

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE DEFENCE OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

PRESS RELEASE 488#

MLC SPAT :

BOARDROOMS OF PRIVILEGE

The sacking of Ms Storelli, the Principal of Methodist Ladies College Melbourne has lifted the lid off a long, deep wellspring of privilege. Public comment also reveals amazement and growing outrage at the public subsidisation of wealthy, elite schools such as MLC. A perusal of the MY SCHOOL website, the Schools Own Report, and newspaper reports reveals the following:

Facts and Figures:

- MLC had a total enrolment of 2123 students in 2010 a teaching staff of 279 and an annual recurrent income of \$49,646,771. In 2011 the total income was \$57,309,981
- Direct State aid in 2010 was \$6,683,291. In 2011 this was \$6,795,417. There is no record of taxation expenditures - exemptions - or total assets and investments.
- In 2010 there was an expenditure of \$8,182,593 on capital works, of which \$1,901,647 came from the Australian Government. In 2011 the 'surplus' invested in capital works was \$3,614,370. There is no record of taxation expenditures
- There were no indigenous students enrolled in 2010 and only 1% of children in the bottom quarter of the Index of community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)

Pay Packages:

- The Principal of MLC receives a salary of \$500,000 a year and has been overpaid \$716,905. This overpayment appears to relate to her '*salary packaging arrangement*' whereby she has debts paid directly out of a percentage of her salary and does not pay tax on that amount. This might explain the argument about her 'nanny' payments.
- Principals of public schools receive a maximum package of \$152,000. (*The Australian* September 26, 2012)
- Salary Packaging : Private school teachers can 'salary package' a high percentage of their pay and pay minimal tax. Public school teachers cannot do so.

Old Girls and Boardrooms of the Elite

The most interesting research however, is that done by **Crikey.com** concerning the members of boards of elite schools around the nation. It is a 'Who's Who' of the Australian 'Establishment'. It certainly makes one wonder about the myth of Australian egalitarianism. This country appears to be far ahead of many other countries in erecting barriers of class, caste and religion. Here is part of the Crikey.com analysis by Andrew Crook.

Revealed: the corporate clique ruling Australia's private schools

Andrew Crook, Crikey.com
Sep 25, 2012 12:48PM

Melbourne's MLC sacked its principal and exposed a blue-chip board of big corporate players. So who else at the top end of town is running private schools? *Crikey* goes digging.

Last week's high-profile axing of principal Rosa Storelli from Melbourne institution Methodist Ladies' College over the alleged non-repayment of salary perks got us thinking about the blue-chip corporates who helm the country's elite band of independent schools.

Sometimes behind the scenes, more often screaming for attention on school websites and LinkedIn pages, the nation's business leaders regard a private school sinecure as the ultimate networking opportunity, a chance to "give back", or to stay in touch with the kids they neglected to pursue their white collar careers.

The perfect boardie for many schools is an old boy or girl turned-CEO of a listed company, a current or former parent, with a few other directorships thrown in for good measure. More overtly churchy campuses usually include an archbishop such as Sydney gay lifespan expert Peter Jensen at the helm in a ceremonial role — but pulling the strings are a who's who of Australia's boardroom players. Many sit beside a high-powered "foundation" charged with raking in cash from benefactors, in addition to the millions gleaned each term in fees.

MLC's [jaw-dropping board](#) responsible for Storelli's sacking includes Melbourne University Press CEO Louise Adler, Australia Post CEO Ahmed Fahour, KPMG media gadfly Bernard Salt, Qantas, NAB and JB Were director (and current parent) Patricia Cross, former La Trobe deputy VC Belinda Probert and ex-Crazy John's CEO and Australia Post director Brendan Fleiter. The board was previously chaired by former Qantas chair Margaret Jackson.

Amusingly, Salt [denied](#) in this morning's *Herald Sun* that the group was too corporate, claiming it "comprises pretty much the kind of people you would find at any MLC function."

Let's kick off with some schools drawn from Mark Latham's 67-strong 2004 private school hit-list that, as *Inside Story*'s [Peter Browne discovered recently](#), was actually a bonus for Labor in the polls. And after seven long years, it's also time to update [Crikey's list](#) of famous old boys and girls from the nation's bastions of blazer-clad privilege, some of whom are listed below.

Send all additions, changes and corrections to boss@crikey.com.au and we'll keep the list updated

Victoria

- [Brighton Grammar](#): Guy Rundle and Warwick Capper went there but they're probably not feted by the dynamic board duo of PriceWaterhouseCoopers partners John Yeoman and Ian Paroissien and Corrs, Chambers Westgarth partner Peter Ickeringill.
- [Camberwell Grammar](#): chaired by Fair Work Australia deputy president Greg Smith
- [Carey Baptist Grammar School](#): heaving 11-strong board includes Carin Kloppers (Marius' wife), ex-Orica CEO Graeme Liebelt, triumphant Bruce Guthrie unfair dismissal barrister Norman O'Bryan SC and the Grattan Insititute's Ben Jensen
- [Caulfield Grammar School](#): chaired by super fund supremo and Grand Master Mason John Evans. Boardroom seat presumably kept warm for old boy Nick Cave but not killer Matthew Wales.
- [Fintona Girls School](#): finance committee convener is Victorian Funds Management Corporation client services tsar Malcolm Ashbolt
- [Firbank Grammar School](#): chaired by real estate identity Peter Trumble
- [Geelong College](#): board stacked full of G-town players including Michael Betts and hardware notable Barry Fagg
- [Geelong Grammar](#): Rupert Murdoch's alma mater chaired by high-powered investment banker and former Alan Stockdale CoS Jeremy Kirkwood.

- Directors include former ASIC deputy chair and super review specialist Jeremy Cooper, Tabcorp (and Leighton and ANZ and Lion) director Paula Dwyer and Rupert's nephew Paddy Handbury.
- [Haileybury College](#): chaired by former Allens Arthur Robinson managing partner Tom Poulton
 - [Ivanhoe Grammar School](#): Stephen Mayne and Harry Jenkins alma mater chaired by Pro Medicus director and former Patties, Danks Holdings Limited and Ernst & Young Corporate Finance managing partner Peter Kempen
 - [Kilvington Baptist Girls' Grammar School](#): health sector heavy board including psychiatry Professor Jayashri Kulkarni and Eastern Health director Stuart Alford
 - [Korowa Anglican Girls' School](#): council members include former Channel Nine and Herald & Weekly Times journo and CoS-turned beak Sally Gluyas
 - [Lauriston Girls' School](#): chaired by Ashurst partner (former BDW) Elspeth Arnold. Where's *Healthy, Wealth and Wise's* former roving ambassador and old girl Felicity Kennett?
 - [Melbourne Girls' Grammar](#): Mallesons' partner Michael Clough looks after governance while ex-beef industry figure and former AWB director Fred Grimwade chairs the finance committee
 - [Melbourne Grammar School](#): chaired by former Monash Uni VC Peter Larkins with Jim Cousins AO also on the board.
 - [Mentone Girls' Grammar](#): former La Trobe Uni chancellor Sylvia Walton (current St Catherine's principal) and multicultural guru Hass Dellal OAM
 - [Mentone Grammar](#): chaired by pharma identity Simon Appel OAM. Needs to get old boy Shane Warne back.
 - [Methodist Ladies' College](#): hallowed Hawthorn power-nexus starring Louise Adler, Ahmed Fahour, Bernard Salt, Belinda Probert, Brendan Fleiter, PwC managing partner (and Melbourne Uni Student Union services arm chair) Tony Peake, Patrick Ng and Julie Landvogt. Board was previously chaired by former Qantas chair Margaret Jackson.
 - [Peninsula School](#): led by foundation chair and company director around town Ron Zammit
 - [Presbyterian Ladies' College \(PLC\)](#): property and planning sub-committee chaired by Supreme Court justice and VCAT president Greg Garde QC
 - [Ruyton Girls' School](#): high-powered fund manager general counsel Kathryn Watt nicely complemented by former *Crikey* editor turned smooth-talking ABC Radio National host Jonathan Green. Need to get old girl Michelle Grattan on when she leaves Capital Hill.
 - [Scotch College](#): uber-director David Crawford (BHP Billiton, Lend Lease, ex-Foster's, Westpac and National Foods) headed up a coterie of blue-chippers before his resignation earlier this month. Luckily, former federal Liberal minister and state Liberal president David Kemp was on hand to step up. BoA Merrill Lynch local chieftain Craig Drummond, PwC partner Michael Happell and Bell Potter stock picker Michael Sim round out the clique, which is relentlessly promoted on the school's website.
 - [St Catherine's School](#): Toorak accent-warp specialists boast Ashurst partner and Qantas foundation chair John Field as deputy chair and capital markets gatekeeper Allan Holmes as treasurer
 - [St Michael's Grammar School](#): Your Rights at Work mastermind and Asher's uncle Richard Keddie (*Little Fish*) toils alongside Federal Court Judge Michelle Gordon and ANZ global finance go-to man Paul Orton
 - [Trinity Grammar School](#): chair is Garry Ringwood, ex-RMIT deputy chancellor and former Amcor board member; no sign yet of balaclava-wearing AMWU run-through specialist Craig Johnston (who also went to Carey).
 - [Wesley College](#): stable operation with chair Peter Harrison serving for 20 years. The only private school to protest at S11 also boasts PwC partner and board member Peter Le Huray and Linfox executive Andrew Nicholls.
 - [Xavier College](#): board features priests, 3AW general manager Shane Healey and serial director and ex-Foster's Asia MD Jim King. Beer connection confirmed with former Foster's CFO Tony Reeves also saddling up. Some of the sponsor's product was no doubt central to some of [these well-documented incidents](#).

New South Wales

- [Ascham School](#): chaired by Macquarie, Bluescope and (former) Woolworths director Diane Grady; treasurer is Morgan Stanley CEO Steven Harker and Goldman Sachs investment banking co-chair Tim Burroughs is also going strong
- [Cranbrook School](#): eastern suburbs power factory chaired by corporate director extraordinaire and Bradley Review co-author Helen Nugent (Macquarie, Origin Energy and Freehills), multi-millionaire vice chair Roger Massy-Greene (Eureka Capital Partners chair) and former News Limited cadet Sarita England. The education committee is chaired by Sydney Uni VC Michael Spence.
- [Frensham School](#): board chaired by Qantas HR supremo Gabrielle Curtin
- [Kambala](#): Annoyingly fails to list its 14-member school council on its website. Was previously chaired by former federal Liberal Party president Chris McDiven.
- [Knox Grammar School](#): blue-chip council heaving with A-list talent including ABC kingpin and old boy Mark Scott, KPMG CEO Geoff Wilson, Metcash, Tower and Selmatt director Fiona Balfour, ex-Rural Press director and Fairfax family right hand man Peter Roach, Merrill Lynch MD Richard Alcock and the St James Ethics Centre's Simon Longstaff
- [MLC School](#): chaired by finance industry tsar and old girl Pauline Johnston
- [Newington College](#): board stacked full of old boys including land and environment judge Robert Talbot and crime Magistrate Greg Grogin. When's ABC old boy Tony Jones hopping on?
- [Pittwater House](#): chaired by leading NSW beak Todd Alexis
- [Presbyterian Ladies' College](#): medical focus including Sydney Uni Bosch Professor Warwick Britton and prominent doctor David Lim
- [Pymble Ladies' College](#): chaired by REIT industry figure and Trafalgar CEO Braith Williams
- [Ravenswood School for Girls](#): chaired by former Minters CEO Guy Templeton
- [St Ignatius College, Riverview](#): star-studded board including PR queen and multiple-government boardie Gabrielle

Trainer and St Vincent's health director Paul Robertson

- [SCEGGS Darlinghurst](#): former ABC 702 host turned Coke spinner Sally Loane, *Good News Week* talking head (and old girl) Julie McCrossin and Australia Post/BlueScope Steel director Penny Bingham-Hall all there
- [Redlands](#): AMP general counsel Brian Salter is a director
- [Shore](#): board of trustees chaired by collar-bomb hoax victim dad and IT honcho Bill Pulver
- [Sydney Grammar School](#): trustees chaired by former Fairfax CEO (now *Trade Me* chair) David Kirk and included Federal Court judge Arthur Emmett and QC Mark Tedeschi
- [The King's School](#): run by church worthies
- [The Scots College](#): chaired by TressCox Lawyers partner Philip Mitchell
- [Tudor House](#): supported by ex-school captain and cricketer James Packer; overseen by the King's board
- [Wenona School](#): deputy chair is Family Court judge Ann Ainslie-Wallace

Australian Capital Territory

- [Canberra Grammar](#): chaired by senior John Howard cabinet office operative and Westpac lobbyist Mark Baker with veteran former Mallesons' partner Ian Johnson as vice.
- [Canberra Church of England Girls' Grammar School](#): chaired by former APS assistant secretary Robyn McKay. McKay was on the independent panel advising the Productivity Commission on its study into the feasibility of a disability insurance scheme.

For schools in the other states see [crikey.com](#)

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