



# Chit Chat



R.G.G.S. Old Girls' Association - Rockhampton

February 2020  
Volume 20, Issue 1

## Welcome to our new Principal

### Letter from the Board of Trustees:

Dear Girls Grammar Community

### NEW PRINCIPAL APPOINTED – DEANNE JOHNSTON

I am pleased to announce that following an exhaustive search process conducted by the Board of Trustees in conjunction with a leading executive search firm, the Board is appointing Deanne Johnston as Principal of Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.

Deanne is currently Deputy Principal of Stuartholme School and will complete the school year at Brisbane. She will commence her appointment at Girls Grammar in early January 2020. Stuartholme is a Catholic Independent day and boarding secondary school for girls.



Deanne has a wealth of experience in education and will be a great leader for our wonderful school.

The Board looks forward to working with Deanne to build upon past achievements and embrace future prospects.

The Board thanks Michelle Gouge who has been our acting Principal for most of this year and has undertaken to continue in that role until the end of 2019.

Michelle has provided outstanding leadership and stability for students and staff. Michelle has thrown herself into the role whole-heartedly and the Board is deeply grateful for her dedication and commitment.

We welcome Deanne Johnston to this great school community.

Yours sincerely

**Ross Johnson**  
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

## President's Message

Happy New Year to all and I hope you all had a great Christmas. I would like to welcome all new members of the OGA, especially the 2019 graduates. I look forward to meeting up with some of you at our yearly events.

The dates for upcoming events this year are in the Chit Chat. I would also like to welcome the new Principal Deanne Johnson whom I met recently. She is looking forward to coming to our meetings and functions.

Thank you to those who filled in for me last year when I could not attend events. Pat Handley (Taylor) and I

attended lunches at Mackay and Gladstone. Gladstone OGA requested a change of date and we have made the change. I would like to thank Mackay OGA for their donation to the School Museum. Donations always help towards Speech night and other expenses.

The Helen Bredhauer Memorial Cabinet is in the Museum (thanks to those who contributed to the cost) and Kim has been busy collecting memorabilia to put in it. I look forward to catching up with her at the AGM on Tuesday 3 March.

**Ngairé Kane (Amos)**  
President

[www.facebook.com/  
RGGSOGA](https://www.facebook.com/RGGSOGA)

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### Special points of interest:

- Our Brisbane OGA Girls
- Mackay OGA Lunch
- Getting to know our new Principal
- The Life of Joan Broughton
- Jade Weazel performs at Yawar
- Amazing Grammar Girls
- Amazing Grammar Staff
- Rockhampton Xmas Dinner

## New Members

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

**New Annual Members**

Cheryl Geck (Keily) - 1964-1968  
 Sue Green (Purvis) - 1964-1968

**New Life Members**

Jennifer Andrews (Sturgess) - 1972-1976  
 \* Marion Simmonds (Daniels) - 1963-1964  
 (\* previous Annual Member)

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the following **2019 Year 12 graduates** who have become Life Members of the Association:

Alana Agostini	Gracie Bayliss
Cherie Bell	Morgan Brauer
Lucy Brown	Taylor Busbridge
Weiwei Chen	Dakota Cunzolo
Mackenzey Donovan	Mackenzi Fulwood
Erin Goodwin	Teagan Harker
Isla Houston	Beryl Kaliop
Macey Kammholz	Nathalye Kaputin
Darcie Lang	Maddison Liddle
Leah McBride	Cleo McCosker
Skyie McCosker	Samantha Moore
Kellyanne Pearson	Tehila Rasin
Tafadzwa Runganga	Faustina Samiak
Madison Standing	Heidi Hohn

**Current Membership Numbers:**

Annual Members:	87
Life Members	999
Honorary Life Members	7
Associates & Friends of the OGA	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1105</b>

## New Member Profile

**Jennifer Andrews (Sturgess) - 1972-1976:** Jennifer has recently retired from Special Needs teaching. She was a teacher for 38 years and loved every minute of her career. Her sister, Carolyn, was also a student at the school (1974-1978) and was the 1978 Dux.

Jennifer's mother, Beryl Sturgess (Tarlinton), was a student (1938) and teacher at RGGGS (1946). Beryl's best friend was Maud Bendall (Hegvold) RGGGS student (1938-1941) and School Principal 1977-1989.

Beryl passed away in September 2018 at the age of 93. Her sister Joyce Wood (Tarlinton) was also a pupil at RGGGS (1943). Both sisters lived at the Bethany Aged Care Facility, Rockhampton.

## 2020 Subs 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
  - 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](mailto:marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au)

## Engagements



Hayley Diamond (1993-1995) to Chris Hewitt (son of Carolyn Hewitt nee Ward 1961-1963)

## Our Brisbane OGA Girls - Join us for morning tea

**Editor's Note:** *The Brisbane Branch of the RGGS OGA commenced in 1938 and existed for many years with a strong membership. The Branch met five times a year and conducted outings and bus trips for members.*

*The Branch has now evolved into a social group who still meet five times a year at the Keri Craig Emporium, Brisbane Arcade, Queen Street, Brisbane. The Group upholds the Aims of the Association which are:*

- *To maintain a connection between past students of the School.*
- *To promote fellowship amongst past students and the Old Girls' Association.*
- *To foster an interest in the welfare of the School.*
- *To encourage past students to support the School financially.*

*To this end, the Brisbane Group would like to invite all interested Brisbane based members to join them for morning tea at the Keri Craig Emporium on Tuesday 17 March at 10.00 am for a meet and greet.*

*Pictured right are five of our regular attendees. These ladies were attending the funeral of one of our long-term members, Christine Page. The Brisbane Group ladies offer care and support to all members of the Group.*

*The venue for the morning tea, the Keri Craig Emporium, is situated in the Brisbane Arcade which recently celebrated its 95 anniversary. I thought readers might be interested to hear the history of the Arcade.*

### The Brisbane Arcade

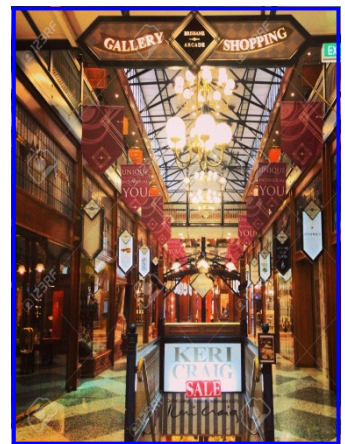
Built in 1923 on the site of notorious confessed murderer Patrick Mayne's butcher shop, the Brisbane Arcade is a splendid Edwardian baroque alley of gallery shops. Patrick's son, Dr James Mayne, employed the son of 19th century architectural guru Richard Gailey, Richard Gailey Jnr, to design it as a legacy to the people of Brisbane – a gesture that many believe was an atonement to the alleged sins of his father.

**(Editor's Note:** *Richard Gailey Snr was the supervising architect for the construction of the first School building. His articulated pupil, E M Hockings, designed the school building under the supervision of Richard Gailey Snr.)*

As part of the Mayne trust, the arcade is heritage listed and although alterations have occurred, the arcade retains much of its 1920s' glamour. During World War II, the lower floor contained a bomb shelter which in the 1950s was converted to an art gallery by renowned gallery owners Brian and Marjorie Johnstone whose stable of artists included Sir Sidney Nolan, Charles Blackman, Grace Cosington Smith, Margaret Olley and Laurence Hope.



L-R: Elsie Speight, Coral Pink, Trish Frost, Sandra Ries, Victoria McLachlan



Pictured below are the Johnstones with Margaret Olley whose paintings were recently showcased at the Gallery of Modern Art.

Today the many gallery shops, including the Tea Centre, Keri Craig Emporium, the elegant gallery café Room with Roses, a landscape photographer and an antique map room are in keeping with the refined ambience of the arcade.

The arcade's shops in the 1990s were a roll call for emerging and established Queensland fashion designers starting with Gwen Gillam in the 1950s. The list includes Julie Tengdahl, Pia du Pradal, Anthony Leigh Dower, Keri Craig, Debra Kolkka and Michael Klease, who continued the 70-year Brisbane fashion tradition.



## Mackay Lunch - October 2019

Once again, our yearly get-together of Grammar Old Girls gathered at the Sarina RSL on 26 October 2019. The President from the Rockhampton OGA, Ngaire Kane, and Pat Handley travelled to be with us. Thank you to you both.

Ngaire gave us an update of School happenings and also donated a prize for our raffle which was won by Kay Steindl.

This year, we had two younger past students, Tessa Walsh and Kim Hamilton. Tessa's daughter, Matilda (11 years) also attended. Maybe Matilda is to be a future student. We hope to see the new faces at future gatherings.

Marian Fletcher travelled from her property outside Charters Towers as she does every year. Catching up with Marian was Helen Neale, Jill Matthews and Rosalind Windsor.

Others chatting over a nice meal were Pauline Creber, Barbara Plumb, Kay Steindl and Ros Burkett. Pam Keune helped with ticket selling for the raffle which was won by Rosalind. The Lucky Door prizes went to Tessa and Jill.

The Group gave \$50 for a Speech Night Award and \$100 from the raffle was handed to Ngaire towards a heritage cupboard in the Paterson House Museum.

Judy Bailey, Marie Leech, Lola Wright and Pat Martin also attended.

Next year, the Group will meet on 31 October 2020 with the venue still to be decided at this stage - watch this space!

**Kathy Terrance (Cowan)**



**Group Photo - Sarina RSL**



L-R: Lola Wight, Trish Martin, Ros Birkett

## Class Reunion - 45 years on - August 2019



In August 2019, a 45th reunion of RGGGS Old Girls who started Year 8 in 1970 through to the Seniors of 1974 was celebrated together at Mooloolaba Beach.

We have spread far and asunder in the intervening years but enjoy catching up and sharing our lives.

Our next reunion will be our 50th in 2024!

**Di Gartry (Jones)**

## Getting to know our new Principal



*As the Girls Grammar community looks forward to the arrival of our new Principal, Deanne Johnston, in January, Board member and Old Girl, Hilarie Dunn, caught up for a chat. From the advantages of an all-girls school to a preference for hot weather, it is clear that she is well prepared for her next big adventure.*

### WHAT CAREER PATH HAS BROUGHT YOU TO THE PRINCIPAL ROLE AT GIRLS GRAMMAR?

I've been teaching now for 25 years across state, Catholic and independent schools in Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and the UK. During that time I've seen significant changes and challenges to education and I've enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to educational reform through my various roles in school leadership and on different committees and reference groups.

### ROCKHAMPTON IS A LONG WAY FROM BIG CITY LIFE. WHAT HAS ATTRACTED YOU TO THE BEEF CAPITAL OF AUSTRALIA?

My husband and I spent five years living in Rockhampton from 1998 to the end of 2002. In fact, it's where we started our married life! We very much enjoyed our time there and we have a lot of great memories, particularly of the warm friendly atmosphere and sense of community. Even though I'm not from Rockhampton, in a lot of ways I feel like I'm coming home and I was very excited when the opportunity came up to lead the Girls Grammar School.

### HOW DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF A GIRLS SCHOOL LIKE GIRLS GRAMMAR? ARE WE 'FIT FOR PURPOSE'?

As a female who has spent over ten years in senior leadership, I believe whole-heartedly in the many benefits of girls' education, particularly in building confidence, developing ambition and challenging gender beliefs and assumptions.

**IN A LOT OF WAYS I FEEL LIKE I AM COMING HOME...**

My time at Stuartholme has reinforced my belief that girls' schools do a vital job of promoting self-belief in girls. One of the most valuable gifts we can give our girls is the self-belief that they have the skills, knowledge, tenacity and resilience to pursue opportunities despite the hurdles and setbacks.

There is research to show that when students learn with single-gender peers, they are more likely to focus on their studies, speak more openly in the classroom and feel more encouraged to pursue their interests and achieve their fullest potential. Additionally, girls in same-sex schools are more likely to engage

and excel at sports and to have opportunities for school leadership roles. I am looking forward to joining the Girls Grammar community because I know it has a strong history of encouraging and empowering girls to pursue their aspirations without limitations.

### HAVE YOU WORKED OUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO FIRST WHEN YOU GET TO GIRLS GRAMMAR?

My priority when arriving at Girls Grammar is to meet our community, build relationships with staff, students, parents and Alumni. I want to spend time meeting with people. My priority is to be a public presence on campus, at assemblies, meetings and events but also in casual strolls and conversations.

I would like to visit classrooms, spend time in the playground, at co-curricular events and activities. I am keen to listen, build relationships and learn about the different needs and priorities across the school.

It is also important for me to spend time developing a deeper appreciation of the ethos of the school, becoming more familiar with its history, its accomplishments, the founding principles, the mission statement and philosophical underpinnings.

### WE WERE ALL SCHOOL STUDENTS ONCE. WHAT WERE THE BEST MEMORIES OF YOUR SCHOOL DAYS?

My best memories of school are probably my teachers. I can still remember those teachers who made a difference to me: the ones who were always patient even when I struggled to understand, the ones who encouraged me to pursue my passions, the ones who found opportunities to extend me and the ones who just seemed to enjoy coming to work every day.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Getting to know our new Principal (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

I think the hardest part of school was that it happens during your formative years when you're still trying to develop a sense of self and stay true to your fundamental values and beliefs. I am very grateful that I formed strong friendships with a small group of girls who shared my values and we supported each other through the toughest times.

My best friend and I found each other when we were 12 and we are like sisters today so I feel very lucky that we made such a strong connection during our school years.

## BEING PRINCIPAL IS A DEMANDING JOB. WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX?

This is probably my greatest chal-

**GIRLS' SCHOOLS DO A VITAL JOB OF PROMOTING SELF-BELIEVING GIRLS.**

lenge to be honest. My husband and I have a Sunday morning ritual where we have brunch together which has become something we really value and we're fortunate to have a lovely little café within walking distance of our home.

We also prioritise spending time together as a family during school holidays - we all enjoy travel but our favourite is probably spending time anywhere near a beach. Growing up at Mooloolaba, there is no better place for me than somewhere within

proximity to the sea and I always find this relaxing. The last time I was in Rockhampton I did some photography courses and got involved in a photography group - I am hoping that perhaps I can connect with a group like this again or even pursue my enjoyment of art, particularly drawing and painting.

## HOW DO YOU COPE WITH HOT WEATHER?

I'm a Queenslander through and through so I love hot weather. I do remember some very hot days in Rockhampton but I also remember very cold days when I lived in Canberra and I know which one I prefer!

Terms 1 and 4 can be challenging but Rockhampton more than makes up for it from April to October - it has a beautiful climate in the middle of the year.

## Sympathy to:



- Beres Walker (Gillespie) on the death of her daughter, Leesa
- Val Grimley (Murray) on the death of her husband, Herb
- Jan Coombe (Clarke) on the death of her husband, Kenneth Coombe OAM
- Fiona and Katrina on the death of their father, Donald John Dewar
- Deicha Batts on the death of her grandfather
- Shirley, Christine and Vicki on the death of their mother, Betty Gabel
- Bree on the death of her mother, Pauline Horrocks
- Marjorie Linden (Tadman) on the death of her husband, Gilbert
- Jennifer on the death of her father Francis (Frank) Hick
- Frank Hick was the coach of the Girls Grammar Rowing Team for 32 years. Many of the School's past rowers attended Frank's Funeral Service.
- A moving and glowing tribute was presented by Megan Albert (Luke). Abigail Hills represented the present student body.

## Deaths



- Joan Broughton (Mitchell) - 1943
- Heather O'Neill (Atkinson) - 1981-1983
- Lorraine (TI) Lamberton - 1956-1959 Mother of Andrea McNelley - 1983
- Meredith West (Head) - 1981-1985
- Ann Jamieson (Murray) - Staff Member 1975-1979, sister of Ruth - 1967
- Marion Maclean (Lang) 1943-1944, mother of Flora



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

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

## The life of Joan Broughton- RGGGS 1943

**Editor's Note:** *The following was drawn from several eulogies given at the funeral of Joan Broughton - another Amazing Grammar Girl.*

**Joan Helen Broughton nee Mitchell born Aramac 15th April 1927**

Joan attended Aramac State School and Rockhampton Girls Grammar School where she excelled at sport, particularly tennis. Returning to Aramac, she worked at the post office telephone exchange for some years.

When Joan turned 18, she enlisted in the army on 21 June 1945 (followed by her sister 12 months later) and was discharged on 20 December 1946 with her service medals and never forgot her army service number QF273915.

Both sisters have their names engraved on the WW2 memorial gates of the Aramac memorial park, together with all the locals that participated in WW2.

After the war, a whole new life opened for Joan in Brisbane - first as a hair dresser, then office work.

Returning to Aramac, she managed the local chemist shop and commenced playing tennis seriously again winning the Central Western Ladies Singles Tennis Tournament.

Joan met her husband, Phillip, on a tennis court in Longreach. In 1959, Joan and her husband bought the property *Audreystone* outside Barcaldine.

In Barcaldine, Joan was very involved with the St Peter's Ladies Church of England Guild where she was Secretary and President for many years.



She also helped to organise the Barcaldine Debutante Ball each year.

In 1954, Joan joined the Red Cross in Aramac and in 1955, she also became a member of the Barcaldine Red Cross where she served as Secretary from 1960 to 1974 and President from 1974 to 1990.

Each year, Joan would organise the Red Cross Chocolate Wheel at the Barcaldine Show to raise funds for the Red Cross. She received the Citizenship Merit Award by the Rotary Club of Barcaldine on 25 Oct 1977. This is given by the Rotary Club in *Recognition of contributions given by volunteer support to the welfare of one or more organisations.*

In May 1990, Joan and her husband sold their property and retired to Burleigh Heads. As soon as she was settled, she joined the parishioners at St John's Anglican Church where she became an Elder and helped at the 7.00 am services.

Joan then became a member of the Palm Beach Branch of the Red Cross. Once again, Joan was involved in fundraising for the Red Cross and would sell tickets outside the Burleigh Heads Westpac for 5 to 6 hours at a time and did this up until she was 90 years old.

Joan was a Lifetime Member of the Red Cross and in 2005, she was presented with her 50 year Laurel Wreath. Ten years later, she was presented with the Gilt Rosette for 60 years service. The following article appeared in the Gold Coast/Tweed *Seniors* newspaper in September 2015:

*Gilt Rosettes are not easy to come by. They represent 60 years of dedicated service to the Red Cross. So it was a special day indeed on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at Palm Beach Red Cross AGM when Joan Broughton was awarded her gilt rosette for all the wonderful work she has done for this organisation.*



I am not old, she said.  
I am rare.  
I am the standing ovation at the end of the play.  
I am the retrospective of my life as art.  
I am the hours connected like dots into good sense.  
I am the fullness of existing.  
You think I am waiting to die,  
But I am waiting to be found.  
I am a treasure. I am a map.  
And these wrinkles are imprints of my journey.  
Ask me anything.

— Samantha Reynolds

## Jada Weazel (Senior 2017) performs at Yawar

**Editor's Note:** *This article was sourced from the QPAC Clancestry website and features one of our 2017 Alumni, Jada Weazel - a beautiful young lady with a beautiful voice.*

*Jada performed at the Yawar festival in November 2019. I thought members might be interested in the history of Yawar and so I researched the Clancestry website for the following background to this cultural gathering.*

### ABOUT YAWAR

"We all come together for the big Yawar and everyone contributes in the circle and everyone in the audience feels that power and that spiritual recharge" (Joshua Walker, 13 July 2018).

### WHERE IT BEGAN

**Yawar – A Gathering** was the closing ceremony of Clancestry, A Celebration of Country 2014 and 2015.

**Beginning in 2013**, the *Closing Ceremony* provided the opportunity for over 150 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers from across Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory to celebrate their cultural songs and dances. This was the largest documented gathering for song and dance in the city since the 1920s and following conversations with community members, it was decided to support and grow the event.

**The following year in 2014**, the *Yawar – A Gathering* grew to include over 280 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers from across 15 cultural dance groups. Senior Songmen and Songwomen were involved in the creative and cultural development of the event which saw each group seek permission of the host to join in *Yawar – A Gathering* through the presentation of a message stick.

**In 2015**, *Yawar – A Gathering* once again brought together over 250 performers through a journey in song and dance into the intricate dreaming and stories that lie beneath the surface of this concrete jungle and its surrounding areas all the way to the Torres Strait Islands via the Brothers and Sisters from those regions who now call South East Queensland their home. As this corroboree continues to grow, it has become an important cultural event in Queensland.

### YAWAR, A CULTURAL MAPPING PROJECT

**Yawar, A Cultural Mapping Project** emerged in



QPAC Clancestry

Yesterday at 11:30 am · 🌐

### MEET JADA WEAZEL

Originally from Woorabinda, Central Queensland, Jada has spent the past two years living in Brisbane, refining her sound and preparing to launch her career as a solo artist.

With her fresh take on soul and RnB Jada has already been turning heads in 2019 despite no official releases. Set to begin releasing solo music in early 2020, it's going to be a big year ahead.

JADA will perform on the mainstage from 2:30pm Saturday 30 November 2019 during Yawar!!!



response to Elders and community members expressing a desire to document, and where appropriate, share with the wider Australian society the processes and protocols that underpin the *Yawar – A Gathering* performances. Through this project we aim to map the memories of holders of song and develop resources (physical and digital) that promote and support the cultural knowledge underpinning the performances of song and dance practitioners.

*Yawar – A Gathering* demonstrates the cultural strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance and song in southeast Queensland and the Cultural Mapping Project aims to illustrate this power to the wider Australian audience.

In particular, we explore how Songmen and Songwomen navigate the cultural protocols associated with performance and pass on their knowledge to the next generation.



## Amazing Grammar Girls - Courtney Hill (Senior 2004)

**Editor's Note:** *Courtney Hill (2000-2004) is another one of our Amazing Grammar Girls - this time in the field of sports. The following is an article by Gareth Walker (UK Rugby League Correspondent) on 10 October 2019:*

**“Woman of Steel” Courtney Hill is aiming to help Leeds Rhinos win a Grand Final. The half-back has switched to Rugby League after playing cricket in Australia’s Big Bash Down Under.**

Last year Courtney Hill took her first rugby league tackle since the age of 12 - on Sunday she was named Woman of Steel and on Friday she steps out in a Grand Final.

The Leeds half-back - who switched sports having played cricket in the Australian Big Bash Down Under - has taken the Women’s Super League by storm this season. Now she is hoping to help the Rhinos complete the double against Castleford, having played a key role in their Challenge Cup win over the Tigers in July.

But the 32-year-old admits that her first full tackle back in the sport since school days raised doubts over her ability to compete at open age level.

Hill said: “The first hit up I made against Wigan, every bone in my body crunched.

In that moment, I questioned myself - whether I was too little, too old for this game. I hadn’t play rugby league since I was 12 - after that it was just cricket, cricket, cricket.

I was consumed by the cricket world, and given the NRL’s Women’s League has just started I didn’t have a chance to experience that. I knew I was going to have to do some work, but like anything you condition yourself to it.

And the beauty of rugby league is that yes, it’s a very physical game, but there is space in the game for different types of players.”

Hill says joining the Rhinos helped her settle on the other side of the world, after moving to be with her fiancée, the England batter Lauren Winfield.

In Hill’s Woman of Steel speech, she revealed how one day had ended with her slumped in tears in the kitchen before the support of Winfield and the new challenge at the Rhinos galvanised her.

She added: “I was seven days in at that point, my life had been flipped upside down and you question your decisions. Thankfully everything has ironed out since then, but sometimes in those moments you need reassurance that you have that support from people you surround yourself with.

At that time I was Courtney the teacher, Courtney the cricketer, but you wear different hats at different times in your life.



**Courtney Hill scores the decisive try in Leeds Rhinos' Challenge Cup final win over Castleford**



**Hill was named Woman of Steel in Salford on Sunday night**



**Hill on stage with Sky Sports' Jenna Brooks at the awards ceremony**

Playing at Leeds has been massive - any human being wants to feel a sense of belonging and purpose and without the Rhinos I would have had a bit of a gap in my jigsaw puzzle. They’ve certainly filled that and I’ll be forever grateful for that.”

## Amazing Grammar Staff - Irene Longman

**Editor's Note:** *Not only do we have some Amazing Grammar Girls but we also have Amazing Grammar Staff such as Irene Longman who became the first woman elected as member to the Queensland Legislative Assembly.*

*Irene Longman (nee Bayley) was a teacher at RGGGS in 1920 and would have been a wonderful role model to the girls at the School at the time. To tell her story, I have researched the following articles from the National Library of Australia.*

### Australian Women's Register

Irene Longman was educated at Sydney Girls' High School. After obtaining a Kindergarten Teaching Diploma she taught at Normanhurst, Sydney Girls' Grammar School and Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.



An activist in many women's organisation Longman was:

- President of the National Council of Women of Queensland from 1920 to 1924;
- Honorary President of the Queensland Citizenship League;
- Honorary President of Queensland Association for the Welfare of the Mentally Deficient;
- Vice-President of the Queensland Branch Lyceum Club;
- Vice-President of the Queensland Women's Peace Movement
- Officer of the Creche and Kindergarten Association.

Also, Longman is responsible for the appointment of the first Queensland woman police officer and for changing the meeting place of the Children's Court from its meeting place in the precinct of the Police Court.

### Thesis Abstract by Patricia Fallon

This biography of Irene Longman is the story of a remarkable woman. A woman of integrity, intelligence, courage and compassion. What made Irene Longman unique was that she became the first woman to sit in the Queensland Parliament.

Irene Longman was elected to the Queensland Parliament in 1929, defeating the sitting Labor member in Bulimba. She was nominated by the Queensland Women's Electoral League and endorsed by the Country Progressive National Party but held the seat for only one term as Labor swept back into power in 1932.

Longman's career in the Moore government coincided with a brief interruption of continuous Labor rule in Queensland (1915-1957). No other woman was elected to State Parliament in Queensland until after Irene Longman's death in 1964.

Though her parliamentary career was short, Irene Longman was active in public life for over thirty years. In 1904 at Toowoomba, Irene married Heber Longman and they made Queensland their permanent home.

Irene Longman was involved in a wide range of social issues including town planning and the preservation of flora and fauna. But her professional and voluntary work was principally in the field of the welfare of women and children.

### Irene Longman Reserve Cannon Hill Community College

On International Women's Day, the Barrack Road Sports Fields were renamed **Irene Longman Reserve** in recognition of Queensland's first female parliamentarian - a woman with



the *'temerity and hide to enter a man's domain'* in 1929.

Being a woman, she was never allowed to use the parliamentary dining room and so found sanctuary in the library and ate her meals on the verandah. As well, there were no female toilets in the parliament building.

Irene Longman passed away in 1964 after decades of service to others in Queensland. It seems fitting that a sports field, used by students from Prep to Year 12, has been named in her honour given her long history of work in the field of the welfare of women and especially children.

*Women need not be afraid that they will be overpowered by the intellect of the men in the House. I found, and I think the position remains, that there were only a few men on either side of the House who were as mentally alert as the women with whom I worked.*



## Rockhampton OGA Christmas Dinner - Snaps



L-R: Nikki Laver, Janet McKenzie



L-R: Terri Watts, Gillian Busch, Jane Treloar, Jennifer Landsberg, Merri-Lea Pierce, Merryl Boneham



L-R: Val Phillips, Girlie Goody



L-R: Tasha Absolon, Margaret Littleton, Chloe Atkinson, Tayla Bidgood

## Calling all 1956 Juniors for an 80th celebration

**Editor's Note:** *I received the following letter from one of our members, Elma (Girlie) Goody who is pictured in the photo above at the RGS OGA Christmas Dinner. Girlie was also featured in the October Chit Chat. She is an amazing woman still going strong at almost 80 years old.*

Dear Marilyn

Ten years ago, one of the 1956 Junior Class organised a get-together for our 70th birthdays in Brisbane. Sixteen of our classmates met up for a luncheon which was all too short for a good catch-up.

Now that we are all going to be 80 in 2020, I would like to see us meet up again - maybe in Rocky or Yeppoon for a weekend.

I am thinking of late August/September timeline.

Could you please put a note in *Chit Chat* for expressions of interest and ask them to contact me at EJ Goody at the above address ("Malakoff", 2235 Monal Road, Monto Q 4630). I prefer mail or phone 07 4166 5136.

If I know how many would like to come, I could then look to venue etc. A motel with restaurant would be good.

Thank you

Yours faithfully  
**Elma (Girlie) Goody**



## Branch Contacts

### Brisbane:

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### Gladstone:

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Ph: 07 4975 7450

### Biloela:

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Biloela Q 4715  
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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

## Brisbane OGA Christmas Lunch



**Back L-R:** Marilyn Linnett, Barbara Murray, Jan Stevenson, Victoria McLachlan, Sue Handyside, Sandra Ries, Coral Pink. **Front L-R:** Carolyn Hewitt, Marilyn Watts, Bev Sykes.

Fifty Rockhampton Grammar Old Girls gathered together on Saturday 30 November to celebrate Christmas at the Keri Craig Emporium.

Girls ranged from RGGGS years 1943 through to 2011. Pictured left were girls from the 1961-1964 classes.

It was a very festive occasion with Lucky Door, Lucky Chair and Raffle prizes galore. The meal was typical Christmas fare and was delicious.

There was an extra celebration for Dot Skewes who turned 90 on 12 December, 2019.



**Pictured above:** Marilyn Watts presenting Dot with a yellow and white flower arrangement.



### 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	Margaret Littleton
Treasurer	Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
School Liaison Officer	Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
Membership Secretary	Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
Chit Chat Editor	Marilyn Watts (Elgar)

### Rockhampton Committee Members:

Margaret Black	Val Phillips	Wendy Harris
Betty Spence	Robyn Meredith	

### Email Address—Rockhampton Committee

Ngairé Kane	<a href="mailto:ngairekane@gmail.com">ngairekane@gmail.com</a>
Veronica Goddard	<a href="mailto:v.goddard@bloomhearing.com.au">v.goddard@bloomhearing.com.au</a>
Kim Dixon	<a href="mailto:KimDixon@rggs.qld.edu.au">KimDixon@rggs.qld.edu.au</a>
Robyn Meredith	<a href="mailto:robyn.meredith@gmail.com">robyn.meredith@gmail.com</a>
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Margaret Black	<a href="mailto:9margaretblack38@gmail.com">9margaretblack38@gmail.com</a>
Margaret Littleton	<a href="mailto:marmaxl@bigpond.net.au">marmaxl@bigpond.net.au</a>

### 2020 Rockhampton Committee Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 3 March	Tuesday 5 May
Tuesday 4 August	Tuesday 8 December

### 2020 Brisbane Group Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 17 March	Tuesday 19 May	Tuesday 21 July
Tuesday 15 September	Tuesday 17 November	

## Dates to Remember

### RGGS OGA Function Dates 2020:

Dinner on the Deck & AGM	Tuesday 3 March
Yeppoon Luncheon	Sunday 17 May
Queensland Day Luncheon	Wednesday 3 June
Biloela Luncheon	Saturday 25 July
Townsville Luncheon	Sunday 2 August
Mackay Luncheon	Saturday 24 October
Christmas Dinner	Friday 6 November
Gladstone Luncheon	Saturday 7 November

### RGGS Brisbane Event 2020:

Morning Tea	Tuesday 17 March
Christmas Lunch	Saturday 28 November

### Membership fees for 2020 (Due January 2020):

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:

Mrs Marilyn Watts

Phone: 07 3283 7265 Mobile: 0401 442 948

Address: Unit 2, 37 Margate Pde, MARGATE Q 4019

Email: [marilyn\\_m\\_watts@yahoo.com.au](mailto:marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au)