellow pupils and the Development Office.

2. Assist the aims of and give support to the Sisters of the IBVM by

Carrying out the vision of the Institute.

Sharing the IBVM tradition of mutual support.

Providing the Cottage at Blairgowrie

Providing practical and social support to the Sisters of the IBVM

3. Build networks to provide assistance when necessary to individual and groups of past pupils to support the various roles of women by

Facilitating the creation of links between women encompassing

- Mothers
- Carers, Professionals,
- Voluntary Workers
- Friends
- Unemployed
- Retirees
- Rural Workers

Creating supportive networking opportunities for past pupils who are living in rural, regional areas.

Supporting the ongoing tradition of school reunions.

4. Providing the opportunity for spiritual growth by

Organising an annual Day of Reflection for Past Pupils and their families .

Organising an annual Mass for Past Pupils and their families.

Supporting the potential use of the Chapel by Past Pupils.

5. Give support to and participate in nominated social justice issues and organisations by

Creating an active link with the Mandeville Hall school community in their work with social justice issues.

Supporting delegates' involvement with the National Council of Women and thus create links with other school communities.

Creating links with other School Communities.

6. Give support to the Loreto Mandeville Hall School Community by

Participating as required in the collection, restoration, maintenance and recorded history of the school.

Supporting the educational aims of the school community.

Involvement with career guidance and advice.

Contributing to the vision of Mary Ward that students become “seekers of truth and doers of justice”.

Contributing to the vision of the values of the IBVM.

7. Actively bring by association or individually the Spirit of Loreto into local, national and international affairs by

Providing Speakers' Evenings that give insight into the Loreto Spirit.

Allowing Past pupils the opportunity to take an active role in mentoring its members.

Giving Members the opportunity to take an active interest in the local, national and international debate on issues that are supported by the philosophy of the IBVM through the strength of the National Membership.

Encouraging links to other Loreto schools through Loreto Family International.

8. Facilitate Fundraising by

Encouraging past pupils to become active members to support the Association in their aims.

Allowing the opportunity for the past pupils to use the School Facilities where approved by the Loreto Mandeville Hall school community and the Sisters of the IBVM.

Instigating fundraising events throughout the year.

Supporting the Members who would welcome the use of the school chapel for important events in their lives.

9. Develop an electronic communication strategy

10. Develop a business plan.