



# MENTONE GRAMMAR

# HOUSES

The House system was developed to promote team spirit and a sense of belonging... and of course includes a healthy dose of House rivalry!

Today the Mentone House competition includes sport, music, drama, chess, public speaking and debating, and beyond that serves an important role in mentoring and pastoral care.



## ANDERSON (EST. 1923)

Anderson House is one of Mentone Grammar's original two Houses and named after J Allan Anderson, a solicitor, parent, and foundation President of the School Council in 1923. Alex Hillhouse, Head Prefect in 1923 and future Australian medal-winning athlete was appointed as the first House Captain.



## JONES (EST. 1923)

Jones House acknowledges Thomas Francis 'Frank' Jones, former joint Trustee of the first Mentone Grammar School (1920 to 1922) and prominent supporter of J Allan Anderson's plan for a new community-supported grammar school that opened in 1923, becoming the Mentone Grammar of today. Jones funded the purchase of Frogmore House and provided an unsecured loan to keep the School afloat in the early 1930s during the Great Depression, undoubtedly securing its long-term survival.



## WERE (EST. 1949)

Were House was founded to recognise Francis Wellington Were, who died in 1946. Francis was the son of JB Were – founder of the iconic stockbroking firm bearing his name. Francis supported his daughter Jessie and her husband Charles Campbell 'CC' Thorold – the School's new Headmaster – to purchase Mentone Grammar in 1933, once again saving the School and creating a new era of private ownership by the Thorold family until 1957.



## FINLAY ANDERSON (EST. 1983)

Finlay Anderson House recognises one of the longest associations enjoyed by any family associated with the School. Finlay, son of J Allen Anderson, attended Mentone Grammar from 1923 to 1927 and followed in his father's footsteps to become a solicitor. He became Chairman of the reimagined School Board of Management in 1957, providing outstanding service for 25 years, retiring in 1982.



## WHITE (EST. 1983)

White House recognises CWM 'Mick' White who was a legendary member of the Board of Management from 1974 to 1997, including 15 years as Board Chair from 1982. Together with his wife Beryl, Mick also convened the School's annual Fete in the days when the School ran one of the biggest Fetes in town! In addition, their four sons Terry, Keith, Brian and Michael all became proud Mentonians.



## LIONEL LARGE (EST. 1990)

Lionel Large House recognises this former long-serving Headmaster from 1945 to 1961. Lionel retired with the gratitude of the whole School community in recognition of his incredible impact on the recruitment of well qualified staff, high academic standards, and sporting results, all of which contributed to the significant growth in student numbers. Lionel Large House was formed in late 1990, sadly Lionel passed away just before the inauguration of the House named in his honour.



## DEIGHTON (EST. 1990)

Deighton House recognises two Mentonians, brothers Derek and John Deighton. Derek was Head Prefect in 1948 and won a cadetship to the Royal Military College, Duntroon. John later graduated from the Officer Cadet School at Portsea. Their distinguished army careers included every Australian campaign since World War II. Major General Derek Deighton AO MBE joined the School Board in 1987, but his untimely death in 1991 cost the School the benefit of his extensive experience. Brigadier John Deighton AM MC served in Vietnam and in 1988 became the State Secretary of the RSL.



## DRINAN (EST. 1957 AS SCHOOL HOUSE)

Drinan House, formerly School House (1957 to 2000), was founded during the leadership of John Jeffrey 'J J' Thorold and was named 'School House' in memory of his father. It was renamed in 2000 to recognise the contribution of Deputy Headmaster and Mentonian, Anthony John 'Tony' Drinan (Class of 1968) who died prematurely in May of that year. Tony served the School in many capacities for 26 years and during that time achieved excellence as a teacher, a coach, and a role model.



## JOHNSTON (EST. 2023)

Johnston House was established as part of the School's Centenary celebrations. It acknowledges the outstanding contribution of Bessie Johnston, Mentone Grammar's first-ever full-time female member of staff and Acting Headmistress. Bessie was an exceptional languages teacher, became head of the School's first ever 'nursery' and led the School at a very challenging time in its history, a time when it may well not have survived.



## CLARK (EST. 2023)

Clark House was established as part of the School's Centenary celebrations in 2023 and to recognise the impact of decorated Vietnam veteran, Neville Clark, who was Headmaster for 15 years from 1988 to 2003. Neville's impeccable leadership is characterised by the honour, integrity and strength of the many Mentonians he nurtured. His thoughtful building of the arts and cultural opportunities, alongside sport, became an enriching legacy, together with a reimagined House system with the strong focus on pastoral care and mentoring that remains a pillar of the House system today.