



Chit Chat



RGGS Old Girls' Association - Rockhampton

February 2019

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Volume 19, Issue 1

Highlights at Girls Grammar - from the Principal

As I write this, I am sitting back at my desk with all of the bay windows open watching the rain fall. Rocky is looking very green but I fear the same cannot be said for the areas west of here!

I am heading out to Alpha in the morning to wave the RGGS flag at the ICPA (Isolated Children's Parents' Association) cricket day; so it will be an opportunity to see how our western families are doing.

Our year ended on a high in 2018 with the news that our Dux, Aimee Leane (pictured right) received a hard earned OP1. Aimee has been offered a place in a Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Honours) at the University of Queensland.

27% of our girls were awarded an OP1-5 and 100% an OP 1-19. This once again puts RGGS in the top performing schools in the state. It is exciting to see the breadth of univer-



sity pathways our girls have been offered – from International Business to Agriculture, Engineering, Nursing, Biomedical Science, Law and Arts. Our girls have some very interesting futures ahead of them.

As we farewell our graduating class of 2018, we also prepare to welcome new girls to the RGGS family in 2019.

As at the time of writing, 73 girls will begin their journey with us in 2019. This is the largest intake into the school since 2012.

This will create a class of ten Preps and includes 31 new Boarders. Nineteen new Year 7 students is also our largest intake since 2014.

There are obvious trends emerging with larger than expected intakes into Year 11 as people make the decision to complete their daughter's education at Girls Grammar, giving

her the best of opportunities and future pathways. It promises to be a great year.

I am especially pleased to welcome the following girls who are sisters, daughters, granddaughters, great grand daughters, cousins and nieces of Old Girls:

- Amelia Bahnisch
- Janai Bryan
- Chloe Cousens
- Jessica Chapman
- Harriett Farrell
- Sophie Fraser
- Elle Kirby
- Andie Lang
- Aliana Manderson
- Madelyn Martinez
- Beatrice Messa
- Kirsten Kulu
- Elizabeth Priem
- Lara Richardson
- Ava Schwarz
- Sissy Ward
- Lila Watson

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Special points of interest:

- An extraordinary family
- Special Service Badge Award
- 40 and 50 Year Reunions
- Fundraising Bredhauer Memorial
- Amazing Grammar Girls
- Historical Happenings
- RGGS OGA AGM and Dinner



Pictured above: Lacey-Jae O'Halloran (2006 alumni), guest speaker at the 2019 Speech Night, pictured with Lee Bartlem, current RGGS English teacher who taught Lacey-Jae when she was a student at RGGS.

An extraordinary family

The RGGGS community was deeply saddened by the death of two of their own, Olivia Harwood - a 2018 Grade 12 student, and her mother Beverley Harwood who both died as a result of a car accident near Oakey in October last year.

Olivia and her sisters, Sophie (2004-2016) and Molly (current student) all attended RGGGS from Primary.

A memorial service was held at the School on 1 November 2018 and was attended by several hundred people. Attendees were asked to wear yellow for Olivia and Beverley.

The following message of sympathy was received from Melinda Scash who knew the three girls and their family during her time as Principal of RGGGS:

An extraordinary family

The Harwood Family epitomises the golden heart of Girls Grammar. The charitable and enthusiastic involvement of this family was tireless and totally altruistic. The singular poise, courage and reliability of each of the three Harwood girls, and the steadfast participation of the Harwood family as a whole, enriched the Girls Grammar experience for us all.

The Harwood's bereavement is a collective loss. The RGGGS family, past and present, grieve with them for this unthinkable heartbreak and we all express our affection for every member of this special family.

With heartfelt love

Melinda Scash, Principal 2010-2015



Highlights at Girls Grammar (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

We were also very pleased to receive two building grants in 2018 – one for Boarding House air conditioning in Kollar house and one to refurbish the basketball court area to create a much more usable undercover sports area.

These grants of a combined half a million dollars represent 50% of the total cost of the projects, so further fundraising is imperative.

We hope to have the boarding house project ready for the second half of 2019. These projects will add value to our facilities and the programs we can offer the girls.

We are very much looking forward to starting the new year and to welcoming some new staff to our team.

Mr Gabrielle Nader will join us from Hills International

School Kooralbyn to teach Maths, Maree Canavan from Downlands College will teach Home Economics, Stephanie Steadman from Toolooa State High School in Business/Humanities, Hilary Fay from Rockhampton Grammar School in Year 5 and Veronica Miller-Waugh who will be looking after transitioning of new students.

We will also welcome back Jade Laedwig and Louise McSherry from maternity leave.

I will be taking some leave in Term 1 and Michelle Gouge will be the Acting Principal with Ryan Cheers Acting Deputy.

I know Michelle is looking forward to meeting more of you at the OGA meetings.

I hope the season continues to be good to you all.

**Christine Hills
Principal RGGGS**

Special Service Award - Dot Skewes

At the Brisbane Christmas Lunch, a very special lady was presented with the OGA's Special Service Award. Dot Skewes (Chapman) was a student at RGGGS 1944-1945. Pictured right is Dot being presented with her award by Marilyn Watts. Dot's citation reads as follows:

- **Resident Historian:** Dot has provided invaluable service to the Association with her work on maintaining the Brisbane OGA archives through her photographs, newspaper clippings, stories and tape recordings. She has produced profiles on many of the Brisbane OGA Members and, in particular, Dot has recorded the life story of Miss Doris Broomfield MBE, Dip.N.Admin, FCNA who served in Egypt during WW1. This story was later serialised in *Chit Chat*.
- **Pastoral Care:** Over many years, Dot has provided pastoral care either by phone or visits to Old Girls who were suffering ill health. Whilst on holidays in Tallangatta Victoria, Dot paid a visit to Old Girl (1938) and staff member (1945-1948), Wanda Straszewicz (Thomasson) who was suffering from dementia but with Dot's help, she was able to remember some of her RGGGS days.
- **Donations:** Dot has been very generous in her donations to the School and the Brisbane OGA. Dot was a major financial contributor to the Dot Donald Memorial Cabinet in the RGGGS Paterson House Museum. Other donations included:
 - ◇ major raffle prizes for the annual Brisbane OGA Christmas Lunch
 - ◇ the Christmas cake for cutting at the Christmas Lunch
 - ◇ gift of an album of Centenary live-in photographs for branch members to enjoy.
- **Branch Photographer:** Dot has been the OGA Brisbane Branch's official photographer using her own camera to photograph attendees at many OGA functions and



then storing those memories in photograph albums for circulating to members at Branch meetings.

- **Regular attendee:** Dot has been a Life Member of the Brisbane Branch of the OGA for over 35 years. She is a regular attendee at Brisbane Branch meetings and contributes to discussions with many ideas and suggestions for functions and the effective running of the Brisbane Branch. She has also attended the Gold Coast OGA Group on many occasions for their combined lunches with the Brisbane OGA. Dot attended both the Centenary and 125 Year Celebrations at the School as well as the Over Seventies Reunion at the School in 2009.

From the President

Welcome to the first Chit Chat for 2019. I hope you all had an enjoyable time over Christmas and New Year. I would like to welcome all our new members especially our 2018 graduates. I attended their Graduation and Speech Night and they are a special group.

Last year I was able to attend Biloela, Mackay and Brisbane luncheons and enjoyed catching up with attendees. Pat Handley a previous president of RGGGS OGA, travelled to Mackay with me and was delighted to catch up with six of her past students from RGGGS.

Our first meeting for the year is on Tuesday 5 March 2019 with a dinner on Littleton Deck followed by the AGM. We meet only four times a year.

Dates for all events, meetings, functions and reunions for the coming year are in this Chit Chat. Thank you again to Marilyn for organising this important communication for us. We look forward to a happy and eventful year in the best sense of the word!

Ngairé Kane (Amos)
President

New Members

Please welcome the following Old Girls as new financial members of RGGGS OGA.

New Brisbane Members

Penelope Bennett	- 1976-1977
Pilita Keune	- 1976-1977
Katy Marshall	- 1973-1974

New Life Members

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following **2018 Year 12 graduates** who have become Life Members of the Association:

Brianna Austin	Javena Bayles
Rebecca Berlin	Natayah Bowen
Kendra Bryan	Shannon Busby
Tayla Cann	Kayla Clapper
Raina Collett	Georgia Davies
Kasey Davies	Sherri Green
Caitlyn Harvey	Nadine Hay
Tanya Kulu	Katelyn Holznagel
Bridie Jackson	Paige Lawrence
Aimee Leane	Jemma Mallyon
Georgia McPhail	Jasmine Mick
Jessica Payne	Ebony Robinson
Kelsey Salmond	Lucinda Simmons
Kayla SIRRIS	Wanai Tapau
Lara Thackeray	Jemma Van der Meer
Vashnee Thorburn Williams	

Current Membership Numbers:

Annual Members:	91
Life Members	973
Honorary Life Members	7
Associates & Friends of the OGA	10
Total:	1081

Memorial Service For Eve Stone



A Memorial Service is to be held for Eve Stone (Landsberg) who recently passed away in Brisbane. Eve was an Old Girl of the School 1935-1936.

The Service is to be held at the Southside Presbyterian Church Hall, 51 Denham Street on Saturday 30 March 2019 commencing at 10.00 am.

Refreshments after the Church Service will be served at the Rockhampton Golf Club (To be confirmed).

All are welcome to attend to celebrate the life of this much-loved, elegant lady.

2019 Annual Subscriptions now due

If you are an Annual Subscriber to the Old Girls' Association, your annual subscription is now due. Fees are due as at 1 January each year. Many members find it convenient to pay at a function. Please feel free to continue to do so. Fees are as follows:

\$10 for our senior Old Girls (60 years and over)
\$15 for our junior Old Girls - Payment options:

Cash:	In person at RGGGS OGA Functions
Money Order:	Posted to the Membership Secretary
Cheque:	Posted to the Membership Secretary and made out to RGGGS-OGA
Internet:	Rockhampton members:
	ANZ Branch No: 014690
	A/c No: 3944-13077
Internet:	Brisbane members:
	CBA Branch No: 064001
	A/c No: 1008-0446

(For internet payments, please ensure you put your name first in the description for identification.)

Update your contact details

If you would like to receive the *newsletter* in less time than it takes to arrive by post and help save on the costs of postage, join our email list. Just complete and return the form below.

Notification of change of address

Name:.....

New mailing address:.....

.....Postcode:.....

Phone/Mobile number:

Email address:

**Send to: Mrs Marilyn Watts, Membership Secretary,
2/37 Margate Parade, Margate Q 4019**

or Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au



***There is no greater evidence of
RGGGS' success than the accolades
and achievements of our alumni.***

***Help us to recognize you as an
Amazing Grammar Girl by sending a short re-
sume of your achievements to The Editor for
publication in Chit Chat. Your success will in-
spire others to think innovatively and creatively.***

1976 Juniors/1978 Seniors 40 Years On Reunion



The 1976 Juniors and 1978 Seniors held their *40 Years On* reunion over the weekend of 18 -19 August 2018.

Thirty-two girls joined five teachers from their era on a tour of the school and an afternoon tea. The group also enjoyed a dinner on the Saturday evening.

Editor's Note: *The five teachers who joined these Old Girls for their reunion were: Dorothy Mulder (1963-2007), Del Clark (1973-2000), Pat McDevitt (1977-2000), Miriam Gunn (1976-2012) and Margaret Black (1967-1998).*

With such long years of service to the School, I am sure many readers will remember these long-term staff. Two of these teachers still have connections with the School: both Dorothy and Margaret give of their time to the Paterson House Museum and Margaret also is an OGA Committee Member.



Dorothy Mulder, Sherrie Davis



Teena Peacey, Del Clark, Catherine Duckett



Kim Robertson & Pat McDevitt



Teena Peacey & Miriam Gunn



Dorothy Mulder, Gillian Primmer, Margaret Black



Vicki Tieg, Lindy Pownall, Margaret Black, Julianne Maike



Anne Hughes, Meryll Scott & Del Clarke

Sympathy to:



Moya Andrews, Jan Landsberg, Marion Simmons and Anne Landsberg on the death of their aunt, Eve Stone (Landsberg)

Kay Jamieson-Kell (nee Jamieson, Helen E Downs Prefect 1982) on the death of her mother, Maidie Jamieson

Margaret (Peggy) Presnell on the death of her husband, Allen

Diane Hume, Joy Wishart, Maree Hume, Jane Hume and Macey Wishart on the death of their mother and grandmother Ida "Grace" Scofield

Deaths



Margaret (Joan) Devenish (Cochrane)- 1941-1942 mother of Helen Waters

Eve Stone (Landsberg) - 1935-1936

Beryl Sturgess (Tarlinton) - 1938-1941, mother of Jennifer and Carolyn

Lorraine Gower (Goodson) - 1947-1948, mother of Leigh Mckenzie and Linda McPherson; sister of Glenda Sherlock

Isabel Lanyon (Conn) - 1945-1946 mother of Andrea

Megan Mary Calderbank (MacDonald) - 1971-1975, daughter of Glenda; sister to Amanda and Jodie

Births



Jordyn Bentley (2001-2006) a daughter, Delma



Another grand lady

Hi Marilyn

I am writing to advise that my dear Mum, Margaret "Joan" Devenish, known as Joan (nee Cochrane) passed away unexpectedly on Saturday 6 October 2018, after having been admitted to hospital on Tuesday night, 2 October.



Up until then Mum was a very active and social 92 year old who was self-sufficient and had been living independently for the past 20 years following the passing of her husband, my Dad, Ed.

Mum attended RGGGS for two years, one of which was 1939. She was born on 26 March 1926.

Each year Mum went to the RGGGS reunion lunch at the RSL in Townsville. This year the numbers were down with only three Old Girls attending.

If I was in town to coincide with the lunch, I would accompany Mum, as I am also an Old Girl i.e. Helen Waters (nee Devenish 1965 & 1966).

On 19th November 2016, I attended the 1964 Juniors/1966 Seniors reunion in Brisbane. The group photo appeared in the February 2017 Chit Chat, Volume 17, Issue 1. On that day, the Chit Chat magazine that was most recent included a photo of Mum at the Townsville lunch!

Over the years Mum would remind me to contact Chit Chat when her time came and to let you know, for inclusion in the magazine.

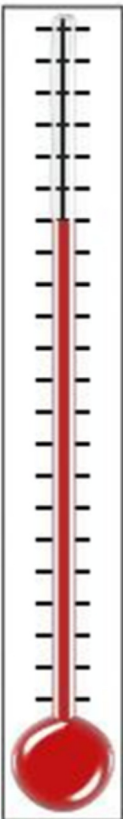
Regards
Helen Waters (Devenish)

Pictured left: Kim Dixon (Bredhauer) 1978-1982 with her daughter, Jordyn Bentley (Dixon) 2001-2006 and her new baby granddaughter, Delma born 30/12/2018.

Thanks to the class of 1966/1968 - 50 Year Reunion

Thank you so much to the 1966 Juniors and 1968 Seniors who donated \$513.00 towards the Helen Bredhauer Memorial Museum Cabinet - a very commendable effort. The funds were raised at the group's 50 Years Reunion which was held in November 2018.

Helen Bredhauer nee Marsh (1957-1958) was a staunch advocate of RGGs and was also one of the dedicated volunteers at the Paterson House Museum devoting many hours to cataloguing items for the Museum.



\$5590 The OGA hopes to fundraise \$5,590.00 for a small island cabinet in Helen's memory. With the donation from the 50 Year Reunion Group, funds raised so far have reached the amount of \$4,365.00. The cabinets are made by local manufacturer, Large's Furniture.

\$4365 With only **\$1225.00** to reach our goal, we are seeking further donations, small or large, all of which are gratefully accepted.

Donations should be made payable to the RGGs Old Girls' Association by cheque and posted to PO Box 776 Rockhampton or via direct deposit to:

ANZ BSB: 014690
Account No: 394413077
Reference: Museum

Please contact Treasurer Robyn Meredith by phone on 0407 372 646 or via email on robyn.meredith@gmail.com to confirm your donation.



Pictured above: Kim Dixon (Helen's daughter) receiving funds raised at the 50 Year Reunion from Lynne Priem (Helen's sister).



L-R: Delyse Ramm (previous RGGs staff), Ralda Ryan



L-R: Mary-Jane Scott, Meredith Widin, Lesley McSherry



L-R: Anne Lunney, Tehila Rasin (Head Girl 2019)

Amazing Grammar Girls - Profile Enid O'Toole

Editor's Note: *The following article on Enid O'Toole (RGGS 1948-1949) was taken from the Summer 2017-2018 Newsletter issued by the Christadelphian Aged Care Home where Enid was residing. I hope you enjoy this latest article in the series "Amazing Grammar Girls".*

Enid was born in Rockhampton in 1933 and was one of two children, having a brother Robert who has passed away. Enid attended primary school at a state school in Rockhampton and because she was very bright, she was encouraged to attend Girls Grammar in Rockhampton as a day student.

Enid said she used to ride her bike to school daily. Enid's mother was a school teacher and her uncle a school headmaster; so Enid had been encouraged to stay at school and get a good education so that she could get a challenging job once leaving school.

Upon leaving school, Enid was successful in getting a job with a leading solicitors firm Rees R and Sydney Jones. She worked as a secretary, and found the work interesting and never boring. She stayed with the firm for 10 years.

Enid joined the ANZ Bank and proceeded to work her way to become the first female bank manager for the ANZ in Australia. (**Editor's Note:** *It is believed that Enid was the first female Branch Accountant not first Branch Manager.*) She would visit many of the farmers in the rural community as part of her position as manager, and she loved her job. Enid has had a park named after her in Rockhampton for her services to the community.

She has always followed and played sport and was particularly good at tennis and upon retirement played golf up to five days a week. Enid was President of the local Zonta Club in Rockhampton.



Zonta is a progressive club for women in business and promotes and encourages women in their business. Enid helped to establish other Zonta clubs throughout Queensland. She also sat on the Grammar School's board.

I asked Enid if she thought of herself as a feminist. Enid said she never classed herself as one, but in hindsight, she probably was a feminist.

Enid's career challenged a lot of traditions. When Enid became a bank manager, she was paid less than the male managers at the time for doing the same work but this all changed once the unions had the laws changed.

Enid never married - she said she never found the right man and wasn't going to marry just for the sake of it as she had too many friends in unhappy relationships. Enid moved to Chamberlain Gardens this year but is still a staunch Brisbane Broncos supporter - but we won't hold that against her!

Editor's Note: *The next section in this article was sourced from the Rockhampton Council's website.*

Park named after Charter President

The Enid O'Toole Park was named after the Charter President of the Zonta Club of Rockhampton.

When the Rockhampton City Council called for names to be considered for

the naming of parks around Rockhampton, Enid's name was submitted by the Zonta Club. The successful outcome was the naming of the Enid O'Toole Park in North Rockhampton.

This park was officially named and opened by Councillor Neil Fisher in September 2000 and in December 2001 an official plaque was placed giving details of Enid's achievements during her distinguished career.

Enid was born in Rockhampton on 9 September 1933. She was educated at local primary schools and completed her education at the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School. She left school and became a secretary at Rees R & Sydney Jones.

In January 1952, she joined the ANZ Bank. She completed a long and distinguished career with the Bank. One of her achievements was to be the first woman in Australia to be appointed as Branch Accountant.

By 1978, Enid was one of the first females to be appointed Branch Manager and in 1986 she was appointed Manager of Commercial Accounts in Central Queensland. She retired from the position in 1989.

Enid also volunteered time and energy to the community. As well as being the Charter President of the Zonta Club of Rockhampton, she was Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School, a member of the Animal Ethics Society, a member of the Finance Committee of The Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education and a foundation member of the Council of the Central Queensland University.

She was also a member of the Advisory Board of the Young Women's Christian Association.

Enid was an active member of Zonta until her retirement in 1989 and is happily retired in Central Queensland.

Mackay Lunch - October 2018

Mackay Branch recently met at the Shamrock Hotel in Mackay – 27 Old Girls attended. Plenty of talk and laughter contributed to the day. Colleen and Janette kept the afternoon rolling. After a nice lunch, Colleen got us all busy with competitions (we're not sure where she found the questions – Brain Teasers that they were).

Ngaire Kane and Pat Handley attended from Rockhampton Branch, with Ngaire giving us an update on the school happenings. Our group handed Ngaire \$127.00 towards the Alumni Scholarship, which were the proceeds of the raffle which was won by Jeannette Neil who also won the "Lucky Chair". 2nd prize was won by Pam Keune who also won the special raffle. Anne Gentle won the "lucky door ticket". Lucky Day for some!! Our group also sent \$50 for the Speech Night Award.

Joyce Bates, Gai Mifsud, Trish Martin, Anne Tunnah, Jill Matthews, Lindy Windsor Marian Fletcher, Elaine Saxby and Vicki Christensen were a few of the 27 attending.

Next year the group will meet at Sarina RSL on 26 October 2019 (last Saturday of October).



Pictured above. Dawson Valley "Old" Girls. L-R: Helen Tziolis (Neale), Anne Tunnah (Kent), Lola Wright (Batcheler), Janette Dark (Davey)



Pictured above. Catchup from 1957. L-R: Lola Wright (Batcheler), Joyce Bates (Fox), Pat Handley (Taylor), Ngaire Kane (Amos)



Pictured left. Chatting in the room. L-R: The Dittmann and Kinnear sisters - Janet Carroll (Dittmann), Jeannette Neil (Kinnear) Daphne McNichol (Kinnear), Kaye Steindl (Dittmann)

Larni Stretton - Brilliant bowler

From *The Morning Bulletin* 15/11/18: Larni Stretton (RGGS 1973-1976) has amassed a number of successes in her 48 years of playing indoor bowls, the most recent, her seventh Queensland restricted ladies singles title.

The Rockhampton bowler represented Capricornia at the event at Boonah and beat bowlers from Ipswich, South Burnett and Nambour to claim victory.

She loves the skills and tactics of the game and thrives under the pressure of finals. "You need concentration, experience and a lot of luck but you've also got to love the game." she said.



A Brisbane OGA Christmas

The Brisbane OGA Christmas Lunch once again was a highlight of the year. Forty-three ladies attended the function at the Keri Craig Emporium.

Girls from the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s joined together for a very enjoyable lunch. RGS Principal, Christine Hills, was a guest at the event and gave an update of happenings at RGS.

Missing from this year's lunch was one of our grand ladies, Mrs Shirley Crow (Rhodes) who was having some hip problems and had to disappointingly cancel.

We were lucky, though, to be able to welcome Christine Page (pictured below with Coral Pink). Although Christine has been experiencing some major medical problems, she bravely attended the function. Now that is Grammar Girl fortitude.



Back: Libby Smith, Roslyn Greenhill, Andrea Turner. **Front:** Genevieve Brazier, Chris Hills



L-R: Margot Perrett, Margaret Kasem, Yvonne Carr, Janice Hegarty, Helen Hatch



L-R: Diane Kerr, Robyn Clelland, Sue Scott, Glenda Parker



L-R: Gladys Busch, Ailsa Ung, Eileen Baker



Back: Jean Bulley, Dot Skewes, Elsie Speight. **Front:** Cynthea McNeill

What's the difference - P&F or P&C

From the Editor: All schools rely on their community to help with decision making in areas like uniforms and behaviour and to help with funding and supporting school events and activities.

Most state schools will have a Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association. However non-state schools will have a Parents and Friends (P&F) Association. Why the difference - I have yet to discover. Perhaps a reader might be able to enlighten me.

However, both associations usually provide volunteer support, raise funds for infrastructure and help in areas such as:

- running tuckshops, bookshops or uniform shops
- providing subsidies to school excursions and extracurricular activities
- helping organise school functions (e.g. school fete)

P&Cs and P&Fs encourage the general public and local businesses to become involved with their local schools. Recent years have seen a number of changes to the environment in which parent associations operate. Volunteers require blue cards (criminal record checks) if they do not have children in the related school.

Historical Happenings - our first Chairman

Editor's Note: *In this edition of Historical Happenings, I have chosen to write about the first chairman of the RGGS Board of Trustees - Mr G B Shaw. I researched the website <https://trove.nla.gov.au> to source information for the article and hope to provide readers with some knowledge of the calibre of this man - a worthy representative of the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.*

"Mr George Barnsley Shaw was born in Liverpool on 26 April 1833 and was only 59 when he died on 20 April 1892. His father was Mr Richard Shaw, a cotton broker of Wigan, Lancashire, England. He was educated at the well-known Liverpool Collegiate College, an all-boys grammar school, which selected its intake on the basis of academic achievement or aptitude.

In the early 1850s, after engaging in business in Liverpool and gaining some mercantile experience, he emigrated to Australia and was for some years, engaged as a confidential clerk to Messrs Gilchrist, Watt & Co of Sydney.

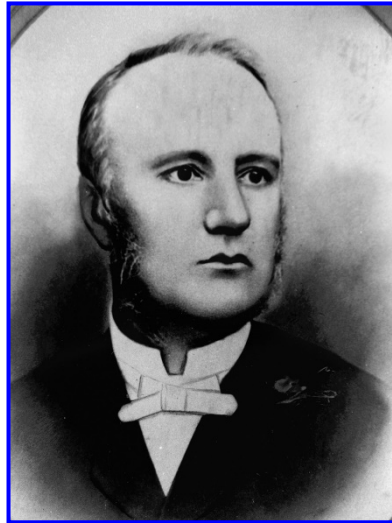
In 1860, Mr Shaw came to Rockhampton commencing business as an auctioneer and commission agent. Very shortly after, he went into partnership with Mr Charles Capper, as a general merchant and shipping agent under the style of Shaw, Capper & Co.

When the Chamber of Commerce was first established, Mr Shaw was a frequent speaker at its meetings. For a number of years he had been a member of the Committee of the Hospital and his interest in the good management of the institution never flagged.

Mr Shaw's chief public works though of late years, and the one he will be longest remembered by, was his steady and enthusiastic promotion of the scheme for the establishment of the Girls Grammar School.

From various causes, the movement dragged for several years but Mr Shaw stood by it doggedly, urging it on every occasion on the public notice. He was Secretary of the Provisional Committee appointed to raise the sum required to secure the Government grant and it was very largely owing to his vigilance and unceasing persistency that this was at length accomplished.

When the Trust was formed he was appointed Chairman and in that capacity he continued to devote the same invaluable attention to the project. His last public utterance was on the occasion of the opening of the school on 11 March 1892 when he presided and in an interesting address, spoke with honourable satisfaction at the successful achievement of this excellent work.



G.B. Shaw 1834-1892



Liverpool Collegiate College

He may be said in this respect to have fallen at the moment of victory, for he died on the morrow of the day when the school was first opened for the reception of pupils.

The Girls Grammar School would hardly be in existence today but for the final effort made by him to secure the balance required to make the venture a success.

Not everyone in the community supported the idea of a Grammar School for girls. In a Letter to the Editor dated 11 July 1887, the correspondent made the following comments:

Sir, Commenting on the efforts made by some of our influential townsmen to inveigle others of their brethren into subscribing towards the above object, may I inquire, as a simple-minded man, in what manner this proposed Girls Grammar School is intended to contribute to the social, moral, or domestic peace, happiness, or otherwise of the colony in general, or Rockhampton in particular.

I have hitherto been impressed with the idea that the people of the colony had already provided, in a most liberal manner, towards the education of the rising generation, and think still, if there be any higher class of education necessary for "our girls", their parents should provide it at home. I think I may say that in every instance which has come under my observation, where such education is desired, they (the parents) are in a very good position to do so, without going round with the everlastingly impecunious hat to provide high-class schools and other forcing beds of education for their female offspring, to the utter destruction of their domestic instincts."

Editor's Note: Mm! Domestic instincts indeed. The writer, who only went by the cowardly name of D.R.W., was challenged quite strongly by further Letters to the Editor from determined supporters of higher education for girls.

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From the Editor

Chit Chat is the official newsletter of the RGGGS OGA. This newsletter has a distribution of over 1000 - to all financial members and associates of the RGGGS OGA. It is published thrice yearly - February, May and October.

Contributions are always welcome. Copy can be in any format accompanied by the writer's name and contact details and forwarded to the Editor:

Post to:

Mrs Marilyn Watts
2/37 Margate Parade, Margate 4019

or Email to:

marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au

Articles received for publication will be included in the next edition depending on space available and timing of receipt of the article.

The purpose of *Chit Chat* is to provide general information on Old Girls of the School and to give an update on the School's current activities.

Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
Editor

RGGS Bella Voce Choir - 100% perfect score

From *The Morning Bulletin*

13/11/18: The Rockhampton Girls Grammar School's Bella Voce Choir was awarded a perfect score of 100 per cent in the St Cecilia School of Music exams, in a first for the International Examination Board.

It's the first year Girls Grammar has sat exams for St Celia's School of Music, with teacher Christina Bond explaining it was a chance for the students to be assessed by an internationally recognised board and give broader feedback than what is available through eisteddfods and local competitions.

Two other RGGGS choirs, the Years 4 to 6 Primary Choir and the Molt

Voce Senior Choir, were examined and achieved high distinctions with 95 per cent and 96 per cent respectively.

The Bella Voce ensemble is audition-only but open to all high school students. As part of the examination, the Bella Voce group had to prepare a 40-minute showcase of work.

The examiner, Mr Tyson, said the mature disciplined performances were due to the experience of teachers Ms Bond and Jessica Dawes.

Ms Bond (RGGGS 2000-2004) has a long history with Girls Grammar choirs, performing in them as a student under the direction of legendary Rockhampton music teacher, Nita Whyte.



Editor

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"Not only for school but for life we are learning".

Committee Information

Executive Committee:

President	Ngairé Kane (Amos)
Vice President	Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
Immediate Past President	Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
Secretary	Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
Treasurer	Robyn Meredith (Buchanan)
School Liaison Officer	Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
Membership Secretary	Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
Chit Chat Editor	Marilyn Watts (Elgar)

Rockhampton Committee Members:

Margaret Black	Betty Spence	Val Phillips
Margaret Littleton	Felicity Truelson	Ann Creed

Email Address—Rockhampton Committee

Ngairé Kane	ngairekane@gmail.com
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Kim Dixon	alumni@rggs.qld.edu.au
Robyn Meredith	robyn.meredith@gmail.com
Marilyn Watts	marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au
Margaret Black	9margaretblack38@gmail.com
Margaret Littleton	marmaxl@bigpond.net.au

2019 Rockhampton Committee Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 5 March	Tuesday 7 May
Tuesday 6 August	Tuesday 19 November

2019 Brisbane Group Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 19 March,	Tuesday 21 May,	Tuesday 16 July
Tuesday 17 September	Tuesday 19 November	

Dates to Remember

RGGS OGA Function Dates 2019:

Dinner on the Deck & AGM	Tuesday 5 March
Yeppoon Luncheon	Sunday 19 May
Queensland Day Luncheon	Wednesday 5 June
Gladstone Luncheon	Saturday 27 July
Townsville Luncheon	Sunday 4 August TBC
Biloela Luncheon	Saturday 24 August
Mackay Luncheon	Saturday 26 October
Christmas Dinner	Friday 1 November

RGGS Brisbane Event 2019:

Christmas Lunch	Saturday 30 November
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Membership fees for 2019 (Due January 2019):

Annual Fee	\$15.00
Senior Annual Fee	\$10.00 (Seniors 60 and over)
Life Membership	\$125.00 (Once only Fee)
Senior Life Membership	\$100.00 (Seniors 60 and over)

In accordance with our Constitution, all Old Girls wishing to become members of the Association are required to complete and sign the official RGGS OGA Membership Application Form accompanied by the relevant fee. Forms are available from the Membership Secretary:

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