



loretonormanhurst

History of Loreto Normanhurst Ex-students' Association

The Loreto Normanhurst Ex-students' Association was established in 1912 and continues to maintain close links with the School, the Loreto sisters and ex-students. Some of the earliest committee members were originally students from Randwick prior to the move to Normanhurst in 1897. Until day students were enrolled in the 1950s and a Parent Association was formed, the Ex-students' Association organised fund-raising for the school and sisters. They also began a Sewing Circle in 1929 – a group that met monthly to make clothes for children at various Sydney orphanages until 1970.

A number of changes were introduced in 1961. A regular newsletter was written, a Constitution was adopted and the Life Membership Trust Fund created. The newsletter continued until 1999 after which ex-student news items were fully incorporated within Loreto Life publications.

A long-standing commitment of the Association has been the provision of at least one Bursary for the daughter of an ex-student who would otherwise be unable to continue her education at Loreto Normanhurst due to financial difficulties.

In 1955, the first Loreto Federation conference was held at Loreto Mandeville Hall in Melbourne. This initiative, suggested by Mother Gonzaga Barry and realised by Toorak ex-student, Moira Dynon, brings together ex-students from all Australian Loreto schools for a weekend of formal talks, group discussions, liturgical and social gatherings. Federation conferences have continued each two or three years and rotate around the Australian Loreto schools.