

Girls Sport Victoria

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GIRLS SPORT VICTORIA

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From the GSV President

We are proud Girls Sport Victoria is founded on very clear guiding principles:

- The promotion of girls' sport.
- The provision of enhanced opportunities for participation in elite, competitive and recreational sport and physical activity.
- Providing accessibility to a diverse range of programs.
- The fostering of individual talents, team spirit and commitment.
- The pursuit of excellence.
- A commitment to the highest standard of ethical behaviour.
- A commitment to the promotion of health and well-being of all our girls.



The GSV program for 2012, recorded here in this impressive publication, is testament to yet another strong year of operation, and of building our reputation according to these principles.

Our focus on both participation and excellence is critical. In promoting the growth of girls' sport in Independent Girls' Schools, we are proud to report that, in our twelfth year, we have continued our consecutive trend of increased participation. This year, approximately 4,500 girls participated in our Major Carnivals and nearly 1,280 teams of girls played Weekly Sport across the year.

Taking into account the number of additional sporting opportunities offered outside the traditional Weekly Sport and Major Carnival framework, there is a lot of sport and physical activity happening in our schools!

We are proud to report the continuation of the GSV Representative Netball Program and the establishment of Representative teams in Cross Country, Hockey and Soccer.

At year's end, it is my opportunity as President to once again praise the administration of the GSV staff. I thank GSV Officers Leonie Mawkes and Annie Gibson, and further recognise the management and expertise of our Chief Executive Officer, Meredith Prime. On behalf of our Schools and students I thank them for their wonderful work, seen and unseen.

Dr Susan Stevens - President, Girls Sport Victoria

2012 Sports Captains' Breakfast

The first official event on the GSV calendar is the Sports Captains' Breakfast. In February, Star of the Sea College hosted the Breakfast in their newly renovated sports hall. One hundred and fifty School, Sport and House Captains, sports leaders and sports staff from 21 of the 23 GSV schools attended.

A tone of nostalgia was set early in the morning with Star of the Sea Sports Captain Siobhan Phyland welcoming us all, and reminiscing about her GSV sporting life. Korowa's Sports Captains, Charli Killeen and Emily Mellor also spoke about their love for GSV before our first key note speaker, Firkbank alumnus and Olympic hopeful Rachel Goh recounted her journey leading to the 2012 Australian Swim team trials held in March this year.

Our final speaker was Claire Mitchell-Taverner OAM, member of the Gold medal winning Hockeyroos, and arguably the most lauded female Hockey player in modern times. It was fascinating for us to hear her also talk with great fondness for her school sport years and she reminded us that, while winning at the highest level is an amazing experience, it is the journey along the way and the friendships made that linger with you for so much longer.



GSV Lauds Our London Olympians

Every four years the Olympic Games engenders an outpouring of national pride as we watch our elite athletes perform at the highest level. Much of the time we are cheering for the Green and Gold, not necessarily having any other connection to those athletes than a shared homeland.

But at the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, our GSV community had a special connection to thirteen members of the Australian team – all of whom had, at some stage, walked the halls, played on the sporting ovals and lived the life of a student at a GSV school. These women provide our current cohort the inspiration that dreams and goals can be achieved – and, as we watched them perform on the world stage, we could not help but call them our own and give them an extra big cheer.

Kim Crow (Ruyton, 2003) won Silver in the Double Scull and Bronze in the Single Scull and is one of a very select few athletes to race in two Rowing events at an Olympics. It was her second Olympic campaign.



Robyn Selby-Smith (PLC, 1997) was a member of the Australian Women's XIII that finished 6th in the Final.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Patrick (MLC, 2002) was the Coxswain of the Australian Women's XIII that finished 6th in the Final. London was her second Olympics.

Rowena Webster (Korowa, 2005) was a member of the Australian Women's Waterpolo team, aptly named 'The Stingers', that won a Bronze medal.

Victoria Brown (Lauriston, 2003) was also a member of the Australian Women's Waterpolo team that won Bronze.



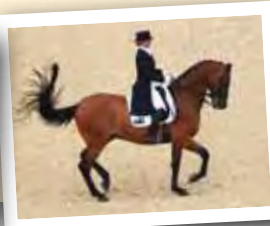
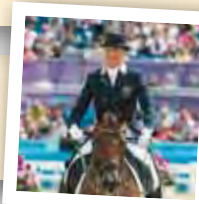
Regan Lamble (Strathcona, 2009) finished 17th in the Women's 20km Walk.

Krystal Weir (Shelford, 2002) finished 12th in the Laser Radial Class of the Sailing Regatta.



Anabelle Smith (Sacré Coeur, 2010) was our youngest GSV alumna, and together with her Diving partner Sharleen Stratton, finished 5th in the Final of the Women's 3m Synchronised Diving competition.

Mary Hanna (PLC, 1957) was our 'elder stateswomen' of the alumnae, and with her horse, Sancette, finished 43rd in the Individual Dressage and, along with her teammates, came 9th in the Teams Dressage event.



Louise Bawden (Fintona, 1999) who, along with her Beach Volleyball partner Becharra Palmer, finished 4th in their pool after the Preliminary rounds.

Leanne Del Toso (OLMC, 1998) was a key member of the Silver medal winning Women's Wheelchair Basketball team, nicknamed the Gliders.



Natalie Smith (nee Lutz) (Ivanhoe, 1992), won Bronze at the Paralympics in the Women's R2-10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 Class.

Michelle Timms (Siena, 1981) was Assistant Coach of the Australian Women's Basketball team, nicknamed the Opals, that won Bronze.



Girls Sport Victoria also acknowledges Lowther Hall's GSV Badminton coach **Renuga Veeran** who paired with Leanne Choo and reached the Quarter-Finals in the Women's Doubles Badminton competition.

Weekly Sport

Term 4 2011 Weekly Sport

Basketball

A record 173 teams dribbled and rebounded their way through the 2011 GSV Basketball season, making it the second most popular weekly GSV sport, after Netball.

The Senior competition is significant not only as a vital study break, but also as a sentimental last chance for the Year 12s to play sport for their school. But with the VCE English exam scheduled for the day after the Finals, schools struggled to get their full complement of players to the courts. Camberwell was the most affected, arriving with the bare minimum of five players. But they fought valiantly through their Semi Final and defeated Strathcona by just one point. OLMC had an easier win over Melbourne. The Grand Final match was a thriller: scores were even at half time but with three minutes to go, OLMC hit foul trouble and Camberwell snuck ahead, ultimately claiming a well-deserved four-point victory.

The Intermediate and Junior Grand Finals were dominated by Camberwell, Genazzano, MLC, OLMC, Star and Siena. At the end of the season OLMC and Star of the Sea had secured three premiership pennants each and OLMC and MLC had two apiece.



	SENIOR A	INTER A	INTER B	INTER C	INTER D	JUNIOR A	JUNIOR B	JUNIOR C	JUNIOR D	JUNIOR E	JUNIOR F
Basketball	Camberwell	Siena	Siena	MLC	Star of the Sea	OLMC	MLC	OLMC	OLMC	Star of the Sea	Star of the Sea
Cricket	St Catherine's					MLC					
Waterpolo						Lauriston	Lauriston				



Junior Waterpolo

GSV welcomed Strathcona to the Junior Waterpolo competition for the first time in GVS's 11 year history, and welcomed St Catherine's back after their seven year hiatus from Junior Waterpolo. But Lauriston, Loreto and MLC have a long history of dominance in the sport and by the end of the season, Lauriston's Juniors had a firm grip on both the A and B grade premiership pennants.



St Catherine's' Bowlers Take the Wickets and the Win

It was great for me, as a Cricketer, to see so many St Catherine's girls put their heart and soul into the sport. Throughout the Term many girls discovered hidden talents, such as throwing from the boundary or running between the wickets. This was an advancement from the early days of St Catherine's Cricket (2009) when some girls had to learn precisely what a wicket was and what the bat looked like!

The games were great fun, and the fact that so many girls were new to Cricket produced many laughs. In the first training session it was not uncommon for the ball to land in the wrong net. But we won our first game of the season this year which was very exciting, and increased the general enthusiasm amongst the girls towards the sport. One girl proclaimed that she didn't know how exciting Cricket could be!

After three years of having a year 9-12 Cricket team, this year St Catherine's won the Grand Final. It was a great achievement for all of us. After many close games, the Final was one of the most exciting of them all. We were all a bit thrown by losing the toss and having to bat first; however, the St Catherine's girls were off to a steady start making 70 runs.

Star of the Sea started with a bang, with the first batter making a quick 20 runs, but we fought back hard, tying the batswomen down with some great bowling. It came down to the last over with every ball a frantic and nervous panic.

Eventually, after all our hearts were on the verge of collapse, we finished as victors. The Cricket season was an entirely successful one for the St Catherine's girls and I am sure we will cherish the memories of Central Park. I hope this was the beginning of many victories to come.

Gréتل Cannon - Year 11, St Catherine's School



Cricket

The Senior Cricket Grand Final match between St Catherine's and Star of the Sea was a thrilling exhibition of girls' Cricket. Both teams had had comfortable wins in their Semi Final matches against St Margaret's and Genazzano respectively, and took to the picturesque pitch at Basil Reserve with great enthusiasm.

Star won the toss and sent St Catherine's in to bat first. They were kept to a modest 8/70 with some very tidy fielding and aggressive bowling from the Star of the Sea girls.

When Star's opening batswomen took to the crease they immediately began an impressive run chase, and it looked like they had the match in the bag. But St Catherine's rallied, tightened up their bowling and restricted Star's batting momentum. Star fell short of the mark by six runs, giving St Catherine's their first Cricket premiership in the history of the GSV competition.



The Junior match was won by MLC.



Weekly Sport

Term 1 2012 Weekly Sport

In theory, Term One should be the best Term, weatherwise, in which to play sport. But we live in Melbourne, don't we?

It was unfortunate that our Senior Softball and Tennis competition was impacted by a wash out in week four and the Juniors affected on weeks one and five. The Intermediates played all their home and away matches and were very lucky to contest their Semi Finals in a fortuitous window of clear weather between rain squalls.

Indoor Cricket

Siena, in just their second year of GSV, won their first Indoor Cricket pennant. The Intermediate and Junior pennants were collected by MLC, who have picked up at least one Indoor Cricket pennant every year since 2003. Runners Up in the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Grand Finals were Shelford, Genazzano and Lowther Hall, respectively.



	SENIOR A	SENIOR B	INTER A	INTER B	INTER C	JUNIOR A	JUNIOR B	JUNIOR C
Indoor Cricket	Siena		MLC			MLC		
Softball	Korowa		Ivanhoe	OLMC		OLMC	OLMC	
Tennis	Genazzano	Melbourne	Melbourne	OLMC	PLC	OLMC	OLMC	Lauriston



Tennis

By the time the GSV Tennis competition was whittled down to the Grand Final matches, the standard of play was impressive. The Senior A grade match between Genazzano and Melbourne was riveting. With the pairs tied on sets, Genazzano stole the win on games. But Melbourne were clear winners in the B grade match.

Melbourne were also victorious in the Intermediate A grade Final, but OLMC had the B match covered and PLC won the C grade Final, their first Tennis pennant ever.

In the Junior competition, it was OLMC who took out the A and B grade premierships, with Lauriston picking up the C grade pennant.





A First Ever For PLC!

History was made this year at PLC with our first ever GSV Tennis Premiership! It came in the Intermediate C Grade competition and our girls could not have been happier!

Numbers have been greater at training this year due to our new nine-court Tennis facility and reinvigorated Tennis coaching program.

The C grade squad finished the season on top of the ladder and came up against St Catherine's in the Grand Final. After a hard-fought match where both sides demonstrated great skills and sportsmanship, PLC came away proud winners. Well done, girls!

Jen Rivett - Director of Sport, PLC



Softball

The number of Junior Softball teams playing in the GSV competition grew significantly this year, encouraging for a sport which has experienced fluctuating popularity in past years.

The increase was, in part, due to a number of schools fielding three Junior teams.

In the Senior Softball competition, Korowa and Ivanhoe were clearly the standout teams for the season and duly faced off in the Grand Final match. While Korowa ultimately prevailed, the score-line did not reflect the tight battle between the two schools.

It was a shame that Fintona's Intermediate Softball team were unable to play their Grand Final match because of a school camp in Tasmania. Ivanhoe took the win on forfeit and while it was somewhat a hollow victory for them, the Ivanhoe girls should take pride in the fact that they were undefeated throughout the season.

OLMC were all over the Junior A and B premierships and we look forward to following these girls as they progress through their years with GSV.



Weekly Sport

Term 2 2012 Weekly Sport

Netball

The number of girls playing GSV Netball grows year after year, with the greatest challenge finding enough Netball courts to meet demand. This year more than 3,000 girls played GSV Netball across three nights of competition.

Nineteen schools had teams play into Finals week with eight of them picking up premiership pennants. The Senior Finals were tightly contested with a number of matches played into double and even triple extra time. Congratulations to Star of the Sea who finished the season with eight premierships overall, including the Senior A grade pennant. But Genazzano's Intermediate and Junior A grade teams are very strong and were clear victors in both their Grand Finals matches.

The Junior Grand Finals were played under challenging conditions with power cut to Waverley Netball Centre just as teams were arriving. The first round matches were held inside in failing light, and the second round of matches were all set to be played in drizzling rain outside until power was restored less than a minute before the starting siren. A wave of girls, umpires, coaches and spectators washed through the double doors and down onto the indoor show courts and play was finally under way, under lights! Congratulations to Toorak College, winning their first GSV Netball pennant and to Loreto Mandeville Hall for winning just their third premiership since 2001.



	A GRADE	B GRADE	C GRADE	D GRADE	E GRADE	F GRADE	G GRADE	H GRADE
Senior	Star of the Sea	Sacré Cœur	Siena	MLC				
Intermediate	Genazzano	Strathcona	Star of the Sea	Star of the Sea	Star of the Sea	Star of the Sea		
Junior	Genazzano	Loreto	MLC	Star of the Sea5	Toorak4	MLC7	Star of the Sea9	Star of the Sea10



Loreto Triumph in the Pool

In my first season of GSV Waterpolo with Loreto in 2008, I learnt two things very quickly: that I loved the sport and that Lauriston was the school to beat.

Heading into that year's Grand Final, there was much hype about the prospect of facing Lauriston who are considered the school-girl masters of Waterpolo and it was a challenge to even consider ourselves a chance. But we won the 2008 Final, and it was a big deal, to say the least.

The good spirited rivalry between the two schools has been a major source of motivation for Loreto as the years have gone by, although the past three seasons have seen Lauriston dominate.

With a history such as this, the conclusion of the 2012 season was subject to yet another fierce Grand Final, fought between the long-time contenders. We took the lead from the start, scoring four goals to Lauriston's two and then held on to secure our first win since the 2008 season. I have great faith that GSV Waterpolo will continue to strengthen, and Loreto and Lauriston will continue their competitive friendship.

Isabella Casey - Loreto Waterpolo Captain, Loreto Mandeville Hall



Waterpolo

The celebrations are probably still underway in leafy suburb of Toorak, with Loreto Mandeville Hall finally extracting the Senior Waterpolo title from long-time holders, Lauriston. While Lauriston had blown everyone out of the water in the home and away season, Loreto scored against them in the first half of the Grand Final and kept up their defensive pressure in the second half to take the match 4-2. In the B grade Grand Final, it was an all-MLC affair, with MLC2 convincing winners over MLC3.

Waterpolo Results

	A GRADE	B GRADE
Senior	Loreto Mandeville Hall	MLC2



Hockey

MLC, Melbourne, Lauriston and Ruyton are never far from the Hockey pitches at Finals time and 2012 was no exception.

But rather than

dominating the Finals fixture, they found themselves sharing the contests with up-and-coming Hockey teams from Ivanhoe, Loreto Mandeville Hall, Lowther Hall, OLMC, Star of the Sea, St Catherine's, Strathcona and Toorak College. It was fantastic to see such a spread of Hockey talent among our GSV schools. In the end, MLC were victorious in four of the five premierships on offer and Melbourne picked up the Intermediate A pennant.

Hockey Results

	A GRADE	B GRADE
Senior	MLC	
Intermediate	Melbourne	MLC
Junior	MLC	MLC



Weekly Sport

Term 3 2012 Weekly Sport

Soccer

By the time we reached the Finals series, the qualifying teams were playing a fine brand of Soccer.

The Senior A Grade match was a thriller between last year's victors OLMC and Genazzano with scores level on 2-all at full time. OLMC held their nerve in penalty time to take home back-to-back pennants.

Siena contested both Intermediate Grand Final matches but went down to Star of the Sea in the A grade and OLMC in the B grade Finals.

Firbank were victorious in the Junior A grade Final; Star of the Sea took out the B grade match; and Genazzano picked up the pennant in the C grade competition.

Congratulations to Mentone, St Catherine's, Melbourne Girls Grammar, Lowther Hall and MLC who all had teams qualify in the Finals series.



	SENIOR A	SENIOR B	INTER A	INTER B	JUNIOR A	JUNIOR B	JUNIOR C
Badminton	Toorak	Toorak	Toorak	MLC	MLC1	MLC1	
Soccer	OLMC		Star of the Sea	OLMC	Firbank	Star of the Sea	Genazzano
Volleyball	MLC	Star of the Sea	Star of the Sea	Siena	OLMC	OLMC	



Badminton

Toorak College and MLC may have been the only two schools to take home Premiership pennants in Badminton this year, but all the Grand Finals were tightly contested and five of the six were drawn matches, decided on either sets or points.

Firbank were Runners Up in the Senior A and B grade Finals; Camberwell were just six points shy of stealing the Junior A grade pennant and Lowther Hall (mentored by Australian London Olympian Renuga Veeran) fell just three points short of taking out the Junior B grade premiership.

The Intermediate Grand Finals were mirror images of each other with Toorak College defeating MLC in the A grade but MLC triumphant over Toorak in the B grade.

Siena, PLC, Ivanhoe, Genazzano and Sacré Cœur were the other schools to contest the Semi Finals.



Camberwell Enjoys Success in Term 3

Term 3 this year proved to be Camberwell Girls Grammar School's most successful Term since GSV began 12 years ago, with five teams making it through to the Finals series in either Badminton or Volleyball and our Track and Field squad having their best season ever, finishing second overall in Division Three.

Our current Senior Volleyball team have been in Finals regularly and had set themselves the goal of finally winning an A grade championship. Whilst they won their Semi Final, they were unfortunately defeated in the Grand Final and now have to look to 2013 to win the elusive title.

Our Intermediate Volleyball team also won their zone and progressed to the Semi Finals, but were unable to match their opposition.

Badminton continues to be a strong sport at Camberwell, but just like the Senior Volleyball girls, an A grade Championship remains just out of reach. Our Intermediate B, Junior A and Junior B teams all progressed to the Finals, with the Junior A team narrowly losing their Grand Final match which was tied on both matches and sets, but six points short of victory.

Steven Davies - Head of Sport, Camberwell Girls Grammar



Volleyball

Eighteen of our 23 GSV schools enter the Volleyball competition and twelve of them had at least one team qualify for the Finals series. Camberwell, Ruyton, MLC, Genazzano, OLMC, Lauriston, Star of the Sea, Siena, Ivanhoe, Loreto Mandeville Hall, Toorak and Strathcona all had teams in the play-offs at MSAC.

Congratulations to MLC, who came away with the Senior A Grade title; Star of the Sea, who won the Senior B grade and the Intermediate A grade premierships; Siena, who won the Intermediate B grade match; and OLMC, who went home with both the Junior A and B grade pennants.



Carnivals

Diving and Swimming

Diving

Diving has been steadily gaining popularity across our schools and, catering to demand, the competition was this year expanded to allow six Junior Divers to represent their school. And represent they did, performing some stunning Dives across the Preliminary, Championship and Finals Evening Carnivals. Girls Sport Victoria has some of the most elite school-age Divers in the State and it is a delight to watch them at their best.

Firbank's girls were particularly sharp, with nine of their competitors achieving a top two place in Division One and comfortably winning the Championship trophy. MLC were consistently good and were not challenged for second place. The other schools whose Divers competed in Division One were: Star of the Sea, Loreto Mandeville Hall, Toorak, Lauriston, Strathcona and, for the first time in GSV history, and rightfully very proud of themselves, Shelford.

There is often a bit of movement between Division Two and Three from year to year and 2012 was the year for St Catherine's and Ruyton to move back up to Division Two. Siena also improved from last year, winning the Division Two trophy.

Swimming Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1st Place	MLC	Loreto	OLMC
2nd Place	Firbank	Melbourne	Genazzano
3rd Place	Star of the Sea	Sacré Cœur	Siena

Diving Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1st Place	Firbank	Siena	PLC
2nd Place	MLC	Korowa	Ivanhoe
3rd Place	Star of the Sea	Ruyton	St Margaret's



H₂O = Two parts Heart and one part Obsession

Swimming great Michael Phelps once said "You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get".

The 2012 Strathcona Swimming Team did dream big. From the beginning, they were up at the crack of dawn twice a week, putting in the hard yards to prepare for the GSV Swimming season. With preparations advanced by our annual camp, the team was raring to go by the time the Preliminary Carnival arrived.

The girls had to contend with the cold and the wind as they gave their best in the pool; efforts which were not without reward. By the end of the Carnival we were second behind MLC, automatically placing us in Division One for the Championship Carnival – the first time in nine years!

Not only that, but we came home with the School Population trophy, awarded to the school with the best performance in proportion to the number of students.

Naturally, spirits were running high on the day of the Championship Carnival, and were not dampened by the freezing temperatures and pouring rain that hounded us yet again. With nothing to lose, every girl gave her absolute best, and we came sixth, with our Intermediates an amazing second!

The number of Strathcona girls who qualified for the Finals Evening this year was astounding. With over twenty girls competing on the night, they did themselves proud. Several girls



swam personal best times and we came home with 16 medals, placing us third on the medal tally for the Evening.

We would like to thank our coach, Nathan Cole, for all the hard work he has put in - it definitely paid off. We would also like to thank Ms Barber, Ms Bate and all the other teachers involved for giving us their unconditional support.

And lastly, to the girls: as your Captains this year, we have had a great time working with you, and thank you all for your dedication and determination throughout the season.

We will leave you with this saying from Olympic gold-medallist Alexander Popov: "The water is your friend. You don't have to fight with water; just share the same spirit as it, and it will help you move."

Bec Schwarz and Kelsey Dubar - Swim Captains, Strathcona



Swimming

MLC continues to dominate in the pool, winning their 12th Division One Championship trophy by more than 100 points. Only Firbank has ever matched MLC, sharing the title with them in 2004 and this year they snuck away with the Junior trophy. It may just be the beginning of a tighter tussle between the two schools.

Strathcona and Ivanhoe have been working hard to develop their Swimming squads and, having come second and third respectively in their Preliminary Carnivals, deserved their spots in the Division One Championship Carnival. The other schools who competed in Division One were Star of the Sea, Korowa, Ruyton and PLC.

Congratulations to St Margaret's, who moved up into Division Two for the first time in GSV's 12 year history.

The 2012 Finals Evening showcased some incredible talent in the pool, especially among our Year 7 cohort. Three records, all of which had stood for eleven years, were broken - Firbank's Natalie Nyaguy broke the Year 7 50m Breaststroke and MLC's Swimmers broke both the Year 7 Freestyle and Medley relays.



Carnivals: Cross Country

The Cross Country carnival season evokes images of early morning fog, dewy grass, many layers of clothing, bright coloured gum boots and the need to evade the enthusiasm of unleashed dogs in the parkland...at least it does for the set up crew who arrive at dawn to mark the course! By the time schools arrive, the sun is up, the air is warming and the cacophony of barking dogs is replaced with the excited chatter of girls preparing to face the challenges of the 3 and 4km courses.

The GSV Cross Country season starts with individual school training and practice meets between clusters of schools. The three Preliminary Carnivals held across one day at Yarra Bend Park is the first opportunity for schools to get a sense of where their squad sits in relation to their rivals. Threatening skies and periodic drizzle had little impact on the determination of the girls to race well for their schools.

The results of the Preliminary Carnivals effectively rank the schools into Division One, Two and Three. Similar to last year, there was very little movement between Divisions: Lauriston and Star of the Sea swapped places between Division One and Two, with Star progressing up to the top Division.

The Championship Carnival, held at Bundoora Park, is the only event at which all 23 GSV schools converge at the same time. Consequently, the atmosphere is energetic, with swarms of runners and their coaches warming up, a bevy of officials busily organising themselves into position, and spectators milling around with great anticipation.

Each A grade race starts with a full field of 230 from all GSV schools. The B races start 5 minutes later and, with the introduction of Intermediate and Senior B races this year, the number of girls swelled to more than 1,000 runners.

Cross Country Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1st Place	Ruyton	Sacré Cœur	OLMC
2nd Place	MLC	Firbank	Siena
3rd Place	Melbourne	St Catherine's	Lowther Hall



Celebrations for Fintona

At Fintona we were particularly excited about the GSV Cross Country season this year. Our squad met two mornings a week and one lunch time, and our coaches encouraged us to run on the weekends as well.

Our first race of the season was our House Cross Country Carnival and the front runners raced hard in a close contest. It was a great way to motivate us for the coming GSV Preliminary and Championship Carnivals.

A large team competed at Yarra Bend in the Preliminary Carnival and all enjoyed the run, or at least, most of us did!

We then trained for another two weeks before the Championship Carnival where we were a little nervous to see how we would fare against the other schools. To our excitement, one of our Intermediate runners finished in the top ten overall and the rest of us came in high up enough in the finish order to win the Division 3 Intermediate trophy.

This is a fantastic effort for Fintona, a small school and one that doesn't often win trophies. It was a loud and very enjoyable bus trip home. Congratulations to all the Fintonians who competed in the Cross Country team. Hopefully the trophy in the cabinet will spur us on to race hard again next year.

Kate Ashbolt - Member of the Winning Intermediate Cross Country Team, Fintona



Results

Congratulations to Ruyton who have now won nine out of the last ten Division One trophies and continue to produce squads of champion runners. MLC were second for the fifth year in a row and Melbourne Girls Grammar reaped the rewards of a re-invigorated training program and finished third. Loreto Mandeville Hall, Star of the Sea, Genazzano, Strathcona and Toorak rounded out the remaining Division One schools.

In Division Two, Sacré Cœur were winners for the third year in a row, Firbank achieved their highest ranking ever, coming second, and St Catherine's also leap-frogged a number of schools to finish third.

In Division Three, OLMC claimed the trophy for the fourth time in the past five years, and Siena and Lowther Hall flipped places from last year, finishing second and third, respectively. Congratulations to Fintona's Intermediate runners, who delivered the school their first ever age group trophy.

GSV thanks the Principals from Shelford (Polly Flanagan), Strathcona (Helen Hughes), Toorak College (Helen Carmody) and Korowa (Christine Jenkins) for presenting ribbons and trophies on the day.



Carnivals: Track and Field

With the historic Olympic Park torn down, GSV, along with the Victorian athletics community, had been eagerly awaiting the completion of Lakeside Stadium.

There is much to like about the new facility, including the brilliant blue track and easy access around it. But we found out the hard way that Lakeside Stadium would benefit from a little more protection from the elements!

It didn't help that the week of the Preliminary Carnivals co-incided with the one of the wettest and wildest weeks of the year and consequently a number of events in the Preliminary B and C Carnivals were cancelled for safety reasons.

Thankfully, the rain stayed away for the Championship week and, despite having to endure extreme winds and threatening skies, we got through the full program on each of the three days.



Championship Results

Melbourne, MLC, Ruyton, St Catherine's, Strathcona, Loreto Mandeville Hall, Star of the Sea and Genazzano all qualified to contest the Division One Championship.

Congratulations to Loreto Mandeville Hall, who not only moved up into Division One this year, they leap-frogged five schools to finish third overall! But full honours must be awarded to Ruyton's Track and Field team who managed a clean sweep of the Junior, Intermediate, Senior and overall trophies and have set the benchmark for Track and Field excellence.

In Division Two, Firbank's Juniors won their age group trophy by almost 100 points. In contrast, there were only four points between the top three Intermediate squads, with PLC sneaking away with the trophy from St Margaret's and Sacré Cœur. Firbank were clear winners of the Senior trophy, won the Championship trophy and will be fighting to regain a berth in Division One in 2013.

Mentone Girls' Grammar backed up their 2011 Track and Field success, winning all age group trophies and the Division Three Championship for the second year in a row. Camberwell were particularly proud to finish second on the Intermediate and Senior points table and second overall.

Track & Field Results

	DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1st Place	Ruyton	Firbank	Mentone
2nd Place	MLC	Sacré Cœur	Camberwell
3rd Place	Loreto Mandeville Hall	St Margaret's	Korowa



Melbourne Tracking Well

The athletics program should be the jewel in any school sports program. It provides the fundamental skills to enable students to participate in other individual and team sports. The recipe is simple; start small, aim big, provide opportunities for improvement, encourage an ethic that transcends the program, nurture supportive relationships, be honest, and above all else, be patient. The girls will do the rest!

In 2012, MGGs Athletics finished 5th overall in Division 1, our equal best result as a school in the GSV competition, and up from 17th in 2010. In the process, we broke 12 school records, but more importantly posted 129 personal bests across the three Carnivals. Even though we track this, it is not only these milestones that we, as school communities, celebrate. It is the knowledge that every girl leaving school has the potential to compete in their adult years, and that they have forged some great relationships along the way that will sustain them through life. That is the ethos of Girls Sport Victoria.

Performance, either mental or physical, is a journey, a pathway, a movement through, not a place arrived at, time achieved, medal or trophy received, praise earned or position attained. Results will only ever be one indicator of the broader processes at play within a school environment. It is the relationship between athlete and teacher that is the key to success.

Christian Neeson - Director of Physical Performance and Health, Melbourne Girls Grammar



Finals Evening

The GSV Track and Field Finals Evening is the only opportunity for the best athletes across all 23 GSV schools to compete against each other. Ruyton, Loreto Mandeville Hall and MLC dominated the medal tally, but pleasingly for the Association, all 23 schools had girls compete at the Finals Evening and win at least one or more medals, giving every school someone to cheer on.



Representative Sport at GSV

Since 2007, Girls Sport Victoria has selected a Representative Netball team which has played the Queensland School Sport 19 & Under team and other Victorian school sport teams.

Following the success of Representative Netball, in 2012 GSV expanded the Rep program to include Hockey, Soccer and Cross Country.

Twenty one out of the 23 GSV schools recommended girls for at least one of the Rep sports and in total 44 girls from twenty of our member schools were selected to represent GSV in their respective sport.

GSV would like to thank the coaches who gave up their time to mentor and support these athletes. Specifically, we thank Cross Country coach Ryan Duke (MLC), Hockey coach Chelsea Dabner (Korowa), Netball coaches Sarndra Kennerley (Genazzano) and Sarah Collett (Siena) and Soccer coaches Chiara Romano (Genazzano) and Mark Smith (Siena).

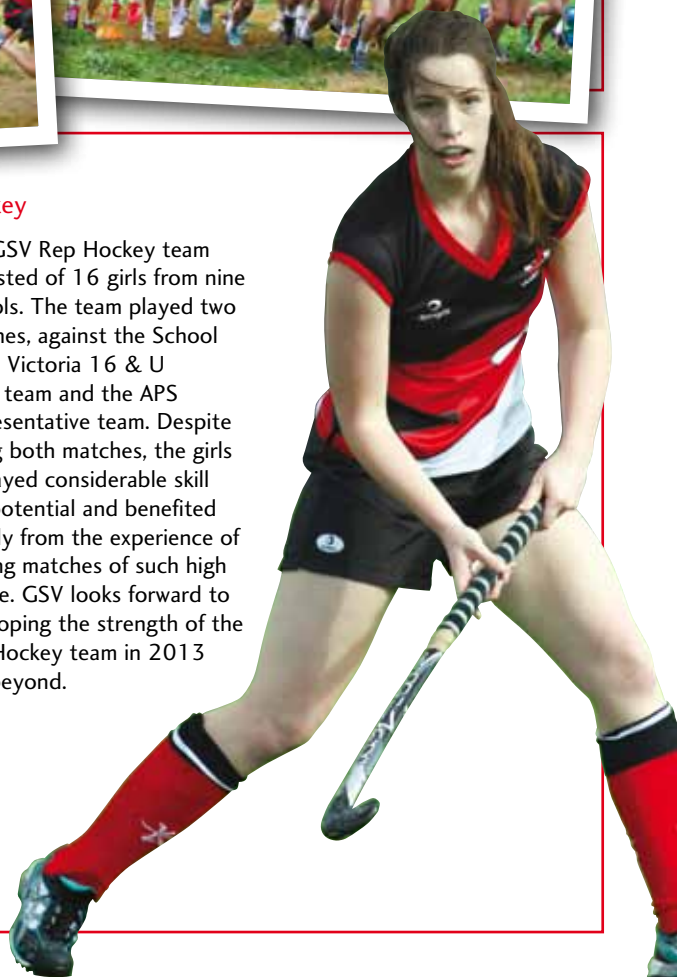
Cross Country

In our first year of Representative Cross Country, GSV was invited to participate in the annual APS/AGSV Cross Country meet. Nine girls from Year 9-12 ran the 4.5km course. Our top three runners Elly Jackson (Toorak College), Natalie Ambrose (Siena) and Grace Kalac (Ruyton) finished 3rd, 5th and 8th respectively, a fantastic display of the strength of the GSV Cross Country competition.



Hockey

The GSV Rep Hockey team consisted of 16 girls from nine schools. The team played two matches, against the School Sport Victoria 16 & U State team and the APS Representative team. Despite losing both matches, the girls displayed considerable skill and potential and benefited greatly from the experience of playing matches of such high calibre. GSV looks forward to developing the strength of the Rep Hockey team in 2013 and beyond.

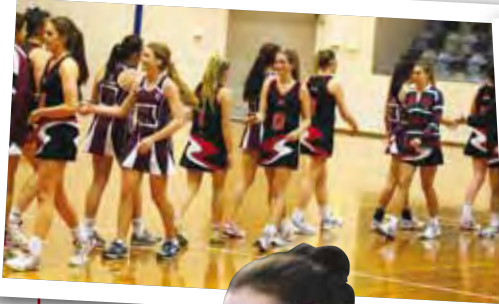




Netball

In its sixth year, the GSV Representative Netball program had record numbers of girls trialling for the privilege to represent their school sports' association. After two exhaustive trials, eleven girls from seven GSV schools were selected in the team. The match schedule for the team has settled into a routine with them playing the School Sport Victoria 15 & U State team, followed by the formidable Queensland School Sport 19 & U State team.

The girls gained great confidence following their comprehensive defeat of the SSV team 51-38, but were challenged by the height and speed of the Queensland squad. The game was won in the first half, but, to their credit, the GSV girls held Queensland's score in the second half. Congratulations to the Queensland team and we look forward to regaining the edge we had over them in the previous two encounters.



Soccer

Soccer is one of the fastest growing female sports in GSV and the wider Australian sporting community, and the seventeen talented girls (from nine schools) who were selected in the GSV Representative Soccer squad put on an impressive display of speed, agility and skilful foot work. The girls played two matches and won both – the first they won 2-1 against the School Sport Victoria 19 & U State team and in the second they defeated the Sport Education & Development Australia (SEDA) Talented Player squad 4-3. GSV is excited by the prospect of our girls playing the sport at the top level in the years to come.



Sports Skills Programs

AFL

GSV welcomed Strathcona and Siena to the Friday night AFL competition this year. While Siena was new to GSV Football, they certainly knew their stuff and only narrowly missed a Finals berth on percentage.

For the second year, the Finals were held at Scotch College and the passion of the players and spectators was palpable. Several hundred parents, family members and friends turned out to watch and with both A grade teams having made banners for the players to run through, the stage was set for a 'tribal' showdown.

MLC had won the previous year, but Sacré Cœur had been building; they won the B grade competition in 2010, had worked their way into contention in the A grade in 2011, and were ready to test their skills against MLC in the 2012 Final. The hard-fought match showcased great skill on both sides, despite the wet, muddy conditions. MLC emerged victorious, but a rivalry has begun and both teams will be keen to face off again next year.



Triathlon



The GSV wave of the XO Size Tri Series exploded this year, with 53 individuals and 34 teams from 15 GSV schools participating in the Sandringham event. Congratulations to all the girls who took part in this fast growing sport.

Mentone's Emily Dunk won the 12-13 years Mini; St Catherine's Grace Lightfoot, the 14-15 years Mini; St Margaret's Sophie Mayes, the 16-18 years Mini; St Margaret's Jessica Cox, the 14-15 years Sprint; Melbourne's Alex Patterson, the 16-18 years Sprint. Ivanhoe won the team Mini and Strathcona won the team Sprint.



Track Cycling

Term Three saw the return of the popular Track Cycling Program. To ensure the girls could be safely supervised around the challenging bank track, the program is limited to 20 riders and filled quickly.

The girls hailed from Genazzano, Ivanhoe, Melbourne, OLMC and Mentone Girls' Grammar. For five weeks, the girls converged on the Darebin International Sports Centre each Monday night and, with track bikes provided by Cycling Victoria, learned the art of track racing.

By the end of the Program they were able to successfully ride the steep bank track and cycle in tight mini-pack. They also learnt how to start in the start gate and will hopefully continue to hone their new-found skills at Club level.



The Spirit of St Margaret's Kicks On

What started as an experiment has ended in premiership success for the St Margaret's Senior AFL team. The group, predominantly made up of Year 9 and 11 girls, began as shy Year 7's and 9's who had barely kicked a football when GSV first introduced the AFL competition.

They have spent the past three seasons honing their skills and, buoyed by some success along the way, have bonded and are now an incredibly cohesive team.

The girls are serious about enjoying their AFL and they make sure they get the most out of the experience. A typical home game out at Berwick involves firing up the BBQ by the pavilion, ramping up the music and bursting out of the change rooms to take on their opposition.

The crowd of parents, teachers and friends makes the atmosphere great each week and, if the girls happen to have a win, they are certainly not shy about chanting the school song loudly and proudly.

The 2012 Senior B Grand Final was a tough match in wet conditions against Lauriston. The game was played in great spirit with fantastic support from family and friends and we managed to get over the line by 21 points for our first premiership victory.

The girls were extremely excited and celebrated the win at their annual 'Best and Fairest' Awards night at which the St Margaret's 'Brownlow', 'Norm Smith', 'Coleman' 'Rising Star', 'Goal of the Year', 'Mark of the Year' and many other awards were presented. Our Best and Fairest this year was Year 9 student Libby Paynter, who was also voted Best on Ground in the Grand Final.

Many thanks to GSV for facilitating such an enjoyable competition.

David Bennett - Director of Weekly Sport, St Margaret's School



Diving Clinics

The Term Four Diving Clinics are offered to assist schools develop their Diving squads. Girls in Year 7-9 with little or no Diving experience are able to sign up for the four-week program held at MLC's Diving pool. This year the program was fully subscribed with 20 girls from five schools participating. By the end of the sessions the girls had gained sufficient skills to try out for their School Diving squad, to compete at the Term One GSV Diving Carnival in 2013.

Surf League

The GSV Surf League program continues to attract a very large number of participants, which is particularly encouraging given Life Saving Victoria has a continual challenge keeping teenagers engaged in the sport beyond the Nipper Program.

Almost 100 girls hit Sandridge beach on a perfect summer afternoon and honed their beach and open water skills. Most girls progressed to the Victorian Schools Surf League competition held later in the Term and represented their school in a year 7-12 team competition.

Fencing

The 2012 Fencing program filled quickly this year and while it was disappointing for the girls who missed out on a place, it was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for the sport, especially given its lower profile compared with other sports.

The girls who participated were drawn to the high level of strategy required by the sport as well as the fun of the duel.

This year the program was held at the State Fencing Centre in North Melbourne, giving the girls the opportunity to develop their skills in a state-of-the-art venue, hopefully enticing them to continue in the sport at Club level.



Year 7 Expo



The Year 7 Expos co-incide with The Victorian Government's Health and Physical Education Week. Over three days at the Monash University Sports Centre, almost 1,000 Year 7 girls from eleven GSV schools had a chance to try sports they may not have tried before, including Wheelchair Basketball, Beach Tennis, Taekwondo, Fencing and Lacrosse. Nearly twenty sport development organisations support these Expos which are, in equal parts, a celebration of the diversity of sport and the enthusiasm of our young teenagers to enjoy physical activity.



Basketball Tournament

The Senior Basketball Tournament is held over two days with a round robin day held late in Term Two and the zone winners from that day progressing to the Finals round early in Term Three.

MLC, OLMC, Ruyton and Siena finished Day One undefeated in their respective zones and looked forward to fighting it out in the Finals at MSAC.

Ruyton and Siena won both their first and second round matches, putting the title out of reach of MLC and OLMC. The Final match was to be the decider, with Ruyton and Siena going head-to-head. At the final siren it was the girls from Siena who emerged victorious, for the second year in a row.



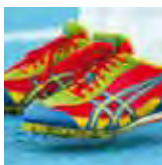
Golf Event

The GSV Golf Event was temporarily moved to Huntingdale Golf Club which gave the regular entrants a new challenge and refreshing change of scenery.

Twenty-eight current students and ten former students from nine different schools took part in the revamped, individual competition.

Congratulations to the eventual winners: Toorak College picked up two of the three trophies: Alex White won the category for students with a handicap and Stephanie Patchett-Walsh won the award for students without a handicap. The Former student trophy was presented to Korowa's alumnus Sue Baker.





Camberwell Girls Grammar School
 Fintona Girls School
 Firbank Grammar School
 Genazzano FCJ College
 Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School
 Korowa Anglican Girls' School
 Lauriston Girls' School
 Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak

Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School
 Melbourne Girls Grammar
 Mentone Girls' Grammar School
 Methodist Ladies' College
 Our Lady of Mercy College
 Presbyterian Ladies' College
 Ruyton Girls' School
 Sacré Cœur

St Catherine's School
 St Margaret's School
 Shelford Girls' Grammar
 Siena College
 Star of the Sea College
 Strathcona Baptist
 Girls Grammar School
 Toorak College

