

St Margaret's Old Girls' Association

Newsletter No. 2
September 2012



From the President... *Libby Black*

Dear Members

Welcome to the second edition of the OGA newsletter this year and so far it has been a busy and exciting time for the St Margaret's Old Girls' Association. Our AGM was held in May at which the 2012 Executive and Committee were elected and some OGA Constitution changes were made. The OGA as part of the school community is committed to working for the benefit of past and present students and regular meetings with the school's key stakeholders is providing the opportunity for the OGA to represent past students of St Margaret's.

Old Girls' Day and the reunion weekend in July also provided opportunities to meet again with school friends and visit the School. The wonderful Eunice Science and Resource Centre is opened and the OGA has contributed with a donation to this exciting new facility. The OGA this year has also introduced a new initiative of offering Overseas Study Scholarships for old girls. More details of the scholarships and the successful applicants follow in this newsletter, so please do read on to find out how some of our old girls are pursuing their careers.

We also hope that many Old Girls will join us at our popular **Annual Brunch on Sunday 14 October from 9am to 12 noon** at the Pavilion, Breakfast Creek where guest speaker will be Caitlin McConnel (2003-2007) – recently returned from participating in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Flotilla Pageant on the Thames. Further details and the payment form are included in this newsletter or as attachment on email. We look forward to seeing you then.

Annual General Meeting—May 2012

The OGA Annual General meeting was held on 1 May 2012. At this meeting, the following old girls and positions were elected for 2012.

President: Libby Black
Vice President: Deborah Love
Secretary: Janice Moody
Treasurer: Stefani Russo

Committee Members: Alison Black, Jan Chayter, Georgina Elliott, Denice Foley, Jacky Garnsworthy, Anne Muggleton, Nina Psaltis, Jillian Scott, Dipti Shankar, Julie Tapsall, Sally Thomson, Sue Vivian.

The Patron of the OGA is Mother Eunice and the Vice Patron is Ros Curtis, the School Principal.

The OGA would also especially like to thank Jacky Garnsworthy for her outstanding contribution to the OGA over the past 5 years in the role of President and Julie Tapsall for her dedication to the role of Vice President over many years. We

are very pleased that both Jacky and Julie will be continuing on as committee members. Our thanks also go to former OGA Executive member, Kim Odolphi (nee Small) for her contribution in the role of Secretary and wish her well in her new job and location with her husband in Sydney. The OGA has benefited very significantly from the commitment made by these three OGA Executive members.

The new OGA Committee looks forward to representing old girls and working with the school community to provide networking, support and advocacy opportunities for past and present students.



OGA Constitution changes at the AGM

At the OGA AGM this year, a few changes to the Constitution were made. The most significant of these relevant to OGA members is that the OGA Annual General Meeting is to be held later in the year by December. Members will be notified in the first OGA newsletter next year of the AGM date for 2013.

St Margaret's Day and Reunion Weekend

The OGA was represented at St Margaret's Day at the School on 20 July with the President attending the St Margaret's Day service and the St Margaret's Run after lunch. The school spirit was abundant with girls and staff having an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on what it means to be part of the School community. The same sense of pride and reflection continues during the St Margaret's reunion weekend which followed on 21 and 22 July. A total of 7 year groups attended reunions over the weekend – from the Senior years of 1952, 1959, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992 and 2002.

Old Girls' Day was held on Sunday 22 July and attended by approximately 90 old girls – many of whom had attended their reunion functions on the week end. The OGA would like to thank Reverend Nicki Colledge for conducting the Chapel service and to old girl Rev Lee Gauld (Prentice 1966) for assisting. It is also very special for the OGA to have the ongoing presence and support of Mother Eunice and the Sisters on Old Girls' Day. Our thanks also to the School

Principal, Ros Curtis for assisting in the Chapel service and for providing an informative update on school activities and achievements, to old girl Louise Baldwin for playing the organ at the chapel service and to the school Archivist and old girl Bronwyn Perry for providing outstanding historical photographic displays and guiding past students on tours of



Bev Fox, Sheila Box, Prue Galley & Ros Curtis

the school. Thank you also to Beverley Fox for her splendid organisation of the school reunions. Morning tea which was held in the Arts Centre Foyer provided an ideal

opportunity for lots of catching up, meeting other old girls and taking photos.

Inaugural Overseas Reunion this year will be held in London, UK—Saturday 29 September



Jenny Ford, Louise Fitzsimmons, Hannah Murphy

OGA Donations

OGA Donations to the Eunice

Science and Resource Centre. In February this year, the opening and dedication of the Eunice Science and Resource Centre provided a wonderful opportunity for Old Girls to view this new building with its very well equipped science laboratories and resource facilities for learning. The OGA donated \$40,000 to the Capital Campaign for this new facility and with this donation, the OGA were pleased to be able to provide the Reception Desk at the main entrance and electronic whiteboards.

A Wall of Thanks which includes glass tiles of scientific specimens is located at the main entrance and recognizes all donors to the Capital Campaign. The tile acknowledging the



Libby Black, President and Kim Odolfi (nee Small) former OGA Secretary at the Reception Desk donated by the OGA at the Eunice Science and Resource Centre.

OGA has a blue star fish on it. Do visit the Eunice Science Centre when you are next at the school – it is an outstanding facility for the school.

OGA Overseas Study Scholarships

This year, the OGA introduced funding for Old Girls to apply for Scholarships for Overseas Study. The Scholarship provides funds for both Postgraduate and Undergraduate study for periods of 6 or 12 months in an overseas location. There was significant interest in this new initiative and a considerable number of applications were received indicating a range of career choices, universities and countries in which to study.

The following 5 old girls were awarded scholarships to study between July 2012 and June 2013. The OGA wishes them every success in their studies and looks forward to hearing about their future career progression:

◆ Kirsten Allen (2000-2004)

Post Graduate Study - Masters of Adapted Physical Activity, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. 2 years fulltime

◆ Alison Black (2001-2007)

Post Graduate Study - Masters of Law, Washington University, St Louis, Missouri, USA. 1 year fulltime

◆ Claire Doyle (1995-1999)

Post Graduate Study - Certification in Canine Rehabilitation Program (Veterinary Science), University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. 1 semester fulltime

◆ Kate Edwards (2004-2009)

Undergraduate Study Exchange in Bachelor Business/Law, QUT at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. 1 semester fulltime.

◆ Sophie Finlay (2005-2009)

Undergraduate Study Exchange in Bachelor of Mass Communications QUT at University of Leeds, Leeds UK. 1 semester fulltime.

Applications will open in December this year for Scholarships commencing from July 2013 to June 2014. Applications forms will be available from the school, on the School and OGA websites and sent to old girls by email. For further enquiries, please contact the President OGA, Libby Black at libbyblack@iinet.net.au

Sport at St Margaret's - Helen Lobegeiger

The Sports Department proudly celebrated the selection of four St Margaret's Old Girls' in the 2012 Australian Olympic team in the sports of Swimming, Triathlon and Rowing. All girls recorded exceptional results and at one stage had St Margaret's sitting in 8th position in the overall medal tally, clearly demonstrating that our girls are amongst the best athletes in the world. Congratulations to our Old Girls and Olympians:

Brittany Elmslie, Swimming (2011) – Won a Gold medal in the 4x100m Freestyle Relay, a Silver medal in the 4x200m Freestyle and 4x100m Medley Relay.

Bronte Barratt, Swimming (2006) – Won a Silver medal in the 4x200m Freestyle and an individual Bronze medal in the 200m Freestyle.

Emma Jackson, Triathlon (2009) – Finished in 8th position.

Sally Kehoe, Rowing (2003) – Finalist in the Women's Eight.

Closer to home, we experienced more success within the QGSSA competitions. The Secondary Cross Country team again secured the Percentage Cup at the QGSSA Championships for the 11th year in a row. Another outstanding achievement was the success of the St Margaret's Rowing team at the BRSA Head of the River. The team secured the Percentage Cup, placed second overall and were victorious in the First VIII race.

At the heart of all this success is the expertise and passion of all staff, parents and students involved in the sporting programs and it is this that makes St Margaret's Sport the best!

Congratulations to our four Old Girl Olympians



St Margaret's was proud to have four past students fly the Australian flag as world-class athletes at this year's London Olympic Games.

- **Brittany Elmslie**, Swimming - Gold 4x100m Freestyle Relay and Silver 4x200m Freestyle Relay and 4x100m Medley Relay
- **Bronte Barratt**, Swimming - Silver 4x200m Freestyle Relay and Bronze 200m Freestyle
- **Emma Jackson**, Triathlon - Top eight finish
- **Sally Kehoe**, Rowing - finalist in the Women's Eight

Career Profile... Natalie Wright

Interior Designer and Lecturer in Interior Design at QUT

Natalie attended St Margaret's from 1982-1986 and during her time there was a Prefect, Sub Editor of the Link, and participated in the Jean Trundle Drama Festival and volleyball teams.



What are some of your memories of being at St Margaret's and did it influence your chosen career?

I loved Art and Home Economics (as well as Maths!) when I was at school and have so many great memories that inspired my passions in life, my career choice and my current research.

One of these memories is designing and delivering the 1986 Year 12 'Final collections' Home Economics Fashion parade in Eton Hall in which our class modelled our home economics jacket creations and also other boutiques' clothing. I also modelled a 'Kandinsky' label collection I designed and produced as part of a unit I did in Art. I still have the dress and the event programme!

I had an inspirational art teacher, Mrs Elliott in Grade Eight who encouraged me to continue studying Art throughout school. In Grade 11 and 12, art teacher and graphic designer Mr Singleton, encouraged me to pursue a design career. He also attended my graduation exhibition at QUT. A Grade 11 work experience visit to an architectural practice convinced me to proceed with a career in commercial interior design.

How did you choose your career in design and lecturing at QUT?

As a child I was always creatively busy. Descending from a long line of teachers, my parents supported my study of design and now after 18 years working in commercial practice, I am a lecturer at QUT and also a Fellow and former National Director and State Co President of the Design Institute of Australia. Design has allowed me to work in Japan and the UK, and to travel as part of international conferences and student tours. It has allowed me to meet inspirational people from all over the world, work on amazing building projects and also more recently at QUT, work as a researcher, teacher, exhibition curator, author, workshop facilitator, and with secondary and tertiary design students. It is so rewarding seeing my students succeed in careers in interior design, now that there is a greater public understanding of their role and abilities.

What are you currently doing and enjoying with your career?

In June I was a finalist in the Queensland Smart Design Fellowship Award. Earlier this month I presented a paper about my PhD research entitled: 'Broadening Horizons: Modelling design led innovation across secondary education' at a Design Management Institute Conference in Boston. I hope to present at a Design Education conference in Oslo in May 2013.

I am currently collaborating with Kelvin Grove State College to try to initiate an Art and Design Futures School of Excellence program with QUT Creative Industries and writing a series of Young Designer Workshops for Queensland Academy of Creative Industries.

I am also working on an Arts Queensland funded research mapping study which will document design education activity in

Queensland and strategies to fund and drive further development in this market. At the end of the year I am looking forward to taking a group of interior design students to Shanghai and Beijing to work on a furniture design project with Tongji University in Shanghai.

St Margaret's 2012 Reunion Weekend – July 20, 21 and 22

Although the organisation of seven reunions, with several being held at the same time, is a challenge, it has proven to be a great recipe for success and is now an important entry in the school calendar. By timing these celebrations to coincide with the Old Girls' Association annual Chapel Service and Morning Tea on the Sunday, many ladies who travel distances to come to their reunions have the bonus opportunity to attend this special event.

Thank you to Ros Curtis for her enthusiastic support. Ros attended each of the 6 reunions at school, giving a snapshot of St Margaret's today and into the future, and to mix and mingle with everyone present. The three luncheons all timed to start at 12 noon were another challenge and I suspect that Ros, Bronwyn Perry and I presented a rather comical trio as we literally ran from venue to venue to meet and greet.

My very sincerest thanks also go to our band of Volunteers – Dawn Jones (Rees), Sheena Dyason, Judy Nicolson, Jan Moody, Suzette Purdy and Anne Muggleton for their generous time and assistance in the weeks leading up to the Reunion Weekend. To Bronwyn Perry, our Archivist, for her never-ending support, for the wonderful slide shows at each venue and the carefully chosen and displayed photos for everyone to enjoy – nothing would work as well as it does without Bronwyn's input. Additional thanks go to Libby Black, President of the OGA, Jan Moody, Secretary of the OGA and Volunteer and Bron Perry for being on hand at each luncheon to ensure everything was in order.

Eight of our boarding students also played their part in handing out (essential) nametags and joining Bronwyn and me as we took school tours before the luncheons. Thank you, girls.

Our hardworking catering team, lead by Don and Amanda Clarke of River City Catering, deserve accolades for not only their excellent preparation and presentation of food at the variety of functions, but for their absolutely superb service. They, along with Kathy Wone our Facilities Manager and her team, make my task so much easier by their professionalism and attention to detail.



Beverley Fox
Alumni Officer
Director - St Margaret's
Foundation
07 3862 0884



Travelling to London? Need accommodation?

I have a double room available on a short term basis in central London. Includes private bathroom, walking distance to St Pauls, British Museum, local restaurants/bars, as well as to numerous transport links. For more details please contact 'Old Girl' Lauren at muchacha_lj@yahoo.co.nz.

From the Sisters of the SSA



Sister Gillian writes:-

"For most of the year the Sisters have been packing up for their move from Community House. It was a big job because of the accumulation of 100 years. Since the 25 May we have been in our new home *Cairnmore* on the other side of the school in Petrie Street. We are beginning to feel settled although there is still a lot of sorting out to be done in Community House."

Our retreat program for this year has been suspended but we will be offering our usual Quiet Days in 2013.

Baptisms by Sister Gillian in the Sisters' Chapel:-

18 March 2012: Emerson Ronald Blanch, son of old girl Jacinta Blanch

25 March 2012: William Marco Angelini, son of Michael and Lucy Angelini – (nee Gibson)

Obituaries

At the Chapel Service on Old Girls Day, we remembered the following St Margaret's old girls who have recently died and gave thanks for their lives.

Mavis Moo (1943)	Margaret Binnie (1944)
Val Lancaster (1944)	Shirley Williams (1952)
Valerie Smart (1954)	Joan Ainsworth (1955)
Lisbeth Neil (1959)	Sue Clarke (1962)
Rhonda Ayres (1963)	Dianne Lange (1968)

One of our enthusiastic and very involved past mothers, **Joyce Ryerson** (mother of Sue Ryerson, 1962) has passed away at the wonderful age of 95 years and 11 months. Throughout Sue's time at school, Joyce (like so many of our past mothers), worked regularly for the school involving herself in a wide range of activities such as the school tuckshop, working on the annual Flower Show, making costumes for concerts etc.

It is timely to remember all those parents who like Joyce have worked, and continue to work, tirelessly for St Margaret's.

From the Archives Centre...

The Archive Centre was only established in 2005, with the generous assistance of the Old Girls' Association. Prior to then, 'archives' were a few boxes of records and photos unearthed from cupboards around the school and stored in a back room of the Library.

Much of the memorabilia documenting our history and traditions has been lost and collecting to fill in the gaps is a challenging and ongoing task. People often say 'But you've probably already got this...' and mostly the answer is 'No'. And even if we do, it doesn't hurt to have more.

We've been searching for examples of boarders' tea dresses for some time – Linda Worthington (Calcino 1972) arrived on Old Girls Day with two of the dresses, as well as two boarders' winter skirts. I was delighted to finally locate these, and hope that more will now come to light. There were a couple of different styles over the years and it would be good

to have examples of all of them. Also in the bag with Linda's uniforms was her mother's navy serge boarders' uniform from the 1940s! This was an unexpected and very welcome find. A huge thank you to both Linda and her mother, Beth Calcino (Harding), for preserving their uniforms.

Some things we've given up on ever finding – although photographs, badges and autograph books from the 1920s and 1930s sometimes appear, the hats and uniforms from that era have not survived.

Why do we need more than one example of an item and what do we do with all this 'stuff'?

The Archive Centre has a collection of memorabilia and uniforms permanently on display, but these need to be rotated every few months so they are not damaged by exposure to light and the environment. Students are particularly intrigued by the different sports tunics on display and can't imagine playing sport in such uniforms.

Temporary displays in other parts of the school always generate a lot of interest. To coincide with the QG Swimming competition this year, swimming memorabilia was displayed in the Eunice Library. Some of the items in this display included:

- Telstra Dolphins cap from the 2005 World Swimming Championships (Bronte Barratt 2006)
- Silver napkin ring – Prize for Senior Swimming Championship 1943 (Evelyn Heath 1945)
- Speedo swimsuit (Jenny Wright 1964)
- Swimming team t-shirt (Margaret Powell 1982)
- Swimming cap (Kate Sagar 2002)
- Sports bag (Sara Smith 1965)
- GPS swimming carnivals programs from the 1950s
- Original newspaper articles from the 1960s

Memorabilia and historical photographs are also used with classes to support their areas of study. Years 1 and 2 had the opportunity of looking at a middy (and a starched collar!) from 1951 and seeing how their uniform hasn't changed very much since then. They also visited Mooloolumburram and learned about the Petrie family.

A Year 11 Modern History class researching life in Australia in the 1930s spent time in the Archive Centre looking at photographs and copies of *The Link*. Because we have several copies of each issue, the students were able to browse through the magazines themselves and get a feel for the era. Written reminiscences and transcripts of interviews with students from the 1930s were of particular interest.

Year 7 used the theme of Women in War for their presentation at the school's Anzac Day Service this year. They investigated life at St Margaret's during World War 2 and the contribution to the war effort by past students as nurses and in the Air Force and Navy.

So yes, we do need more than one of each item and all the 'stuff' is very much appreciated.

Bronwyn Perry - School Archivist

(Tuesday – Thursday, during the school term)

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