



Lauriston

GIRLS' SCHOOL

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GIRLS' SCHOOL

ALUMNAE RELATIONS REPORT

2022/2023

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ALUMNAE RELATIONS MANAGER REPORT

The Annual Report is produced prior and for the purposes of presenting at the OLA Annual General Meeting each year, held in May. Since the 2021/2022 Annual Report was published, the Alumnae Office has continued to evolve and grow, enhancing its delivery and offering new initiatives for alumnae, taking care that we appeal to alumnae located all over the world.

Including Alumnae who live locally, we commenced profiling alumnae who are located overseas, interviewing them, and writing articles and stories about their 'life after Lauriston', featuring them on social media platforms and in publications such as the 'Beyond the Fig Tree' eNewsletter and in Lauriston Life magazine.

In May 2022 we had record-breaking numbers of Old Lauristonians whose children and grandchildren currently attend Lauriston, and this was captured by a wonderful photograph where we had over 120 in attendance.

The Student Futures & Pathways Program (originally Careers Expo) continued offering online seminars featuring over 25 young alumnae who shared their career stories to senior students interested in specific career industries, and this provided opportunities to highlight individuals' profiles and to explore alumnae activities. Again, increasing alumnae engagement and providing ways for alumnae to 'give back' to the next generation of Lauriston students.

The alumnae office produced 3 editions of Beyond the Fig Tree and enjoyed a continuous increase in readership and engagement.

Throughout the year, the School enjoyed alumnae returning to the class reunions, which were made special by the tours of the new Ullmer Sports & Wellbeing Centre. We were proud to display Jess Morrison's (2010) rowing zootie, which she wore when winning Gold at the Tokyo Olympics as part of the women's coxless four, with fellow rower Rosie Popa, daughter of former Lauriston student, School rowing coach and Olympian Sue Chapman-Popa (1980). We were privileged that Jess gifted us the rowing suit, which is now proudly framed and displayed in the Ullmer Centre.

One of the highlights of the year was the OLA Golf Day, held in December at Sorrento. Organised by 4 alumnae from Class of 1995, well over 50 Old Lauristonians from varying year groups attended and had a wonderful day. We introduced a Cup for overall winner which was presented for the first time to Sarah Bernard (Aberdeen, 1975).

Towards the end of 2022 the alumnae office, in conjunction with funding from the Old Lauristonians' Association, was fortunate to host the Annual Lauriston Luncheon that included the 50 Year Reunion for Class of 1972. The luncheon was held in October at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. Approximately 16 members from 1972 attended, with the remaining 80 or so from 51+ years out. It was a wonderful lunch; we enjoyed performances from some current music students and some of our alumnae sang the "old School song" with robust! During the lunch we also acknowledged and celebrated milestone anniversaries for the classes of 1967, 1962, 1957 and 1952. We were delighted that the numbers in attendance nearly doubled from the inaugural event in 2021 and it is a luncheon

that we hope will continue each year. All guests were presented with a beautiful hand-made soap, wrapped in Lauriston ribbon, which was warmly received.

A wonderful quick video was produced on 1 January 2023 to welcome in the new year – a photo and music video of images from events and initiatives conducted in 2022, to help inspire and motivate an enthusiastic year ahead.

At the beginning of 2023, we hosted a beautiful Founders' Day Assembly and light lunch, with special guest speaker Dr Diana Barker (1997). We enjoyed welcoming back around 30 Old Lauristonians who were delighted to be guests of honour at the Assembly with our current students. We celebrated Australian Honour and Awards recipients Emerita Professor Jennifer Jane Hocking AM (1971), Chloe Bennett Dallimore AM (1992) and Anne Louise Hooker OAM (1978). And also, in February 2023 we officially opened the new 5/6 Centre.

In May, the Student Futures & Pathways Program will be held. The following events are part of the program that involves current students and alumnae:

18 May – OLA Professional Networking Event at the Lyceum Club; Wednesday 24th May – Year 12 Student Futures Breakfast, featuring many Old Lauristonians who feature in a series of videos focusing on a variety of industries and careers. Another terrific example of alumnae engagement and alumnae returning and giving back to their School. A report of this program will be in the 2023/2024 Annual Report.

During Term 1 holidays the alumnae office distributed the first edition of Beyond the Fig Tree for the year, which detailed the many activities of alumnae throughout the world.

One of the highlights of 2022 was the Intergenerational Photograph which was captured on Monday 9 May. We welcomed over 100 Old Lauristonian mothers and grandmothers with their daughters and small sons who are current students at Armadale. The alumnae office conducted the morning with streamlined precision. It was a wonderful success, timely and organised, and grandmothers and some mothers stayed for a presentation and went for a tour of the new 5/6 Centre. A coffee cart and pastries were offered and deliciously received. The 2023 Intergenerational photo will be reported in the 2023/2024 Annual Report.

I look forward to continuing the momentum of providing wonderful opportunities for alumnae to engage with the school and to stay connected with each other.

Catherine McVean
Alumnae Relations Manager
Lauriston Girls' School



OLA COMMITTEE (AS AT 24 April 2023)

PRESIDENT	Ms Anna Wilson (Murray)	1990
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/COMMUNITY	To be filled	
TREASURER	To be filled	
SECRETARY	To be filled	
	Ms Claudette Leeming	1991
	Ms Steph Phillips	2004
	Ms Sophie Rice (Macneil)	1985
	Ms Hibah Jamal	2015
	Ms Sarah Smith (Telford)	1989
	Ms Rachel Irons (Polke)	1989
	Ms Alex Harvey	2002
	Ms Charley Lupson	2015
	Ms Caroline Ramsden	2010
	Ms Jacqui Jiang	2015
	Ms Amanda Smith	1993

AWARDS

The OLA offered current Lauriston students the following awards in 2022:

<u>NAME OF AWARD</u>	<u>Year level</u>	<u>Prize '20 onwards</u>	<u>2022 Recipients</u>
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	6	book	Chloe Psarrakos
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	7	book	Eloise da Silva
OLA Gladys Davies Bursary	8	\$500	Nicole Kassimiotis
OLA Kirkhope Bursary	8	\$500	Alice Skinner
OLA Howqua Bursary	8	\$2,000	Hatty McCleery
OLA Howqua Bursary	8	\$2,000	Katherine Kassab
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	10	book	Si Lin (Kathlin) Qiu
OLA Irving Bursary	11	\$1,000	Holly Rice
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	11	book	Aidi Han
OLA Merrifield Award for English (historical)	12	\$40	Abigail Zhang
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	12	book	Bethany Aisbett
OLA Fellowship	Post school	\$5,000	Steph Parsons (2011)
TOTAL		\$11,040	

OLA FELLOWSHIP



The Old Lauristonians' Association (OLA) has continued the Fellowship program to support the professional development of past Lauriston students. In 2022, this award will be presented for a 2nd time.

In line with the OLA vision and mission the Fellowship program will provide a financial contribution of \$5,000 to the successful applicant.

This Fellowship is to be used to support professional development, to help deliver a unique project, research or further study undertaken by an OL in her related field.

This Fellowship has been once again generously funded by School community members Shayne and Najla Elliott. Without their support this Fellowship would not be possible, and the OLA acknowledges them personally for their foresight and their support of the Old Lauristonian community.

The successful inaugural recipient in 2022 was Steph Parsons (2011).



Runners up were Lauren Swann (Wilson, 2009), Trinity Ross (2017) and Eleanor Clifford (2016).

Plans for the 2023 OLA Fellowship are in place and the successful recipient will be announced in September 2023.

OLA CLUBS AND GROUPS

The OLA is indebted to those who work behind the scenes to ensure that clubs are functioning at the standard required to exist in their various competitions and environments. As of 19 April 2023, the OLA was fortunate to have the following clubs represent the organisation:

CLUB	CONTACT
OLA Huntingtower Singers	Susie Hill (1969)
OLA Golf Club	Amelia Kennedy, Lisa Trollope, Tori West, and Kate Jackson (all from 1995)
OLA AFLW	In conjunction with Prahran Womens Football Club and the LGS Sports Department



Going forward the school encourages the development of further clubs such as sporting or recreational clubs, for the purposes of building community engagement, goodwill towards the OLA and to the school, and to connect and reconnect alumnae worldwide. Clubs to be considered are:

CLUB	CONTACT
OLA Netball Club	Via LGS Netball
OLA Rowing Club	Via LGS Rowing
OLA Book Club	
OLA Social Justice Club	

OLA Huntingtower Singers

It was pleasing to see the launch of the Huntingtower Singers at the beginning of 2021. The group is made up of over 30 past students spanning 6 decades. Not all can rehearse at once, so each rehearsal and performance usually has approximately 50% of the group participating. This group is not exclusive and is open to all past Lauriston students irrespective of experience, talent and there is full flexibility and ease of any restrictions joining the group. With support from the School the Huntingtower Singers rehearse weekly or fortnightly and as of 19 April 2023, have performed 3 times. This is sadly due to the COVID pandemic and the challenges of physically getting together. The Huntingtower Singers performed at the Inaugural Lauriston Luncheon in December at Leonda – they were MAGNIFICENT!!! Since conception, each member of the choir has been self-funded with the school financially supporting them with all facilities and with some costs such as accompanist and music licensing costs. They were delighted that in 2022, the OLA voted for the OLA Huntingtower Singers to receive funds of up to \$750 for costs incurred each 12 months. A 'Clubs Grant' process has been implemented by the OLA in 2022, as a way of supporting the development of new clubs and groups, to further engage the alumnae community going forward.

The Huntingtower Singers plan to resume rehearsals in Term 2 of 2023 in the lead up to the Gala Concert in August 2023. We also hope that the Huntingtower Singers can perform at the Annual Lauriston Luncheon on 26 October 2023 at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club.

Photos:



Suzie Hill (1969) Conductor & Choir Leader

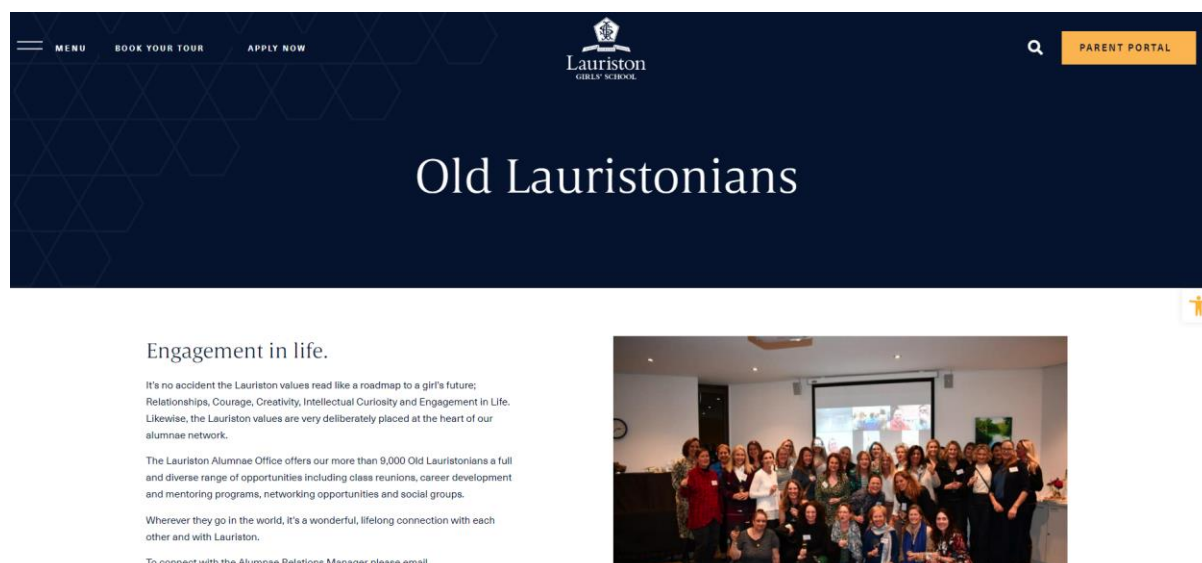


The Huntingtower Singers



OLD LAURISTONIANS WEBSITE

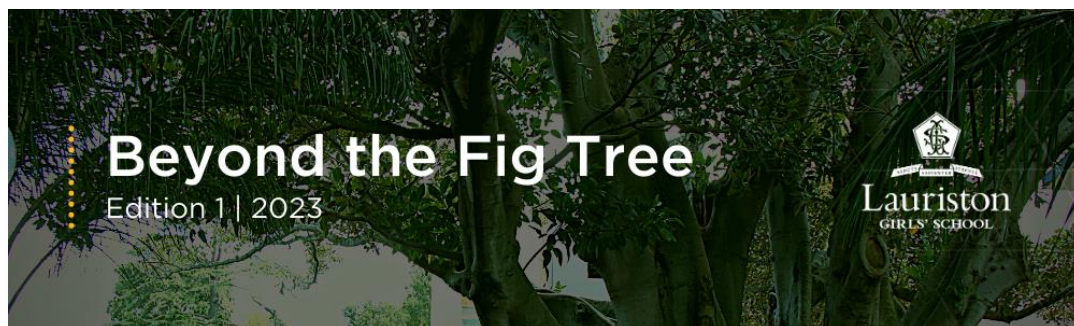
The OLA website originally managed by Potentiality is currently being phased out and is now incorporated into the Lauriston Girls' School website.



Over the course of the past 12 months:

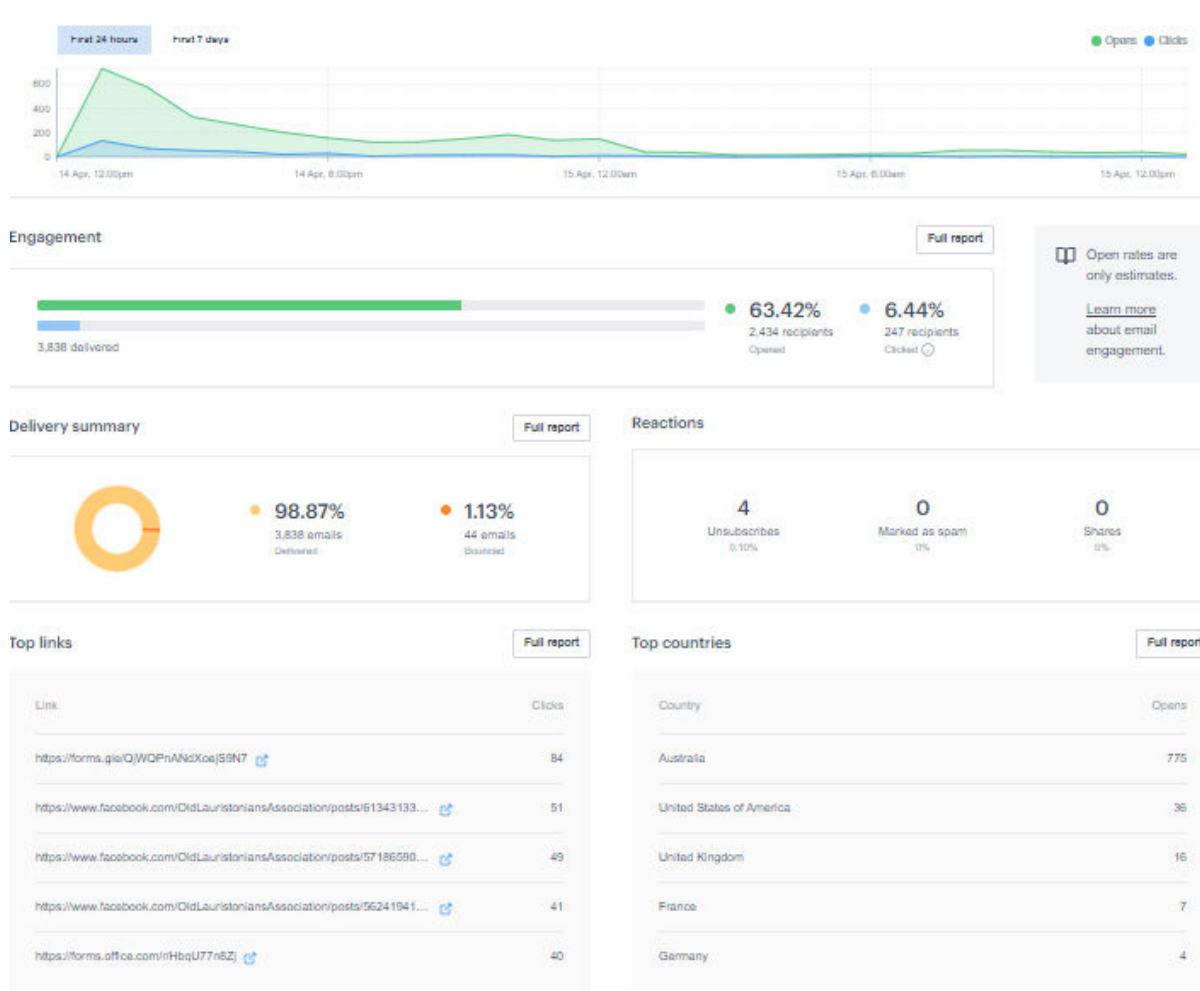
- The new website content continues to be updated as necessary.
- Most pages have been reformatted with the inclusion of more photos making it visually more appealing.
- New pages have been created as a way of highlighting and promoting past student successes.
- The Community Support pages have been created displaying how the OLA supports its community. This also includes the addition of a facility to administer any non-tax-deductible donations from Old Lauristonians directly to the OLA.
- The merchandise module has now been implemented via Humanitix.
- Events and Functions are now being administered by Humanitix.
- A lot of research is undertaken for each Old Lauristonian who passes away, ensuring they receive a full and meaningful tribute on the website.
- Comms are now being sent through Campaign Monitor, in place of Potentiality.

BEYOND THE FIG TREE eNEWSLETTER



In 2022 the office published 3 editions of Beyond the Fig Tree through the Potentiality portal. These eNewsletters contained information about past student activity, OLA activity, School activity and is a way to communicate to alumnae and increase community engagement. Whilst readership has been growing, it is to be noted that data integrity too has improved over the course of 12 months and eNewsletters have been modified which reduces the number of click-throughs, which can impact reader-continuity of the eNewsletter.

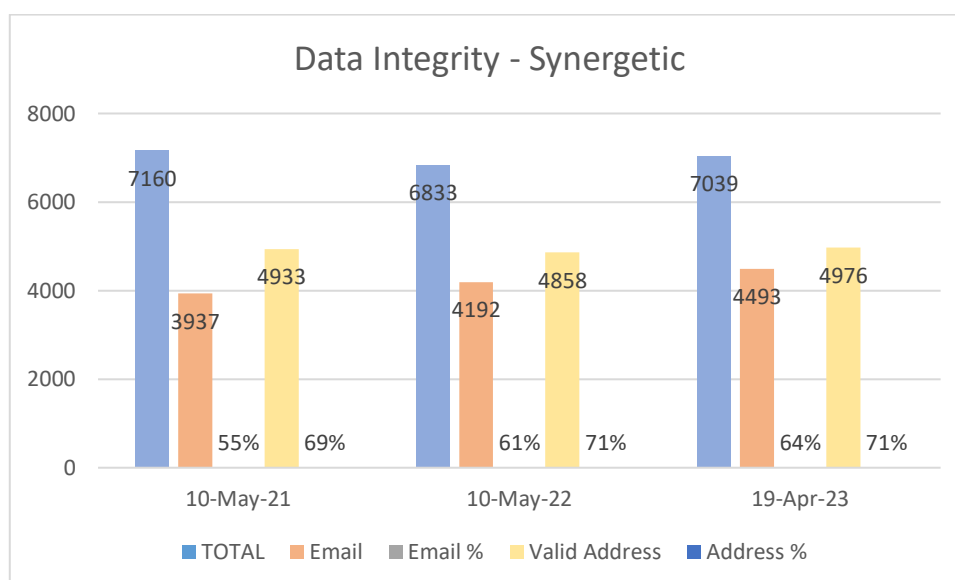
Edition 1, 2023 of Beyond the Fig Tree was distributed at the end of term 1. We enjoyed the following statistics sending it through Campaign Monitor instead of via the OLA website (Potentiality):



DATA COORDINATION AND INTEGRITY

The personal information of all past students is contained on the school's database, Synergetic. Regular exercises of updating occurs, especially for cohorts celebrating milestone reunions. The OLA and Lauriston Girls' School uses and manages personal information in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is bound by the National Privacy Principles. Under no circumstances is personal information divulged about a member, without prior consent.

The figures below represent female alumnae from Peer Year 1940, known to be still living, who attended senior school (Years 7-12). These figures don't include members of whom we don't have attendance figures (blanks = 152 in April 2023)



The fluctuation in total numbers is evidence of data cleansing. The increase in addresses and emails is evidence of the success the school has had in searching for lost members.

Lost Alumnae and how the OLA Committee can help reconnect

During 2021 the Office developed and presented a shareable working document to the OLA Committee for committee members to assist in finding lost and disconnected alumnae – this was tabled in meetings held throughout 2021 and 2022. This document is yet to be accessed by OLA Committee Members. The Alumnae Office strongly encourages each OLA Committee Member to access this shareable document and to help reach out to fellow alumnae to update information. Being approached by a fellow alumna is often far more appealing than being contacted by the school and engaging in a conversation with an alumna further solidifies the purpose of the OLA, not to mention dramatically improving data integrity. Reaching out to alumnae is also a way to learn about alumnae life experiences, professional development, and their life experiences since leaving Lauriston. Stories that can be noted, published in eNewsletters, and with permission promoted via social media platforms.

LAURISTON ADVANCEMENT

Director of Advancement: Ms Penny Richards Fowler

Alumnae Relations Manager: Ms Catherine McVean

Advancement Associate: Ms Bo Rutecki

Fundraising Coordinator: Ms Rhonda Cosgrove

School Archivist: Ms Lisl Bladin



Heading into the 2022 new year, the COVID pandemic restrictions started to ease but due to social reluctance, we released a video in celebration of Founders Day, rather than host an event. This incorporated the recording of the Assembly with special guest speaker Feng-Yuan Liu (2004). Since then, Yuan has been involved in the EKC Luncheon and featured as the July cover of Lauriston Life.

During the middle of 2022 the Advancement Team conducted a Giving Day where funds raised exceeded \$200,000.

We extend our thanks to the generosity and compassion of Old Lauristonians for their support of Giving Day. Their contributions will be in support of the new Foundation Scholarships that will provide financial support to students entering Year 7, through their year in Howqua and until their graduation in Year 12.

The Old Lauristonians' Association (OLA) is a committee of passionate women who has, over the years, raised funds to support initiatives including Giving Day. This gift will help a dream for scholarship recipients to become a reality.

The OLA will be looking forward to the day when these Foundation Scholarship recipients become Old Lauristonians.

Throughout the course of 2022 we were delighted to officially open the Ullmer Sports and Wellbeing Centre in October 2022. We thank the Ullmer family, now with the third generation of their family at Lauriston, for their transformational support.

In February 2023 we also opened the new Year 5/6 Centre.

PHOTOS

Reunions held in 2022



Annual Lauriston Luncheon – October 2022



Golf Day 2022



Founders Day 2023



Sydney Chapter Reunion – March 2023



FUTURE EVENTS

The following events are currently being planned for the remainder of 2023. These are:

- 15 May – Intergenerational Photo @ Armadale
- 18 May – OLA Networking and Mentoring Evening @ The Lyceum Club
- 24 May – OLA 'Find Your Pathway' Year 12 Breakfast
- July/August – 5, 10-, 20-, 25- and 30-Year Reunions
- August – Lauriston Gala Concert @ Hamer Hall
- October – 'Back to Howqua' 30 Year Celebration and Intergenerational Photo @ Howqua
- October – Valedictory
- October – Lauriston Luncheon incl 50 Year Reunion for Class of 1973
- October – Lauriston Luncheon incl Milestone Reunions for 1968, 1963, 1958, 1953 and 1948
- November – Golf Day 2023
- November – 40 Year Reunion for Class of 1983
- November – SOGs Matinee and Lunch

The OLA Committee is encouraged to continue collaborating with the alumnae office and to help facilitate and build alumnae community engagement through the many and varied activities and initiatives we undertake.

