

# Mollie Sandner



*March 3rd 1904 - January 11th 1993*

1944 Bendigo High School  
1945 Bendigo High School  
    1946 Girton College  
    1947 St Mary's College  
1948 Bendigo High School  
    1949 No Result  
    1950 Girton C.E.G.G.S  
    1951 Girton C.E.G.G.S  
1952 Bendigo Girls School  
1953 Bendigo Girls School  
1954 Bendigo High School  
1955 Bendigo High School  
1956 Bendigo Girls School  
1957 Bendigo Girls School  
    1958 St. Mary's College  
    1959 St. Mary's College  
1960 Bendigo High School  
1961 Bendigo High School  
1962 Bendigo Girls School  
    1963 Girton C.E.G.G.S  
    1964 St. Mary's College  
1965-70 St Mary's College  
1971 Bendigo Girls School  
1972-1978 St. Mary's College  
    1979 East Loddon  
    1980 East Loddon  
    1981 St. Mary's College  
1983 Flora Hill High School  
    1984 Catholic College  
1985-1991 Flora Hill High School  
    1992 Catholic College

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ifty years ago, 1944 Mollie & Dr. Eugene Sandner had daughters that found it difficult to compete in girls organised sport.

The problem was raised with an old lecturer of the Dr's by the name of George Mills, who discussed with the family the possibility of beginning an inter school competition. The concept was discussed further and Mollie, being a lover of tennis, because of its versatility and the possibility of playing far into life, decided to provide a trophy.

Would the schools agree? It was felt that some concrete suggestion should be put to the secondary schools and that 16 would be a good age group to start with. The Principals of the then St. Mary's College, Bendigo Girls School and Bendigo High Schools were approached - all agreed and the Mollie Sandner Cup was initiated in 1944.

Mollie was a kind person, generous with her love of people the company of the young in particular. After finishing her nursing career in Melbourne at Fairfield and the Womens' Hospital, where she gained 5 nursing certificates, she met Dr. Sandner, married and had 4 children 2 boys and 2 girls.

In an interesting conversation with the Dr. he communicated that neither he nor Mollie ever imagined that the Cup would become so popular and to play for your school over the years held great tradition and honour for the girls concerned.

The memories of Mollies' afternoon teas that were held in the old Favalora's cafe were something to cherish, lovely cream cakes,

spiders (unheard of today) sandwiches and other tasty treats, the atmosphere there was quite splendid amongst the mirrors, marble counters and soda fountains.

Mollies' last years were not the best, she was plagued with 7 minor strokes which disabled her quite a lot, but she never lost the love for her family or her fellow man.

After her death, Mollie was recognised posthumously by the Sportswomens' Association of Bendigo for her contribution to womens' sport.

The Doctor remembers fondly the trip they made together to England back to Cumberland where Mollie was born, the family treated them with some suspicion, coming all the way from Australia, but as recognition came their way he soon found that she was related to the whole town. This seemed to be somewhat humorous to Dr. Sandner.

The Schools in question have supplied me with their best information and interestingly there seems to have been Schools that came into the competition, School of Mines in approximately 1955, and East Loddon in the 1975s, the School of Mines did not compete after 1959, due to the unavailability of under 16 year olds but East Loddon still remains.

Bendigo Girls School became Flora Hill High in 1958, and St Mary's College became known as Catholic College around 1983.

From the photos available, many of the competitors became well known in the Bendigo area, which confirms the fact that sport encourages personality and has a great effect on the future attitude of competitors to their life.

# Bendigo High School



1944 - Bendigo High School

Back Row: Valda Lance, Valma Hoden, Joan Chambers, Margaret Mann

Seated: Audrey Clemens, June Ray (Capt.), Joan Duncan (Lorraine Deed was also a member of the team).



1945 - Bendigo High School

Margaret Mann, Catherine Fulton, Gwen Speedy, Joan Duncan (Capt.) Hazel Smith, Audrey Clemens, Marie Hyden, Inez Somerville

I was fortunate enough to acquire the Bendigo High School "Old Gold" magazines for 1944-45, very kindly on loan from Cr. Lola Miller. Below is the report on the very first winning side.

## 1944 B.H.S.

For the first time, the schools of Bendigo have enjoyed inter-school tennis in competition for the Sandner Cup, a very fine trophy given by Dr. and Mrs. E. Sandner for the encouragement of school girl tennis in Bendigo. The B.H.S. team was victorious, and the team almost had a fight to see who would convey the splendid cup to Mr. Smith.

Eventually, the Captain, June Ray, undertook the "weighty" task, with the rest of the team-Lorraine Deed, Valda Lance, Joan Duncan, Valmai Holden, Joan Chambers and substitutes Audrey Clemens and Margaret Mann forming a colourful, smiling background.

Joan Duncan was unfortunate in suffering a "slight" swelling of the lower portion of the face (an affliction given the vague title of "mumps") but she was with us for the final against Girton.

We all wish to thank Miss Stiles and the other members of the staff who gave of their time to play with us.

'All our tennis stars are not found in the under sixteen category, and the school team-Muriel Balding (captain), Marie Moran, June Ray, Sheila Rafferty, Ruth Honeychurch, Lorraine Deed, Joyce Scarborough and Gwen Cracknell - decided to challenge Girton. This match proved very enjoyable, although we were not the victors. According to one bright person "...we went down like the Jap Navy", but we were not discouraged, and hope to play again before the end of the year.'

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Remember this is an excerpt from the magazine, and just after the end of the war.

I found myself wrapped up in the archives of many different places and it never ceases to amaze me the information people keep in their cupboards. In the process I managed to find Audrey Court (nee Clemens), Audrey played in the first Mollie Sandner Cup for Bendigo High School in 1944, and won, photo included.

# Bendigo Girls School



1955 - Bendigo Girls School  
 Back Row: Gwen Hopper, Yvonne Collier, Dawn Beckwith, Diane Griffiths  
 Front Row: Kaye Excell, Grace Hamilton, Val Richards.



1957 - Bendigo Girls School  
 Left to Right: Barbara Banfield, Jenny Phillips, Helen Comber,  
 Jeanette Bower, Sue Redfearn, Beryl Clemens



Left  
 1956 - Bendigo Girls School  
 Back Row: Sandra Lund, Jenny Phillips,  
 Barbara Banfield.  
 Front Row: Pat Lane, Rhonda Browning, Kay  
 Excell, Beryl Clemens,  
 Yvonne Thornton.

Right:  
 1958 - Bendigo Girls School  
 Back Row: Elaine Pitson, Beverley Vickers,  
 Lorraine Strauch, Pat Leversha  
 Front Row: Rhonda Thomas, Jenny Laird,  
 Joyce Richards, Helen Dennis.



1956 - Bendigo High School  
 Left:  
 Back Row: K. White, L. McInnes, J. Messer,  
 D. Runnalls, J. Michell.  
 Front Row: J. Wyatt, P. Steen (C), D. McKinnon.

# Bendigo High School



# Catholic College

Time has been the greatest enemy in the production of this booklet, as many of you will appreciate it is a voluntary exercise and relying on people for contribution has been difficult, to those of you who have loaned copies of precious school magazines, photos etc and the secondary schools, my grateful thanks.

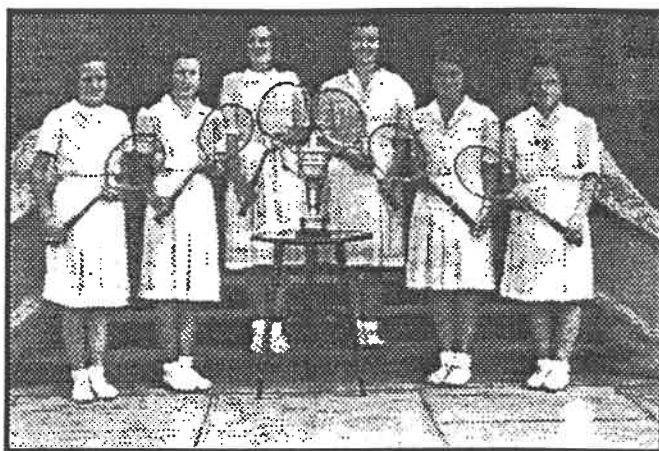
It remains a mystery and one of you may remember why the Mollie Sandner Cup was not competed for in 1949? The cup was engraved "Bendigo High School" then struck off. It is hoped that this was not a controversial result but someone may know.

As one privileged to win the Cup in 1957, and to those of you who played over the years, if your memories are as good as mine and you have appreciated the Mollie Sandner Cup for what it stands for, then you will bear with me a little for my misty approach to this booklet. As with all great traditions, and as time passes by, our thoughts reflect to the good times. Sadly the little white haired lady that stood on the hill watching as her cup was competed for is no longer, but the family will see that the tradition continues.

I take the opportunity of welcoming you to the 50th anniversary and hail fellows that made it on this the 8th October 1993 for afternoon tea at the Nolen Street complex of the Bendigo Tennis Association.



1959 - St. Mary's College  
Helen Higgins, Kathie Burke, Anne Mallon, Bev. Giddings,  
Margaret Donegan, Judy Davey, Kathie Priestly, Carmel Rushford



1947 St. Mary's College.  
Two known names of team, Mary Doolan & Joan Livingston



1975 - St. Mary's College  
Back Row: Rae Blandthorn, Lyn Watson, Dianne Storer,  
Sue Lenaghan,  
Front Row: Janine Stevenson, Anne Chalkley,  
Margaret Singe, Mr. Mumford (Coach)



1982 - St. Mary's College  
Back Row: Narelle Smith, Marita Ham, Leanne O'Sullivan,  
Judy Long,  
Front Row: Leanne O'Brien, Kathy Fint,  
Bernadette Thomas.



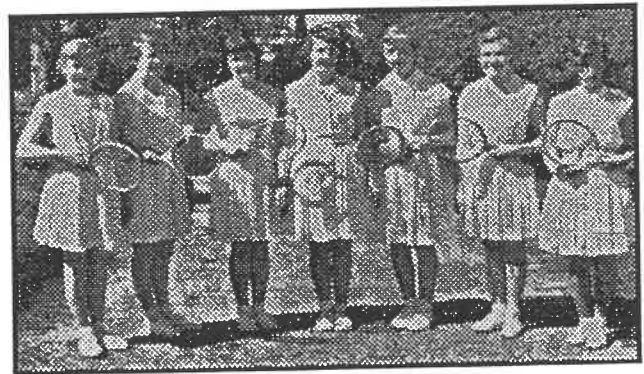
Left  
 1968 - Catholic College  
 Back Row: Joy Garratt, Brenda Southby, Lindy Pinder,  
 Paula Rainbow, Anne Keating, Gillian Ryan  
 Front Row: Mary McNamee, Margaret O'Connor



Above - 1964 - Catholic College  
 Back Row: Pat Palmer, Veronica Liles, Loretta Scally, Pauline Prowse,  
 Joan Cossar, Gale Hibbard  
 Front Row: Ann Truscott, Joan Houlahan (School Captain) Kathy Searle



Above - 1976 - Catholic College  
 Back Row: S. Leneghan, S. Flynn, J. Cannon, M. Singe  
 Front Row: M. McKinley, J. Stevenson, L. Watson, M. Nevins



Above  
 1957 - 1958 - Catholic College  
 Elaine Gallagher, Thurlene Palmer, Mary Higgins, Kath Comer,  
 Marie Crawford, Anne Cossar, Barbara Biggs

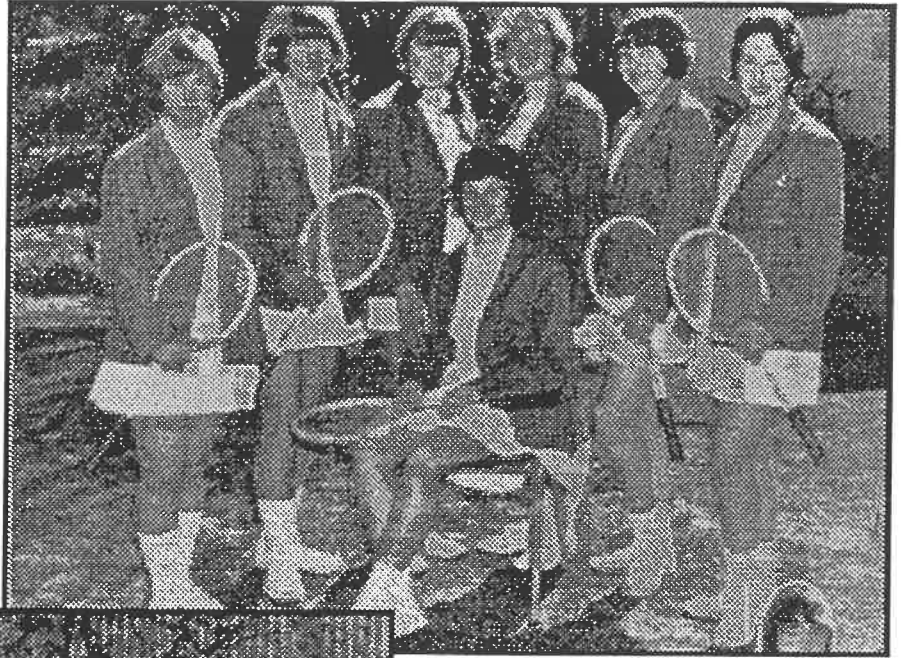
# Girton Grammar

Right

Girton Grammar - 1966

Back Row: A. Pratt, A. Nicholson, E. Hewlett,  
J. Fimmel, G. Price, J.J. Porter,

Seated: G. O'Brien



Left

Girton Grammar - 1971

Back Row: K. Moulden, J. Marwood,  
R. Pascoe, J. Galloway, J. Pattinson,  
Front Row: F. Larcombe, S. Porter.

Right

Girton Grammar - 1946

Back Row: Doreen Lyons, Janet Jackson,  
Annette Hampton

Front Row: Pat Borneman, Mavis Chapman (C.)  
Ada Ratcliffe, Estelle Peace.





## MOLLIE SANDNER CUP

In 1944 there was no inter school sport in Bendigo for girls.

Mollie Sandner a lover of tennis because of its versatility and the possibility of playing it in future years, decided to provide a trophy.

The Principals of the then St Mary's College, Bendigo Girls School, Bendigo High School and Girton were approached with this idea. They all agreed so the Mollie Sandner Cup was commenced in 1944.

Mollie was a kind person, generous with her love of people and the company of young people. After finishing her nursing career in Melbourne at Fairfield and the Women's Hospital, where Mollie gained five nursing certificates, she met Dr Eugene Sandner, married and had four children, two boys and two girls.

Neither Eugene or Mollie ever imagined that the Cup would become so popular. To play for your School held great tradition and honour for the participants.

Originally games were played each Wednesday afternoon during term two. The presentation of the Cup was held in the old Favalor's café. The memories of these afternoon teas were something to cherish, lovely cream cakes, spides, (unheard of today) and other tasty treats in the atmosphere of Favalor's mirrors, marble counters and soda fountain.

After Mollie's death, Mollie was recognised posthumously by the Sportswomen's Association of Bendigo for her contribution to woman's sport.

Over the years there have been players who have never played tennis before becoming a member of a team for the Mollie Sandner Cup. Mollie was pleased with the knowledge that her Cup had encouraged people to take up tennis as a sport.

The Mollie Sandner Cup has been contested each year since 1944.