



Strathcona
GIRLS GRAMMAR

Mellor Bequest Society

STRATHCONA'S QUIET
ACHIEVERS



**Bravely, Faithfully,
Happily, Forever.**



Meaningful giving

Strathcona has always encouraged a deep sense of service in its girls. It is what inspires them to live courageous and purposeful lives and to contribute to our world with wisdom, imagination and integrity.

Now, through our *Mellor Bequest Society*, you have the opportunity to support the next generation of Strathconians and in doing so, honour the School's powerful history and the incredible legacy created by our forebearers, bequests by school alumnae, families and friends.



Leaving a gift (or bequest) to Strathcona in your Will is a deeply personal, powerful way to demonstrate what you value most about Strathcona and the women it shapes.

It will directly enrich the lives of future Strathcona girls through scholarship opportunities, enhancing teaching and learning

facilities and supporting the School's programs.

Your Strathcona bequest, no matter the size, is a profound gesture we cherish and an enduring legacy you can be proud of.



Adam Stolz

**STRATHCONA
BOARD CHAIR**

“Strathcona’s strong foundations were established through the vision of Henrietta Hughes and Florence Livingstone in the 1920s, who created a school for girls to receive a robust education. This vision was strengthened by Joan Mellor and Margaret Mellor, and their foresight to gift the deposit funds required to secure the purchase of Tay Creggan in 1969. Since then, the Strathcona community has shown quiet strength, resilience, and an enduring commitment to its values. I believe deeply in the power of a Strathcona education and the lasting impact our women make in the world. As we share the next centenary, thank you for remembering Strathcona girls in your Will.”





Margaret Mellor teaching in the Early Learning Centre

Strathcona's Quiet Achievers...



The legacy of sisters, **Joan and Margaret Mellor**, beloved leaders continues to resonate to this day. Joan, as Head of the Junior School and Margaret as Head of the Pre-School, gave of their wide-ranging talents as teachers, mentors, and exemplars of community. They gave generously and unstintingly of their time, talent and gifts, serving as role models for generations of Strathy girls.

In 1969 Strathcona purchased the Hawthorn property '**Tay Creggan**'. During negotiations, the School was in competition with three other interested parties, and timing was crucial. Funds were short. Then came a phone call to the Principal: "About that \$130,000

property ... would you like \$30,000? A cheque is on its way."

That gift, given anonymously enabled Strathcona to secure 'Tay Creggan'. Only years later, was it revealed that this extraordinary generosity came from the Mellor sisters.



Joan Mellor
Previous Head of Junior School



A Legacy of Gratitude

At just 15, Gwenda Tunks completed her Leaving Certificate at Strathcona, excelling in English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry and French, and receiving the Science Prize. She would go on to work as a laboratory technician and later qualify as an accountant.



Gwenda Fitzgerald
(née Tunks '50)

Gwenda's Strathcona education was made possible by a scholarship and that opportunity shaped her life. Decades later, she quietly ensured others could benefit in the same way.



In 2023, Strathcona received a generous bequest from Gwenda's estate. In her Will, she wrote:

"This gift is in appreciation for the scholarship provided to me and for the purpose of assisting to continue with scholarships at Strathcona."

Her gift reflects a full-circle moment: a young girl once given the chance to learn, grow, and thrive now passing that opportunity forward to future generations of Strathcona girls.

Her legacy lives on in every student whose path is made possible by the power of an education.





Your gift, your choice

Remembering
Strathcona in your
Will honours what the
School means to you,
your family and your
loved ones.





There are a number of simple ways you can support Strathcona girls — existing and prospective — through a gift in your Will, ensuring that, first and foremost, your loved ones have been looked after and other expenses accounted for. Your gift could:



CREATE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR YOUNG WOMEN

A gift towards scholarships provides talented future students from all social, geographic and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to attend Strathcona, reaching their unique potential.



SUPPORT A SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OR ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Your gift could provide ongoing support of an area of the school that has significance to you, such as the library, sport, STEM, performing arts or music.



IMPACT THE PRESENT STRATHCONA

An 'untied' gift means your support will be directed to the area of greatest need and significance at that time. It's a highly effective way to play your part in the future Strathcona.



The Power of a Living Bequest

Beth Smallwood, a proud Strathcona alumna, experienced a life-changing moment in her 40s when she suddenly lost her hearing. As one of the early recipients of a cochlear implant, Beth's journey inspired a lifelong commitment to supporting girls who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.



*Beth MacLaren
Smallwood*

Beth established the Beth MacLaren Smallwood Foundation in 2013, beginning her living bequest with a series of scholarships awarded during her lifetime. These scholarships not only empowered individual students but also laid the foundations for broader support within the school community.



Since Beth's passing, her enduring legacy continues to enrich Strathcona's Hearing Support Program, including:

- » Additional scholarships
- » Specialist resources and support
- » Recent implementation of a sound system to enhance classroom accessibility for all learners

Beth's story is a powerful example of how a Living Bequest allows donors to witness the impact of their generosity. By choosing to give during her lifetime, Beth saw her vision come to life: supporting students, shaping programs, and inspiring future generations.





Rachel Butler '08

BETH MacLAREN SMALLWOOD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
B.Envs (Landscape Arch)
M. Urban Planning

"I was incredibly fortunate to attend Strathcona on a scholarship, thanks to the enduring gift from Beth McLaren Smallwood. I absolutely thrived at Strathcona and felt so lucky to find a school which provided me with so many wonderful experiences and also a skillset and attitude which has served me well in the years since leaving school. Strathcona left me with lifelong friends, a passion for learning and giving back, and a real appreciation for the importance of education.

Now as part of my role as on the Strathcona Board and Chair of the Property Committee, I am thrilled to be able to give back to Strathcona in a meaningful way and to watch the continued development and growth of the school. It is so important to me that the core values and attributes that make Strathy such a special place have stayed true, and will no doubt continue to do so for many happy years to come."

Kinds of kindness

There are two ways for you to structure your gift to Strathcona. Whichever method you choose, and however much you gift, you are still helping tomorrow's Strathcona girls find their unique trajectory in life.

1. Specific Gift

A specific gift is a testamentary gift of a specified sum of money or a specific asset or assets (e.g. real estate, shares or valuable chattels, such as works of art or jewellery).

2. Residual Gift

A gift of all or part of your residuary estate is a gift of all or part of what is left of your estate after:

- » all of your specific gifts are made
- » all of your debts, funeral and testamentary expenses are paid
- » any duties, taxes and fees payable on your estate and on the transfer of your assets to any beneficiary are satisfied.





An unlikely student remembers Strathcona through a generous gift:

“Leaving some money to Strathcona in our Will felt right to Beryl and me. My dear Beryl has now passed away, but I still reflect on the many things I learned from ‘Granny Livingstone’ and how it shaped the person I am today. It’s quite amazing how even the simplest things learnt can be traced back to school days. Time at school is the time when we learn how to handle our lives, learn what our values are, and these serve us well into the future. The more I look back on my life, the more I realise how much I owe to the great schools I attended and inspiring teachers like Florence Livingstone.”

Dr Peter Hardy-Smith is the grandson of Mrs Florence Livingstone, joint founder of Strathcona. He spent many of his childhood days learning from his grandmother and credits his passion for science to the time he spent at Strathcona with her. Dr Hardy-Smith went on to have a successful career in Ophthalmology.

A legacy into words

Once you have decided to include a gift to Strathcona in your Will, consider the words used to align with your wishes.

Naturally, we suggest you discuss this with your legal advisor and loved ones. Further, we recommend you choose one of the following wording options:



OPTION 1

"I give to STRATHCONA BAPTIST GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL LIMITED ABN 75 073 413 626 of 34 Scott Street, Canterbury, Victoria, 3126,

- the sum of \$[insert amount] OR
- my [insert asset] OR
- all of my residuary estate OR
- [insert percentage]% of my residuary estate,

for its general purposes in order that Strathcona may continue to operate as a nurturing learning community that develops intellectually curious, optimistic, life-ready young women, and I direct that the receipt in writing of an authorised officer of Strathcona Girls' Grammar School shall be deemed proof of payment."



OPTION 2

"I give to STRATHCONA BAPTIST GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL LIMITED ABN 75 073 413 626 of 34 Scott Street, Canterbury, Victoria, 3126,

- the sum of \$[insert amount] OR
- my [insert asset] OR
- all of my residuary estate OR
- [insert percentage]% of my residuary estate,

for [the purposes of the Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School Scholarship - Bursary & Gift Fund OR the purposes of the Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School Limited Building and Maintenance Fund OR the purposes of the Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School Library Fund], and I direct that the receipt in writing of an authorised officer of Strathcona Girls' Grammar School shall be deemed proof of payment."



All bequest correspondence with us is confidential. For more information on the Gifts in Wills program, or for a confidential discussion on how you could help inspire future generations of unstoppable Strathcona girls, please contact:

Head of Philanthropy

P +61 3 8779 7500

E giving@strathcona.vic.edu.au

Mellor Bequest Society

Strathcona's Quiet Achievers

For 100 years, our School in Canterbury has been so much more than a place of learning. Strathcona has shaped the emergence of generations of courageous, considered voices who have embodied the school's motto ***Bravely, Faithfully, Happily***, by seeking a life of action, meaning and fulfillment.

The **Mellor Bequest Society** – *Strathcona's Quiet Achievers*, named in honour of beloved Junior School and Early Learning leaders Joan Mellor and Margaret Mellor, provides a means for Strathcona to thank and honour those who have helped shape the future of Strathcona by remembering the School in their Will.

In recognition of a committed gift via bequest, we invite you to back to Strathcona's cherished events, such as Foundation Day, the Music Concert and the Annual Mellor Bequest Society function.

Flourishing Through Opportunity



Elena Mujik '08

STRATHCONA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
BA, MTeach, DipL

“Winning a scholarship to Strathcona changed the direction of my life. It gave me an education that my parents would not otherwise have been able to afford.”

Elena’s family fled war-torn Sarajevo in 1992 with just a Coke bottle full of fuel and a bag of nappies. They eventually migrated to Australia as refugees on her parents’ skilled migrant visas.

“Growing up, I understood firsthand that education doesn’t just open doors, it can change lives.”

In 2003, Elena commenced Year 7 on a full academic scholarship, which

she credits as a “motivating force throughout my schooling”.

During her years at Strathcona she became Arnold House Captain and Dux of the 2008 graduating class.

“At Strathy I had access to a supportive community that personalised my learning journey and helped me flourish across academics, music and sport.”

“I am very proud to be a Strathy old girl – thanks to a scholarship.”





Expression of interest form

GIFT IN WILLS PROGRAM AND THE MELLOR BEQUEST SOCIETY

If you are considering remembering Strathcona in your Will, or if you have already done so, you are invited to let us know by completing this form.

While we encourage all bequest donors to become members of the Mellor Bequest Society, we also understand that your Will is deeply personal, and we welcome and respect those who wish to remain anonymous. Completing this form does not commit you in any way or prevent you changing your Will in the future. It is simply a statement of interest or intention.

I have included a gift to Strathcona in my Will and would like to join the Mellor Bequest Society

I have included a gift in my Will to Strathcona and would like to remain anonymous

I am considering including a gift to Strathcona in my Will and would like further information

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Connection to Strathcona _____

Please mail this form to:
Head of Philanthropy
Strathcona Girls Grammar
34 Scott St, Canterbury VIC 3126

Or email:
giving@strathcona.vic.edu.au



Henrietta Hughes



Florence Livingstone

Strathcona's founding principals, Miss Henrietta Hughes and Mrs Florence Mabel Livingstone, made an extraordinary personal financial commitment to ensure young women could access an education of excellence. Their vision, made possible through personal sacrifice and belief in the power of learning, laid the foundation for the School we cherish today.

By continuing this legacy through a bequest, you honour their pioneering spirit and help ensure that Strathcona remains a nurturing community where intellectually curious, optimistic and life-ready young women are empowered to shape their future in a rapidly changing world.



strathcona.vic.edu.au

Early Years
31-33 Scott Street,
Canterbury VIC 3126

Strathcona Girls Grammar

Junior Campus
173 Prospect Hill Road,
Canterbury VIC 3126

A Child Safe School

Year 9 Campus
30 Yarra Street,
Hawthorn VIC 3122

ABN 75 073 413 626

Senior Campus
34 Scott Street,
Canterbury VIC 3126

CRICOS 00577C