

THE GRADUATE UNION NEWSLETTER

December 2024

GU Collegiate

2 December Calendar
3 Organisations' Patronage
4 Member Interview
Series: Prof Sally Male
7 Writing and
Communication Workshop
Series

In Review

8 The Melba Group
Luncheon
10 November Luncheon
11 Luncheon and Twilight
Speakers of 2024

News

14 Youth Voice on Social
Media
16 End of Year Fundraising
Appeal
18 Who We Are





December 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Bridge Night 7:15 - 9:30 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Women's Forum 10:00 - 12:00 pm Bridge Night 7:15 - 9:30 pm	12	13 Complimentary Coffee for Residents 7:30 - 8:30am	14
15	16	17	18 Bridge Night 7:15 - 9:30 pm	19	20 Last Day Graduate House is open for 2024. Reopening on 20th January, 2025.	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4

Organisations' Patronage

We thank the following organisations for booking at Graduate House this October

Active Ops	Melba Group
ASME Victorian Chapter	Melbourne Online
Australian Psychological Society	Melbourne School of Professional and Continuing Education
Carlton Parkville Probus	Opticum Pty Ltd
Carlton Rotary	Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller Incorporated
Centre for Mental Health & Community Wellbeing	Parkville Conference of St Vincent de Paul
CFMEU Manufacturing Division	Per Capita Inc.
Chancellery	Peter Doughty
Chancellery Research and Enterprise	Quiet Revolution Group
Department of Economics	RACI
Department of Infrastructure Engineering	Research and Enterprise
Department of Mechanical Engineering	Research Innovation & Commercialisation
Emeritus Professor Martin Comte	Retired Veterinarians Group
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Services	RIC Business Development and Innovation
Faculty of Business and Economics	Rod Watson
Faculty of Education	Secondary Teachers College
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Services	Slavery Links
First Super	Soroptimists International of Melbourne Inc.
Graduate Student Association	The Graduate Union
Graeme Clark Institute	The University of Melbourne
Ian Barnes	Youth Research Collective, Faculty of Education
John Drennan	
Medicolegal Group	

Compliments

Apologies for last Newsletter's Compliments section, where Steve Gauci's feedback was mistakenly published as being from September. No feedback was received last month, and Mr Gauci's feedback was given in October, as follows:

"It was a fairly easy process to organise my function at Graduate House. Rosie is an absolute pleasure to deal with and kindly conducted a site/room visit to show me room configuration options."

"Our function space was set up as a 50/50 theatre and cocktail style room, which suited our event perfectly"

"Our guests thoroughly enjoyed the food provided and it was more than enough for the number of people in attendance."

"The staff at Graduate House were very welcoming and helpful at all times, from arrival to departure from the venue."

Steve Gauci, The University of Melbourne

An interview with Professor Sally Male

Martin Comte
21 October 2024

Into its third year, the Member Interview Series is as strong as when it began. Initiated in 2022 as part of our anniversary celebration that marked 60 years of Graduate House as a Residential College, this series focuses on our members. We get to know them better through these interviews and we learn first hand from our Resident Members what it's like to live here, and hear their aspirations, views and suggestions as they pursue their academic journey.

We are so grateful to Emeritus Professor Martin Comte OAM (Councillor and Vice Chair of The Graduate Union Council) for diligently conducting these interviews. In this issue Martin sits with Professor Sally Male from The University of Melbourne who is a long-term resident at Graduate House.



Professor Sally Male

MC: I am delighted you have consented to this interview, Sally. I especially wanted to interview someone like yourself – a professor in the School of Engineering at The University of Melbourne – who is living at Graduate House. The Graduate Union Council has reached a point where we are asking whether we are doing enough for our members of this institution which began in 1911 for Graduates of The University of Melbourne (the only university in this state until the establishment of Monash University about 50 years later). We only entered the field of providing accommodation for graduates in 1961, and much of our efforts have been directed towards this in the intervening years. But the accommodation situation has changed dramatically since 1961 and there are many more options for graduates; and we are aware that we may have emphasised this over

our obligation to our graduate members. You represent a category of academics and researchers whom we would like to attract more in the future. We want to consider the possibility of engaging with established scholars who may be working at the university (or other universities) for short or longer terms and who find Graduate House an attractive source of accommodation. But let's begin with you telling me about your academic background.

“They said that I would be their first female engineer, let alone their first graduate in a long time. They added that I would just have to accept that the men are like animals: mentioning such things as don't wear a skirt when going up a ladder!”

SM: I graduated with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering with Honours from The University of Western Australia. I had a lovely job offer – my ‘dream’ job – which would have seen me travelling extensively here and overseas, but I got married instead. There were other job offers, but these were not appealing. You have to understand that at that time there were very few jobs for women in my field. When I graduated I knew that I had much better marks than most of the other male students but, unlike them, I wasn't securing many interviews. My Dad, who was always studying, said that we should investigate the equal opportunity legislation, and he contacted one of the places to which I had made an application. He did this and asked to speak to the equal opportunity officer, the result being that I was given an interview – and offered a job with Westrail, which had responsibility for the electrification of the railways in Western Australia. I said that I would like a day to see what it was like. They said that I would be their first female engineer, let alone their first graduate in a long time. They added that I would just have to accept that the men are like animals: mentioning

such things as don't wear a skirt when going up a ladder!

I was still going to take the job when The University of Western Australia offered me a full-time teaching position as a tutor. They were welcoming and expressed their delight at me joining the faculty. And this, combined with my love of the campus, convinced me to take the job. As it turned out, Westrail would have been a tremendous place to work. I had done my honours year in 'control systems' and this would have been ideal for me, given my studies in this field.

And so I took the full-time tutoring role at The University of Western Australia. Nobody told me that that is career suicide! Some time later I was told that the tutoring position wasn't even on the academic scale; it was exploitative. Anyway, I was a full-time tutor for two years and then I started a PhD on a scholarship. But I was only on this scholarship for one year when I had a son, and my life turned upside down, something many new parents can attest to! (He is now 31 and his brother is 29.) With the birth of my son it should not have been surprising to realise that although I was enrolled full-time, I could not give enough time to my research. So I changed my enrolment to part-time, and this meant that I lost my scholarship. Further, to my surprise, I also discovered that the PhD had to be completed in the same amount of time regardless of whether one was enrolled full- or part-time. And this coincided with us moving to Townsville for my husband's work. There, James Cook University offered me some tutoring, but I couldn't find suitable childcare and didn't accept that. After we returned to Perth I was still trying to finish the PhD but the whole research group that I was working in moved from UWA to Curtin University and I couldn't get my son into the childcare centre there. Finally, the deal breaker was that my son, who had been in 'Unicare' at UWA, got every sickness under the sun. I actually went to my member of parliament to tackle the time-limit requirement, but wasn't successful. And so I withdrew from my first PhD, which was in low cost navigation systems for missiles.

MC: That was such a big decision but, of course family must come first. However, if you had been a man the necessity of withdrawing from your PhD might not have arisen.

SM: It was at this time that I saw an advertisement in a newspaper to run the Women in Computing and Engineering Project at Curtin University. I ran the project from 2000 to 2003. I said that I would take the position only if I was able to improve the circumstances for women in engineering. At the same time that I was doing things to recruit women and support the female students, I also held workshops in industry. One of the workshops I ran was at Alcoa. An engineering manager there was on the Engineering Industry Advisory Board at UWA, and he phoned me one day and offered me a PhD scholarship to undertake a

project proposed by the Advisory Board. And that's how I fell into engineering education. I should also mention that I worked for three months after the Women in Computing and Engineering Project as a research assistant in the Women's Economic Policy and Analysis Unit at Curtin University, and by this stage I was fully immersed in the literature on women in engineering. I learnt a tremendous amount from the researchers there. I also had the opportunity to interact with women in leadership. I had my eyes opened to all of the systemic, gendered hierarchies. Then I started the PhD. It was originally to measure the employability of engineering graduates by developing a questionnaire instrument that would be completed by supervisors of engineering graduates. At that stage, however, we hadn't clearly identified the competencies that engineers needed; engineering education was still an emerging field of research. I was jointly enrolled in Education and Engineering and completed my PhD on competencies required by engineers graduating in Australia. After my PhD I had 13 short term, part-time contracts over the first seven years; effectively, I was only paid for five years full-time equivalent because a lot of the time was spent applying for grants. I did work on really exciting grants to do with industry engagement and engineering education, gender inclusion in engineering in students' workplace experiences, intensive mode teaching in higher education, and so on. And I taught in electrical and electronic engineering. Eventually, in 2017, I succeeded in securing a continuing teaching and research position at UWA relating to engineering education; the position entailed "leading world class education and pedagogy". (As an aside, I should point out that for some time there had been an attitude in certain quarters that increasing the number of women in engineering would result in a decrease in the standard of engineering graduates!)

"When I was planning to come to The University of Melbourne from the University of Western Australia, two senior academics whom I greatly respect said to me something along the lines of 'I know where the ideal place would be for you to live when you first arrive in Melbourne.'"

In April 2021 I came to The University of Melbourne and moved into Graduate House, but I kept fleeing back to WA because Melbourne kept going into lockdown because of COVID. And WA was putting up the borders. So I worked online from Perth for the first year. The position at Melbourne was Professor of Engineering and Technology Education and Director of the Teaching and Learning Laboratory.

I would also like to say that the position of Director of the Teaching and Learning Lab that I hold in the Engineering Faculty is the only such 'centre' in the country. We provide research informed enhancement to teaching and learning. It's groundbreaking. There are some other, similar groups overseas, especially in Europe and the USA.

MC: No doubt you had to make several sacrifices in order to take up this position.

SM: Yes, and during my time here my dad became sick and he eventually died. So I have done a lot of flying backwards and forwards between Melbourne and Perth. Graduate House has been a lovely place for me to come back to. I'm in one of the apartments and it has everything I need. There are people around with whom I can relate, it is centrally located, very close to my office, and the sunshine comes into my apartment in the afternoon. I love it. There are also many interesting activities and friendly people. I should add that when I was planning to come to The University of Melbourne from the University of Western Australia, two senior academics whom I greatly respect said to me something along the lines of 'I know where the ideal place would be for you to live when you first arrive in Melbourne.' And that's how I came to be at Graduate House. They were right! But I have to admit that the first night I arrived with two suitcases, the taxi dropped me at the Business School instead of here, and Google Maps told me that University House was across the other side of University Square, and it was late at night; I was cold and frightened, and I had more luggage than I could manage and I was carrying it bit by bit and walking in the opposite direction. I asked some skate boarders for help, but they didn't know where Leicester St. was either. Eventually, and luckily, some people staying at the Melbourne Business School saw me and walked me back to Graduate House. I should mention that some people had also recommended University College, but I chose here because University College said that they don't necessarily meet you if you arrive after hours: you have to find your key. I didn't want to have to do that after hours in a foreign city! I should add that I also like the fact that the entrance to Graduate House is well lit.

"There are also some academics who live out of the city and at certain times when their teaching is particularly busy, for example, find it convenient to come for short-term stays. This helps make the place interesting for people like me who live here full-time. I am impressed with the reciprocal clubs that we can access. For example, I have visited the Kelvin Club in the city."

MC: It's a salutary point and something that we should never lose sight of. Regardless of where it is, arriving at one's destination with a minimum of fuss and receiving a warm welcome can make a great difference.

In looking to the future, we're hoping that we can have more senior academics like you, as well visiting academics and researchers who wish to stay here for shorter or longer terms. We want Graduate House to be more than just an accommodation place: we're keen to encourage a community of scholars who, in addition to their professional pursuits at the university or elsewhere, will also make a contribution to the life of our community. We would, for example, love to provide them with opportunities to give a talk on their professional work not only for residents but also members of the Graduate Union more broadly.

Can you tease out, from your perspective of having lived here for some time, some of the things that we could do for our residents and members in the future. What would you like to see happening for people like you who are not studying for a PhD, but are already established in their careers and are here to work for short or longer terms at The University of Melbourne or other universities in this precinct?

SM: That would be very attractive. I love seminars and would find them a most attractive offering scheduled, of course, out of 'working hours'. I've attended many events, both in-house and those provided by outside groups, and not all of them require you to be a member. I was tempted to join the Bridge group, but haven't done so. And I am interested in the fact that the Graduate Women's Association meets here. I have also met some lovely visiting academics who are living here for a short term, in addition to experienced people staying here as they pursue special projects or studies. Indeed, I have recommended Graduate House to some people whom I have employed to undertake short-term activities in my faculty. There are also some academics who live out of the city and at certain times when their teaching is particularly busy, for example, find it convenient to come for short-term stays. This helps make the place interesting for people like me who live here full-time. I am impressed with the reciprocal clubs that we can access. For example, I have visited the Kelvin Club in the city. I was told about this by two people from Malaysia who were staying here, and we went there together. That was really lovely. And, of course, there are reciprocal clubs elsewhere in Australia as well as overseas.

MC: As I said at the outset of this interview, over the years some of our focus has been diverted to the accommodation aspects provided by Graduate House, and it could be argued that we have neglected our broad membership base to some extent. Of course, today, we welcome graduates from any

university worldwide, and The University of Melbourne has its own Alumni organisation for past and present graduates. The possibility of us embarking on a new building project opens up new avenues for exploration in attracting and embracing distinguished academic personnel like you with respect to the accommodation we offer – and using this to focus more strongly on our broad membership base.

SM: In a sense, this is what I thought I was coming to when I elected to stay here. I should add that when friends or colleagues from interstate visit Melbourne, it is often convenient for me to meet them at Graduate House. We can buy a drink or a coffee, and if the weather is nice we can go into the courtyard. It's lovely. I recently arranged a seminar in Melbourne held at Woodward House, followed by dinner at University House. But after the seminar finished

and before we were due for dinner, I brought them here for a drink. Graduate House is open during that 'in-between' time when cafes are closing and restaurants haven't opened. In mentioning this I should acknowledge the possibility of having meals here. I don't do it all of the time, but I'm very grateful that this is an option.

MC: Your insights have been greatly helpful, Sally; many thanks. If our new building project eventuates, we envisage the possibility of an enriched community of scholars staying in upmarket accommodation with whom our members can interact even more effectively. We hope to cater more specifically for people of your academic stature. It will be a win-win result at many levels: for the residents of the future and for our members who are the backbone of what we represent.

Writing and Communication Workshop Series

Following the success of the Doctoral Journey workshop series that was offered to residents in Semester 2 last year, we decided to focus primarily on Masters degree residents in Semester 2 this year, offering a series of workshops in writing and communication.

Council members Professor Martin Comte and Dr. Max Stephens were joined by other academics in supporting students who attended.

We were especially grateful for the support of Emerita Professor Heather Fehring from RMIT University and Professor Sally Male from the Faculty of Engineering at The University of Melbourne who resides at Graduate House (and who is featured in the Interview Series in this edition).

Although designed primarily for Coursework Masters students the weekly workshops also had relevance for Research Masters and PhD students.

The focus was on:

- writing academic papers and communication within and across disciplines
- preparing conference abstracts and papers
- preparing and writing for oral presentations
- preparing a CV for various opportunities, and
- job applications

The introductory session sought feedback from residents on what they would like to see addressed in this course in addition to highlighting important academic writing and presentation issues relevant for Masters students regardless of their discipline.

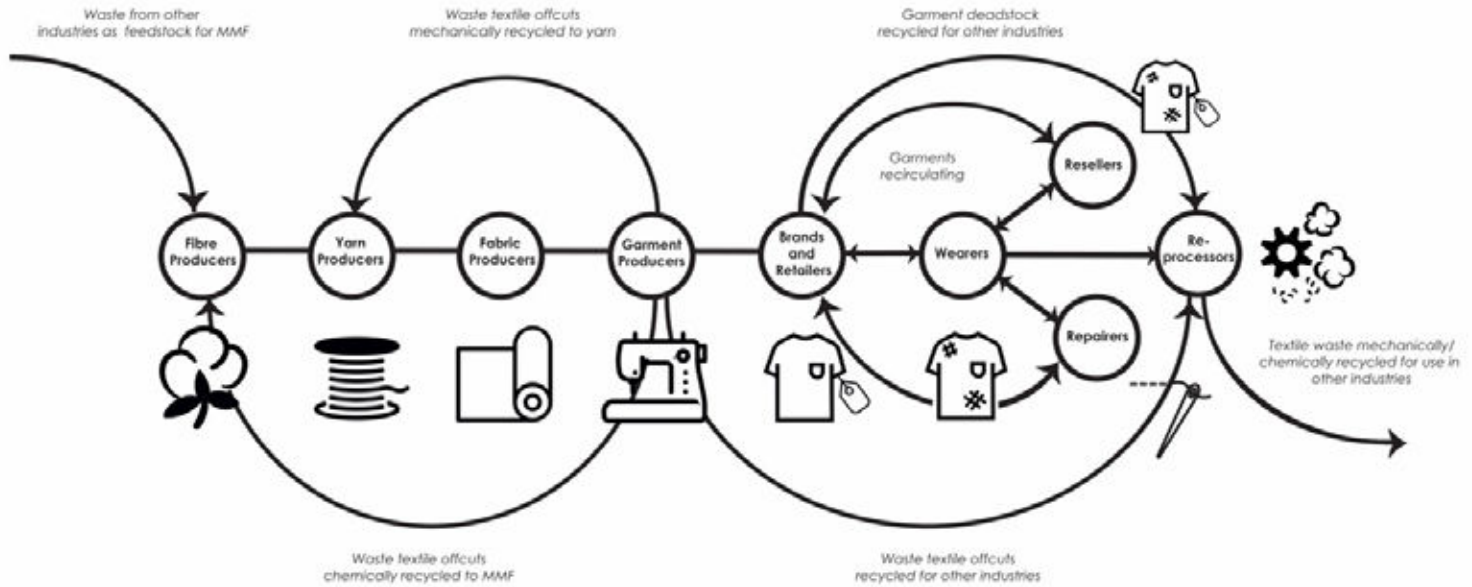
Although each of the workshops introduced a specific 'topic' or aspect of academic writing and presentation, the direction was equally guided by the needs of those attending.

As with last year's Doctoral Workshop series, we will use the experience of this new offering to residents to plan further programs to assist our graduate and post-graduate students with their academic journey.



The Melba Group Hosts a Full House at their Fashion-Forward Luncheon

Melba women and friends were invited on Friday 25th October at Graduate House to hear from Dr. Alice Payne, Professor and Dean of the School of Fashion and Textiles at RMIT, on her presentation, titled, "Towards a Just and Regenerative Fashion System".



Value chains of production, consumption and recirculation (diagram provided by Dr Payne)

While fashion and textiles themselves prove a popular and timeless topic, the industry has met the 21st century not without some socio economic dilemmas. Although mastering mass manufacturing and distribution methods in the 20th century, the industry must now answer to demands that Dr Payne addresses: labour issues, value chains and technologies that tackle the problem of textile waste. Her talk explored the new materials, technologies, business models and regulations that are reshaping how we will acquire, use

and recirculate our clothing in the future.

Consumer practices

According to a 2024 landscape survey of 3080 people conducted by Dr Payne and others at RMIT, Australian consumers' clothing ends up in landfill due to a number of reasons, including:

- Consumers throw out socks and underwear which cannot be reused (70%)
- The clothes are in such a bad condition that nobody could wear it anymore (63%)
- Consumers don't think anyone would want to buy their old clothing (45%)
- Some consumers have never thought about doing anything else with them (40%)

But with high social, economic and environmental costs, sending waste to landfill is arguably the worst strategy to manage this waste.

Processes that support the recycling of clothes before they end up in landfill

Mechanical recycling: a process that shreds unwanted textiles, spins them into new yarn or nonwoven fabrics. For example, Geetanjali Woollens offers up-cycled wool products made from 100% post-consumer textile waste.

Blended materials: Combining old and new textiles, such as Circular Systems TexLoop, a system that reclaims pre-consumer cotton textile waste and upcycles it into RCOT™



Dr Alice Payne

recycled cotton fiber, blended with GOTS certified organic cotton and TENCEL™ Lyocell (a form of regenerated cellulose made by dissolving wood pulp and dry jet-wet spinning).

- Extracting cellulose can involve using chemical agents, such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sulfuric acid and sodium chlorite.
- Teijin Textiles Japan chemically breaks down synthetic fabrics like polyester, Samsara Eco, nylon 6,6 and reconstitutes them into new yarn or nonwoven fabrics.

PET bottles into yarn: PET bottles can be turned into yarn through a process that involves shredding bottles into flakes, melting the flakes, forcing the liquid plastic through spinnerets to create long strands of plastic fibers, cooling the fibres until they form solid filaments, spinning the filaments into yarn, dyeing the yarn with non-toxic dyes and finally weaving or knitting the yarn into fabrics.

Australian policies for regulating sustainability and circularity in business

ASIC & ACCC green-washing: ASIC has made 47 regulatory interventions to address greenwashing misconduct during the 15-month period up to 30 June 2024. The ACCC conducted an internet sweep to identify misleading environmental and sustainability marketing claims in October/November 2022. The findings of the sweep were released in March 2023, which found 57 per cent of businesses reviewed were

making potentially misleading environmental claims.

Review of the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018

According to an article by the Australian Human Rights Commission in July 2023, the review singled out three key points which require legislative change:

- improving the standard of modern slavery reporting
- enforcing the reporting obligations of entities
- addressing the large percentage of incompatible Modern Slavery statements.

“It is important to consider this review and the key recommendations in the context of the 2023 Global Slavery Index published by Walk Free, which estimates that 41,000 people in Australia are currently living with modern slavery,” the article reads.

The GSI ranks Australia 26th out of 27 countries in Asia and the Pacific, and 149th out of 160 countries globally.

The GSI’s estimates are conservative and do not capture all forms of modern slavery, such as organ trafficking, child marriages, and recruitment of children by armed forces.

Modern slavery is a term that encompasses a range of exploitative practices, including human trafficking, debt bondage, servitude, forced marriage, and forced labor.

Dr Payne emphasised the need for whole-of-value chain participation to achieve a circular economy for textiles, relying on participation from industry, government and academia.



Sorting clothing for recycling with Fibersort: Automated sorting 45 categories based on colour, structure and fibre, at 900kg per hour with Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIR)

November Luncheon: Graduate Women Victoria: A Retrospective, with Dr Barbara Murray



First Intake of Students with Miss Susie Williams at the Official Opening of the University of Melbourne's first Women's College, "University Women's College", now known as the co-ed "University College"

"In the 1920's, to be a married mother and a graduate was simply incompatible," said November Luncheon speaker, Graduate Women Victoria (GWV) Vice President, Dr Barbara Murray.

"Nowadays, women are not giving up having children to study, nor are they giving up study to have children – they are combining them into one life."

We heard anecdotes from Dr Murray and numerous guests about the adversities faced by women on their path to scholarship and/or establishing a career; be it discrimination or forgoing academic work to fulfill their family duties.

Dr Murray told of the organisation's history from its early alliance with The Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW) to their relationship with the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). To this day, there are United Nations Advisory Boards comprised of GWV members. The relationships between Graduate Women Victoria, University Women's College (University of Melbourne's first Women's College) and the Melbourne Lyceum Club were all discussed.

GWV was founded in 1920 as an association of women graduates who were inspired by the foundation of the international federation earlier in the same year, as well as the pre-existent women graduate associations in other

Australian states. Once all states had active associations, the Australian Federation of University Women was formed, now known as Australian Graduate Women.

From 1931, AFUW-Vic offered awards from its endowment fund, established by a five shilling levy on a five-pound-a-year membership fee and donated funds. These awards were intended to support postgraduate research, especially overseas.

The early scholarships from the endowment fund were awarded every second or third year from the thirties to the eighties, where one or two scholarships would be given. From 1986-2001, there were two to three scholarships given every year so that by the new millenium, a total of 60 scholarships were awarded with a total engagement of only 300 members since its inception.

Funding has been augmented by significant bequests, some from early scholarship holders. In 2001, new treasurer Margaret James combined all funds and found double than the expected amount. She then gave the funds to the Australian Community Foundation (ACF) to manage and invest, which proved to be a wise decision; since 2002, GWV has offered between 14 and 18 scholarships a year, with a pool of about 60 candidates a year. These scholarships have made a huge impact in the post graduate world, where they

are well known.

Through ACF, GWV has made connections to other organisations who want to fund scholarships, and GWV's academic panel has assessed applications and awarded scholarships on their behalf.

Dr Murray mentioned that women who have taken scholarships often become members, to give back to the community and join an academic sorority.



The Origins of Melbourne's first women's college, forged by fortitude, hence its motto, "Frappe Forte" meaning "Strike Hard"

Founding Mothers of Graduate Women Victoria, Georgina Sweet and Jessie Webb, decided as soon as they had established GWV, that what Melbourne needed was a women's college. There were women's hostels in a couple of men's colleges, but the women weren't recognised as members of the college, apart from being allowed to go to

college lectures.

Georgina and Jessie organised and campaigned, they had the finances set up but were missing the land. The state government mentioned the old cattle market was available, but delayed and in a few years time, it became the Royal Melbourne Hospital; nobody wrote to the women to notify them. It wasn't until 1930-31 that sufficient agitation led somebody in the land designation department in public services – spurred on by a politician – to find the college some land. They found a lovely triangular piece at the back of Melbourne University which is now The University College.

"A state parliamentarian decided that as it was designated, it would be used as the Carlton Cricket Club, despite already having the grounds elsewhere. He used manifold tactics to prevent the establishment of the Women's College, including one night, sneaking out to the college, digging a hole and pegging a Miner's Right Claim to the ground. He was overruled. In 1933 Women's College was established as an organisation and opened in 1934. Almost every Australian University had a women's club except Melbourne by that point."

Luncheon and Twilight Speakers of 2024

We'd like to extend our thanks to Graduate Union Member Heather Wheat, who has diligently selected speakers so that our members and the extended academic community are regularly attending stimulating seminars.

Twilight Lecture Speakers

Three seminars held after work hours

April - Sexual abuse of children in institutions: What have we learned? With Honourable Justice Jennifer Coate AO

From Heather Wheat's interview in the June newsletter: "Her presentation was at the same time horrifying, heart-wrenching and uplifting as she talked about her time with the Australian Government Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. She has brought great dignity, grace and justice to every position she has held and continues to be a wonderful role model for people studying law and those new in the profession. She is a great champion of women and, indeed, a champion of the underdog in many ways. I first heard her speak when I engaged her to give a seminar as part of the seminar series I coordinated at the Port Phillip U3A. At the time she was the President of the Children's Court."



May - Artificial Intelligence: A philosophical perspective, with Dr Maurita Harney

Maurita is a philosopher who has taught and researched philosophy at the ANU, at Swinburne University of Technology where she was Head of Philosophy, and at the University of Melbourne where in recent years she has been Honorary Senior Fellow (Philosophy). Her specialisation has been in the philosophy of mind, brain and consciousness. This is an area that intersects with many of the concerns that arise in AI research. During the 1980s and 1990s, while working at Swinburne University of Technology, Maurita spent time at U.S. and European universities meeting with AI researchers. In recent years, she has maintained an interest in the field and shared her findings with us.



August - Back to the intelligence of the natural world, with Lyn Allison

Lyn is an outspoken campaigner on women's issues and environmental reform and was elected to the Australian Senate in 1996. Locally among other involvements, she is President of the Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery & Landcare. She spoke to us in her capacity as Secretary of FungiMap, a not for profit, citizen-science organisation, dedicated to furthering the conservation and knowledge of Australian fungi. She gave an enjoyable account of Bili Nursery's history, post-toxic waste harbour and post-salt marsh, to its current flourishing ecosystem.



Monthly Luncheon Speakers

Monthly seminars held over a two course lunch

March - The Unexpected Journey, with Julie Fisher

As a mum of a young boy with Down Syndrome, Julie Fisher knows firsthand the heartbreak of seeing your child be made to feel like they don't belong. Julie's journey began just before the birth of her third son Darcy. When Julie and her family made a decision to provide a life of love, experiences and positivity for Darcy, she was compelled to share their unexpected story. Over the last 17 years, Julie's passion for advocating for inclusion and acceptance for all has continued to grow. Julie is the author of three books, *The unexpected Journey*, *The Magic of Inclusion* and *From The Hearts of Mums*, and shared poignant tales of community, care and compassion along her way.



April - Life So Full of Promise, with Dr Ross McMullin

Ross McMullin is an award-winning historian and biographer. His multi-biography "Farewell, Dear People" was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History, and in his new sequel *Life So Full of Promise*, Ross has again combined prodigious research and narrative flair in a collection of interwoven family stories about forgotten Australians who had radiant potential. In his talk, Ross gave accounts of the rich cast of characters in *Life So Full of Promise*, including a popular doctor, a brilliant cricketer (Ross played first-grade District cricket for The University of Melbourne), and an exceptionally talented graduate — also from The University of Melbourne — who was a potential prime Minister.



May: Obesity in the 21st Century, with Professor Alfred Poulos

Professor Poulos' presentation centred around his latest book, *Obesity in the 21st Century*. Sharing empirical data on our current state of health and lifestyle, obesity's causes and outcomes and its many different prevention and treatment methods were discussed.



June: You Must Remember This, with Dr Ross Bastiaan AM

For the past 35 years, Dr Bastiaan has placed 280 large commemorative bronze plaques around the world, to tell Australia's military and social history. Dr Ross Bastiaan AM was a Melbourne periodontist in private practice for 51 years. Now, why would a dentist from The University of Melbourne give up so much to achieve this? Ross will explain how his long and difficult journey over three decades evolved and the results achieved in over 20 countries around the world. Please welcome Dr Ross Bastiaan.



August: A Life at Sea, with Rob Anderson

From his early days as a 15 year old deck boy cruising over the world, on ships of dubious safety and cleanliness, he worked his way up to Captain by 29 years of age. Rob has always attracted trouble and adventure. He shared his stories and experiences combining technological advancements, such as the introduction of GPS navigation, shipping containers and robotics, which summoned a new age of maritime work, his personal career twists and turns which involved oil rigs, sea planes, wreckage salvages, working with non-profit, marine conservation activism organization Sea Shepherd and of course, plenty of travel and exploration along the way.



September: Myanmar and Humanitarian Diplomacy, with Assoc Prof Christopher Lamb

Principal Fellow, University of Melbourne, School of Social and Political Science; Chair Australian Myanmar Institute (former Ambassador to Myanmar). He is a retired Australian diplomat, having worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1968-2000. In that time, he served as Ambassador to Myanmar, Yugoslavia, Romania, and Macedonia. After that, he worked as a chief diplomat with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva. Christopher gave a thorough political history of Myanmar all the way to its current status as a “failed state”. The complex and lengthy sequence of events described prompted plenty of stimulating discussion.



October: Biofouling, Barnacles and Biosecurity with John A. Lewis, BSc (Hons), MSc, CMarSci, FIMarEST

After studies in marine botany at the University of Melbourne in the 1970s, John went on to spend 30 years working as a scientist in the Australian Defence Science & Technology Organisation. His principal research interests there were in marine biofouling and its prevention, together with work on environmental compliance of naval vessels, and other environmental aspects of navy operations. In 2007, John moved into private consultancy with ES Link Services, primarily working on biofouling impacts, antifouling technologies, and biofouling and invasive marine species management. He now continues this work within his own company, Biofouling Management Services, with clients across the commercial maritime sector. John also co-chairs the Biofouling Management Special Interest Group within the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology. He gave insights into the management of biofouling over time, current habitat threats and the migration of species via the activity of mankind.



Nov 13 – A Graduate Women Victoria Retrospective, with Vice President Dr Barbara Murray

Dr Barbara reviewed the history of Graduate Women Victoria (GWV) by looking at its days in alliance with The Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW), their formation and relationship with the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). She also looked at the relationships between Graduate Women Victoria and University Women’s College, and the Lyceum Club. The seminar revealed insightful anecdotes about the challenges women have and continue to face to access academic opportunity, whether that be due to time, family or financial pressures or the outright discriminatory efforts made by those in the academic sphere and workforce.



Youth Voice on Social Media



Gathering in Queen's Hall prior to speeches

At the Soroptimist International of Melbourne Inc. evening meeting on 28 November at Graduate House, there will be a report from Sue Whitehead and Robyn Byrne OAM about their attendance back in August at the annual student public speaking competition, My Vote My Voice (MVMV), conducted by National Council of Women of Victoria (NCWM), at the Parliament of Victoria.

Students from twelve government and independent schools addressed the topic, 'Social Media: A Blessing or a Curse'. The event was designed to encourage students to consider and share the effects of social media on young people. The schools presenting at the My Vote, My Voice event, were: MacRobertson Girls HS; Rosehill SC; Al Siraat College; Jiayuan Charity; Kingswood College; Beaumaris SC; Camberwell HS; Star of the Sea College; Melbourne Girls Grammar; Elwood College; Firbank Grammar; Ivanhoe Girls Grammar.

Sue and Robyn were later able to visit an assembly at the Melbourne Church of England Girls Grammar School to present the students who had spoken at MVMV with certificates and an award in honour of Dame Joyce Dawes, a Soroptimist International Member.

Sheila Byard OAM and Edith Chen were warmly welcomed to the last Senior Assembly at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar to present the League of Women Voters award in honour of the late Cecily Storey OBE.

Edith had been unable to attend MVMV this year

but was able to interact with the students who were receiving certificates & also to hear the three students who were at the event as they repeated their imaginative presentation.

Sheila gave a report on the school visit:

"We could see how the adopted style reflected the school's encouragement of debating throughout the year levels & the commitment to whole of school participation in the school production. The few minutes available to speak about the League of Women Voters Victoria Cecile Storey award enabled me to encourage the students to consider proposing a theme to NCWV for the 2025 MVMV, on the grounds that it would be the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the League and so that it could host the post-war Women's Parliament series. Two books were presented for the school's Library: the 1980 UNAA Status of Women Committee (that included Cecile Storey) publication 'Australian Women in the Year 2000' and a copy of the RHSV journal on Women's Suffrage."

Edith's comments follow:

“Accompanying Sheila to attend Ivanhoe Girls Grammar’s final Senior Assembly was an eye opener for me. The hall was filled with hundreds of students. The occasion opened with a brief reading and a prayer, followed by Ella’s excellent flute performance. Listening to the re-run of the school team’s presentation on “Social Media – a Blessing or a Curse”, there were several points that grabbed my attention: The atmosphere was lively whereas I had only experienced an outdoor public school’s senior assembly about a half century ago in Canberra and recalled that being a sterile occasion. Secondly, I felt we were made very welcome. Thirdly, I was impressed while talking to the three team members - Anita, Melanie and Sonya - by their enthusiasm and readiness to ‘take on the world’. Their confident organiser, Ruby gave me the hope that a future social activist was in the making. Fourthly, the drama and music teachers were able to inject gaiety and happiness, showing how close students were with the staff. Finally, listening to Sheila’s briefing on Cecile Storey reminded of so many capable women who have had to struggle in order to have their career. May we keep in touch with these young people, as they are the future of our society.”



Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School Speakers

Keynote Speakers at MVMV were Commissioner for Aboriginal Children & Young People Meena Singh and Youth Council member Missi Joyce. Commissioner Singh also works alongside the Principal Commissioner Liana Buchanan at the Commission for Children and Young People.

Commissioner Singh explained her position as an advocate and protector of young people in vulnerable places: in out-of-home care, with relatives, in share houses or youth detention centres. The commission for Aboriginal Children & Young People advises the government on how decisions affect young people, including the issue of minimum age of detention and the child safety requirements of organisations.

“In doing my research about the National Council of Women Victoria, I was delighted to see that in the first ever congress in 1903, there was a focus on children’s rights. And I see that for over 100 years, you have championed the rights of the most vulnerable people in this state through the inclusion of women’s and children’s voices,” Commissioner Singh said.

The topic of discussion, ‘Social Media: A Blessing or a Curse’, reflects the state and federal level introduction of a social media ban for children, since 7 November identified as those under 16. The hope has been that new legislation will get through the House of Representatives and the Senate, before the Parliament rises for the summer break.

The government is already running an age assurance trial to assess all the methods of enacting this ban technologically, and it is scheduled to continue into 2025.

Based on the results of that trial, eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant will make recommendations as to the third party age verification system that may be put into place.



End Of Year Fundraising Appeal

The focus for the Graduate Union 2024 End of Year Appeal is to advance the profile of the Graduate Union by engaging our membership through the Eminent Visiting Scholar and mentoring programs. Your gifts and donations to this End of Year Appeal are vital in supporting graduates with a commitment to lifelong education and a passion for the exchange of ideas.



Thanks to those who have contributed so generously to the Graduate Union in 2024. Your donations have helped us to run a mentoring program involving Graduate House residents and volunteers from the wider GU community. A large bequest from the estate of Graham and Yvonne McCredie will start our Eminent Visiting Scholars in Residence program next year (see November GU newsletter page 14). Another donation (anonymous) made possible the design competition for the Graduate Union Lapel Pin (see October Newsletter p. 14). With the generous support of the Watson family, the Margaret Watson travelling scholarship will be reinstated in 2025.

Next year will be an important year for the Graduate Union. Soon, there will be a major announcement regarding the Stage 1 building project. Discussions are also underway with some potential donors to support the Eminent Visiting Scholars program. The mentoring program, which we successfully introduced this year, will be operational again. Our 2024 End of Year Appeal will ensure that these two programs continue in coming years, and that our Advancement efforts can be expanded.

Advancement is based not only on philanthropy, bequests, and donations. It's also based on people who give their time to promoting the Graduate Union. You will see on the reverse side that we are inviting members to volunteer their time as well as their donations to this important venture.

In completing the form on the reverse, please be assured that your support, however large or small, will be important to our future growth and not only in enhancing our profile for prospective members, but also in ensuring that we are able to engage with and offer more to our diverse national and international members.

You are also invited to contribute to our ongoing

- **110th Anniversary Appeal** to improve common areas (celebrating the founding of our organisation in 1911).
- **60th Jubilee Appeal** to improve accommodation (celebrating the opening of Graduate House to provide graduate accommodation).



My Contact Information

Title: _____ Firstname : _____ Surname: _____

Phone number: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Address: {number, street name or Post Office box, suburb, state, postcode and country}

My Contribution

\$100 \$150 \$200 \$500 \$1,000 \$2,000
 Other (please specify amount) \$AUD _____ (All contributions of \$2 or more are tax deductible)

Sometimes prospective donors may wish to discuss opportunities with the Chair of Council Natalie Gray (chairpccouncil@graduatehouse.com.au) and/or the General Manager Daniel Clark (Daniel.clark@graduatehouse.com.au) about how their donations or bequests can best be targeted to serve the future needs of the Graduate Union.

- I would like to give a major donation/bequest and receive information about the Association's giving opportunities.
 I would like to volunteer my time in 2025 to the GU philanthropy program.

Acknowledgement

I wish to be named as a supporter:

In choosing to be named as a supporter, you are happy to be acknowledged (by first name and surname) for your donation in our publications.

I wish to be an anonymous supporter:

Contact Us

To make a donation over the phone: +61 3 8347 3428

To email your completed form: edmingh@graduatehouse.com.au

To make a donation online: <https://www.graduatehouse.com.au/give-here/2024-our-year-annual-appeal/>

Payment Options

Visa

Mastercard

Direct Debit

Card Number _____

Expiry Date / _____ CSV _____

Cardholder Name _____

Signature _____

Financial Institution _____

BSB _____

Account Number _____

Signature _____

Bank Transfer

Account Name: The Graduate Union of The University of Melbourne Inc.
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 083 170
Account Number: 515 612 137
Swift Code: NATAAU3303M
Description: 2024AnnualAppeal

I would like to give regularly through my selected payment option

Commencing: _____ / _____ / _____

Amount \$AUD: _____

Weekly Fortnightly Monthly Yearly

Please contact us for alternative giving frequencies

Who We Are

A Union of Graduates

We began as a membership association in 1911. Women and men of different ages, disciplines and nationalities met to keep alive their university experience and resolved to support new graduates in the transition from undergraduate studies to careers and life-long learning.

The Graduate Union is now a charity and a not-for-profit membership association of graduates from the world's universities. Resident Members, one part of this membership, are enrolled in programs of study or are visiting academics. Non-resident Members do not live in college and are in Melbourne or elsewhere in the world.

Mission

The Graduate Union seeks to bring together graduates — through careers, caring roles and in retirement — in an active international membership network, residential college and meeting place for the socially responsible advancement and application of education.

A House for Graduates

Since the late 1950s, graduates from universities around the world have stayed at Graduate House. They come to Graduate House to study, tutor and teach, research, collaborate, develop professionally and network.

People just like you raised money and bought and developed property to grow Graduate House into what it is today: three college wings plus two off site premises of college accommodation. We entrust you with this stewardship to continue to protect and grow our 'house' for the benefit of the generations of graduates who will come here in the future.

Values of Members

- collegiality;
- universal friendship;
- social conscience and responsibility;
- intellectual challenge and contribution;
- life-long learning; and
- intercultural and interdisciplinary experiences.

A Meeting Place for Graduates

Over 30,000 people meet at Graduate House each year. Our meeting services are for charities, not-for-profits, universities and government groups to hold board and committee meetings, training sessions, dinners, social functions, seminars, conferences, alumni reunions, graduations and award ceremonies.

Resident Members invite guests to Graduate House and encourage other students to join either as Non-resident University Student Members or as Non-resident Members (e.g., for those who are in the workforce, a caring role or retirement). Membership gives discounts and access to an influential international community. It also looks good on the resume!

Values of the Organisation

- responsibility, accountability and stewardship;
- contribution and performance;
- professionalism, integrity, transparency and ethics;
- respect for differences and integration with diversity; and
- focus on the strengths and integration of undergraduates and graduates.

Lifespan of Membership

- Our Members are from all stages of the 'graduate pathway':
- just graduated;
- in postgraduate study;
- early in a career;
- caring for children;
- mid-career;
- caring for elderly relatives;
- returning to study;
- late in a career;
- in full or semi-retirement; and
- in volunteer work.

Equity and Diversity

From the start of our Association we have adhered to an egalitarian ideology.

We have the explicit expectation that all Members are lifelong influencers for equity and diversity, and work to sustain and grow this Association likewise into the future.



THE GRADUATE UNION

of The University of Melbourne Inc.

220 Leicester Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia
Telephone: +61 (0)3 9347 3428

Australian Business Number: 55 610 664 963
Incorporated Association Registration Number:
A0023234B

www.graduatehouse.com.au