



Chit Chat



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

**May 2018
Volume 18, Issue 2**

President's Message

I must first thank the OGA Committee for electing me as President and I must congratulate the previous President, Veronica Goddard (Bertram).

At our AGM held on 6 March 2018 in the newly refurbished McKeague Hall, the OGA Executive Committee presented Veronica with the OGA's prestigious Special Service Award and Badge for outstanding service which was well deserved. (NB: For a full listing of Veronica's citation, see Page 7).



PROFILE OF NGAIRE KANE

Ngaire Kane (Amos) boarded for four years (1957-1960) at RGGGS and was the H.E. Downs Prefect for 1960.

While her three daughters were students at RGGGS from 1979 to 1992, Ngaire's involvement at the school included the following:

- President of the Parents & Friends Association - 1981
- Fete organiser
- Member of the RGGGS Board of Trustees - 1980-1990
- Member of the Centenary Building Fund Committee
- President of the Centenary Committee - 1992

Ngaire has also been a:

- Member of the RGGGS OGA Committee - 2016-2017

Also elected at the AGM were the following Committee Members:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Val Phillips | Margaret Black |
| • Betty Spence | Margaret Littleton |
| • Felicity Truelson | Ann Creed |

There are several functions coming up including the OGA Beef 2018 Catch Up event on 7 May, the Yeppoon Lunch on 20 May and the Queensland Day Lunch on 6 June 2018.

I hope to meet up with those attending the Cocktail Function being held during Beef Week in the Walter Pierce Pavilion Board Room at the Rockhampton Show Grounds.

Ngaire Kane (Amos)
ngairekane@gmail.com

From the editor

This edition of *Chit Chat* features three more of our *Amazing Grammar Girls*: Myrtle Coling, Shelly Burgin and Mavis Sinclair.

I would like to make this a regular feature and seek your help in identifying more of our high-achievers.

If you know of someone, maybe yourself, who has achieved in their chosen field, please let me know by emailing the details together with a photograph to:
marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au.

ANZ CRU?

Did you make an internet transfer to the RGGGS OGA bank account on 23 January 2018 for \$15.00?

If so, we have not been able to identify the payer as the only information listed on our bank statement is the following:

23 JAN TRANSFER FROM CRU 15.00

If you receive an invoice asking for payment and you believe you have already paid, please email the OGA Treasurer, Robyn Meredith, on robyn.meredith@gmail.com.

May 2018

Volume 18, Issue 2

Special points of interest:

- Myrtle Coling - one crafty lady
- Biloela August 2017 Lunch
- Fundraising Bredhauer Memorial
- Special Service Badge Award
- Historical Happenings
- Professor Shelly Burgin AM
- Event Bulletin Board
- The Mavis Sinclair Story
- A composition by a 16 year old

Sympathy to:



Cheryl Boneham (Sells) on the death of her husband, Bruce, in September 2017. When Bruce and his first wife (Patricia Boneham decd) lived in Rockhampton, their bakery supplied the school with bread and other baked goods.

Elaine Saxby on the death of her mother, Daphne Engel

Dianne Jeha and Sloane Alexander on the death of their mother and grandmother, Vi Chapman

Gayle Donaldson on the death of her mother, Nancy Pierce

Sympathy to Judith Hiskens on the death of her brother, Rex Bloomfield.

To the Editor

Many thanks, Marilyn, for the continuing high standard and reliability of the "Chit Chat" newsletter.

I was especially pleased to read of some of the achievements of Jean Boreham Bradley, who passed away last year just before her 97th birthday.

She was a 'cousin' on my paternal family side and we kept in touch after meeting her during her graduation at CQU with another degree, (involving computing, I recall).

On one occasion when we met her at Rockhampton airport, she reminisced about learning to fly - tutored by Captain Connor after whom the airport was named, in a Tiger Moth airplane!

She was one of Rockhampton's first female Pharmacists, in the days when female professionals were rare.

She certainly had the RGGs character where she let nothing stand in the way of her ambitions.

**Kind Regards
Sandra (Boreham) Barnbaum**

"I'm living proof that you don't have to be smart to be a success in your chosen field. You just have to find your passion in life and strive to be the best you can!"

Shelley Burgin (McCann) - 1959-1960

Deaths



Myrtle Coling (Collins) - 1944-1945 (see Page 4 for further details of Myrtle).

Ronald J Lane - Principal 1971-1975. Husband of Jean (previous part-time staff member), father of Debra and Janine.

Weddings - 2010 Seniors

Bethany Matschoss to Matt Jones 09/09/2017

Rachel Stewart to Dan Ormond 14/10/2017

Jaymie-Leigh Bate to Thomas Garton 11/11/2017



Kerri Roberts to Simon Nash 14/10/2017



Jaimi Muller to Hamish Nolan 30/09/2017

New Members

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

New Life Members

Josephine Mumford - 2005-2007
 Terri Watts (Nunn) - 1974-1978
 Bronwyn Hoch (Dwyer) - 1977-1981

New Annual Members

Jill Bredhauer - 1958-1962

Current Membership Numbers:

Annual Members:	91
Life Members	939
Honorary Life Members	6
Associates & Friends of the OGA	11
Total:	1047

New Member Profile

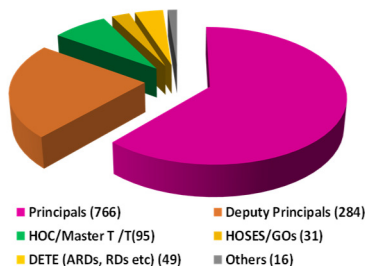
Josephine Mumford (Schultz) - 2005-2007: Gained Certificate 111 in Aged Care, Certificate 1V in Hospitality and Certificate 1V in Massage Therapy Practice. Owns her own massage clinic in Kingaroy "Josephine's Massage Clinic".

Congratulations

Congratulations to Leslie Single (1969-1973) who was recently appointed President of the Queensland Association of State School Principals. Her term of office is for 2 years but she is then able to stand for another election. QASSP has 1281 Queensland members.

Who Are Our Members?

1281 members | 79% of Queensland state schools with primary aged students



Queensland Association of State School Principals

Supporting State School Leaders Since 1966

2018 Annual Subs Now Due

If you are an Annual Subscriber to the Old Girls' Association, your annual subscription is now overdue. 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 RGGS OGA Functions
Money Order: Posted to the Membership Secretary
Cheque: Posted to the Membership Secretary and made out to RGGS-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

Reunion - 1974-1978

The 1978 Seniors and 1976 Juniors are holding their "40 Years On" Reunion on 18 August 2018. A School tour and afternoon tea has been organised. For further details and bookings, please contact:

Gillian Blacket (Primmer)
 Email: Blacket@bigpond.com - Mobile: 0413 944 685

Myrtle Coling—one crafty lady

Myrtle Coling nee Collins (1944-1945) recently passed away and will be sadly missed by members of the Brisbane OGA Group.

Myrtle was an extremely talented artisan and a great supporter of the OGA. She crafted beautiful bear door stops as raffle prizes for the annual Brisbane Christmas lunch.

Her talent didn't stop at bears as Myrtle also produced beautiful decorated plates one of which she presented to Dot Donald nee Stirling (previous Brisbane Branch Patron) in celebration of Dot's 90th birthday.

The plate depicted a copy of artist Edith Neish's drawing of the School and also the School badge. See picture below left showing Myrtle presenting the plate to Dot and see picture bottom left for a close up look at the plate.

Pictured below is Myrtle at the 2014 Brisbane Christmas Lunch with one of her creations.

Pictured bottom right are three more examples of Myrtle's beautiful craftwork.

These three bears right were won by lucky lady, Dot Skewes (Chapman), over a period of years. Dot went to school with Myrtle and the bears will provide a lasting, loving memory of Myrtle for Dot.



Did you know?

Did you know that the RGGGS Parents and Friends Association Inc. (P&F) only came into being in 1951. Following the suggestion of the Headmistress, Dr A R Paterson, that the School should recognize an official organization of parents and friends, the inaugural meeting was held on 30 October 1951 with Mrs Clarice McKeague as the first President. Over many years, the P&F has been a major fundraising source for amenities for the girls.

Biloela Luncheon - August 2017

Fifteen ladies met at the Settlers Hotel on Saturday 26 August 2017 for the annual OGA Biloela Lunch.

Ladies came from the Dawson Valley, Kingaroy, Biloela and Monto plus a contingent from Rockhampton.

Many thanks to Jean Rathjen who organises the event each year for the OGA. Also many thanks to Ilma O'Farrell who supplied the photos from the day.

The 2018 Biloela Lunch is scheduled for Saturday 25 August. Look out for your invitation later this year.



Pictured above: Jean Rathjen



L-R: Ann Creed, Margaret Black, Ilma O'Farrell



L-R: Julie Davies (Visitor), Linda Piddick



L-R: Glenyce Wenck, Girlie Goodie, Mary Breikreutz



L-R: Shirley Gough, Rhonda (Visitor)

Auction result - Edith Neish Painting

As part of the OGA fundraising efforts for a museum display case in memory of Helen Bredhauer, an on-line auction of an original Edith Neish painting of Paterson House was held in March 2018.

This beautiful painting was generously donated by Gaye Luck nee Carter (1958-1963). Edith Neish was an Old Girl of the School and was a renowned artist. Many of her works depict historical buildings in the local area.

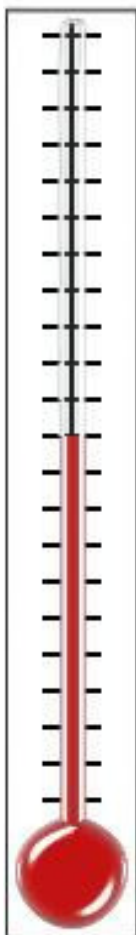
Part of the auction included the option of **\$1000 BUY NOW**. Congratulations to Gail Godwin-Smith who met this amount.

Pictured right is Gail Godwin-Smith (1984-1988) together with her daughter Abbey Godwin Smith (2011-2015).

Thank you to all those who participated.



Call to action



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.

The OGA hopes to fundraise \$5590.00 for a small island cabinet in Helen's memory and so far has achieved the amount of \$2930.00. The cabinets are made by local manufacturer, Large's Furniture.

This leaves \$2660.00 still to raise - hence this *Call to Action* to all Old Girls to help us reach our goal. All donations, small or large, are gratefully accepted.

Donations should be made payable to the Rockhampton Old Girls' Association by cheque or EFT 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.

RGGS Race Day

2018

GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL RACE DAY

SATURDAY 16 JUNE ♦ CALLAGHAN PARK 12 MIDDAY

RESERVE A TABLE FOR 10 IN 'THE PARTY PAVILION'

TICKETS: **\$130** INCLUDES:

- ♦ ENTRY TO CALLAGHAN PARK
- ♦ THREE COURSE PICNIC LUNCH AND BEVERAGES FOR 10 PEOPLE SERVED TO YOUR TABLE

PER PERSON

ENQUIRIES ♦ MERIN WESTON 0418-193162 ♦ VICKI JACKSON 0419-791836
 ♦ NICOLE SVENSEN 49369102

Special Service Award - Veronica Goddard

At the March OGA AGM and Dinner on the Deck, a very special honour was bestowed upon our outgoing President, Veronica Goddard, who was presented the Association's prestigious award, the Special Service Badge for outstanding service. Veronica's citation is as follows:

Veronica has held the following executive positions on the RGGGS OGA Management Committee:

- Rockhampton OGA Treasurer – 1996-1998
- Rockhampton OGA President – 2011-2013
- Rockhampton OGA President – 2015-2017

During her presidency, Veronica:

- travelled to numerous OGA functions in Biloela, Gladstone, Yeppoon and Mackay;
- represented the Rockhampton OGA at the annual Brisbane Branch Xmas Lunch;
- served on the 125 Year Celebrations as an OGA delegate;
- organised OGA members to run the raffle stand at the annual RGGGS Race Day.

Veronica has been an OGA member for approximately 20 years and has been a regular attendee at numerous functions, committee meetings, P&F functions and School activities. She has actively participated in the running of the OGA over many years, contributing several ideas and suggestions that have been instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of the OGA.

Veronica has generously given of her time and effort in promoting the values of the OGA and her service to the OGA and to the School has been exemplary.



Pictured above is one very delighted lady, Veronica Goddard, with her Special Service Badge.



L-R: Marilyn Watts, Veronica Goddard Margaret Black, Robyn Meredith, Ngaire Kane (incoming President)



L-R: Zelda Mace, Joy McCartney, Jill Bredhauer, Ngaire Kane, Pat Handley

Historical Happenings - Hugh Paterson

Editor's Note: *Alexander Hugh Paterson was the RGGGS Board of Trustees Chairman 1920-1952. Mr Paterson is the longest serving Board Chairman to date and was also a prominent Rockhampton businessman. He passed away in 1953. The following obituary was printed in the Rockhampton "Morning Bulletin" on 10 September 1953.*

Mr Alexander Hugh Paterson, General Manager of the Central Queensland Meat Export Company, died in hospital yesterday morning, age 78, ending a continuous association with the Lakes Creek meatworks that extended to within a few months of 62 years.

Born in London, he came to Australia as a boy and was 16 years of age when he became a junior clerk in the office of the meatworks in November, 1891. His father, Mr Alexander Paterson, had been appointed manager the previous year and continued in that position until 1898 when he retired and subsequently was elected Member for Capricornia in the first Commonwealth Parliament.

Mr Paterson was paymaster, accountant, assistant manager and then in 1923 he followed Mr W. A. Mackay as general manager. He had worked under five managers, one of the most interesting being Mr George Braid Hopper who purchased the works on behalf of a London company and introduced the modern method of killing cattle.

During Mr Paterson's period of service, he saw the works pass through difficult and prosperous times from a payroll of three men to the present huge undertaking employing up to 2200 men and women.

In 1924, Mr Paterson visited London and gained first hand knowledge of



handling methods at the Smithfield meat markets. There was a falling-off in business and the company declined to carry on after 1926, cabling Mr Paterson to close down. He kept only three men to look after the works.

Grass was growing in some of the departments and assets were dwindling rapidly when Mr Paterson, acting under power of attorney, borrowed money to go to Sydney and eventually had the works sold to Mr (now Sir) William Angliss. He was sent back in March 1928 to get the works started. There was great elation in Rockhampton and the employees, who had scattered during the 18 months of idleness, soon returned.

Following the fillip given to the industry under the Ottawa Agreement, ownership of the works changed hands. A period of prosperity opened up with a great expansion in employment and output which went to markets in Great Britain, Suez, Port Said, the Near East, Singapore, west coast of Africa and the Pacific Islands.

When Mr Paterson became a junior clerk at the meat-works, the daily kill of cattle was 180 head. He saw the capacity increased to 846 head a day. He also saw the introduction of

chilling rooms for holding the carcasses before they were placed in the freezing rooms.

There were many improvements in handling and canning meat and in the 1930s, the company joined in the chilled beef trade which the last war terminated.

Mr Paterson continued his association with the company until the end but had been in failing health in recent months.

PORT INTEREST

His interest in the port of Rockhampton was expressed in 31 years as a member of the Rockhampton Harbour Board which ended in September 1952 when he vacated his seat after failing to secure re-election earlier in the year. He represented Rockhampton throughout except for one term as representative of the shires of Banana, Bauhinia, Belyando, Duaringa, Emerald and Peak Downs.

He was a keen advocate for the development of Port Alma as a deep-water port for Rockhampton and Central Queensland.

Another public body to which he gave much time and energy was the Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School. He became a member of the school trust in 1919 and chairman in 1921, continuing in that position with one short break until the present.

A plaque was placed at the school in 1949 recording appreciation of his service in the interests of the school.

Mr Paterson was predeceased by his wife seven years ago. He is survived by a sister, Miss Allison Paterson (Melbourne), a son Mr A. Paterson (Rockhampton) and five daughters: Mrs H A Barnard (Coomooboolaroo, Duaringa), Mrs Vi Hamilton (Sydney), Mrs Dale Stark

(Continued on page 9)

Historical Happenings—Hugh Paterson

(Mackay), Mrs P. Bolton (Sutton Downs, Hughenden), and Miss N. Paterson (Rockhampton).

The funeral will take place this afternoon, following a service in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and leaving at 4 o'clock for the North Rockhampton Cemetery.

As a mark of respect to Mr Paterson, the meatworks will close at midday for the afternoon. Shift workers will resume at 6.00 pm.

Editor's Note 2: *Three more of A H Paterson's descendants also attended Girls Grammar: granddaughters, Anette Davison nee Barnard (1948-1953), Trish Frost nee Stark (1961-1962) and Jill Heather nee Stark (1965). Trish is a member of the Brisbane OGA Group and surprised the them by letting it slip one day that she had a very important ancestor.*

Editor's Note 3: *I though readers might also be interested in the following excerpt from "The Wider View" which gives further information on A H Paterson after whom Paterson House is named.*

Alexander Hugh Paterson was appointed a government trustee in 1919 and was elected Chairman in 1920. He changed the pattern of Chairmanship and with the exception of one year, he remained in office until his death in 1953.

In 1928, business commitments caused Paterson's resignation, and although trustee Col Arthur Raff Woolcock was elected Chairman, he remained for a mere nine months after which Paterson was re-elected.

His daughters were educated at the School and a son, Alexander (Bobby), attended the Kindergarten. The Chairman was the Manager of the Lakes Creek Meat Works and it was his practice to drive the family to School in the Company 'bus', regularly collecting other pupils along the

way. For two terms during 1924, six Paterson children were enrolled.

Chairman Paterson and the trustees guided the School through financial straits in years of economic crisis when the changing policies of government scholarship awards seriously impaired attendance and through the years of the Great Depression and World War 11.

In 1949, to honour the Chairman, the trustees had a plaque erected in the Assembly Hall and the inscription included lines from Shakespeare's Henry IV.

*His life was gentle; and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might
stand up
And say to all the world "This was a
man!"*

The School mourned the death of a Chairman whose service had encompassed almost a quarter of a century—hundreds of students, mistresses, six headmistresses and numerous trustees had experienced Paterson's leadership. To Headmistress Miss Margaret Smith, he was 'guide and counsellor' and others knew him to be a man of:

*Good sense, sane judgment and vision,
a sense of values and an innate
courtesy and tolerance.*

Under the leadership of Chairman Frank Alexander Horner, the trustees sought a fitting memorial to recognise the 34 years of dedicated service by the late Chairman.

The Paterson family agreed that the memorial - the first at the School - should incorporate the reconstruction of the School driveway along which Paterson had driven on countless occasions. The trustees planned the alteration and repositioning of the front gates to Denham Street at the entrance to the School.

By 1957, the new avenue was in use, the gates were complete, lights were

installed and a metal scroll erected across the pillars read 'A.H. Paterson Memorial Drive'. Fourteen years later, the original School at the end of the driveway was named 'Paterson House'

Editor's Note 4: *It is believed that at some time in the 1980s, the gates with the metal scroll across the top were replaced due to the deteriorated condition of the original gates.*



Memorial plaque for A H Paterson - now located in the foyer outside the Principal's office. However, the Henry IV inscription seems to have disappeared.



Photo of the inscription A.H. Paterson Drive across the window arch



Photo of Paterson Drive showing the drive up to Paterson House

Profile - Mavis Jean Sinclair (Walker)

Mavis Walker was born in Rockhampton in 1897 and was educated at the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School having first enrolled at the School in 1904.

In 1913, a year ahead of her peers, she sat the first Junior examination set by the University of Queensland, as her family were travelling to England for a year.

Whilst abroad, Mavis came third in a nation-wide essay competition on the Glasgow Exhibition of 1911. She matriculated fifth in Queensland in the Senior Examination of 1913, winning an Open Scholarship to the University of Queensland, where she was among the first students at the Women's College, headed by Miss (later Dr) Freda Bage.

Mavis studied Science and undertook biology excursions to the Great Barrier Reef in 1915 and 1916 where the students camped on North-West and Masthead Islands, gathering new species of marine life. In 1917, she graduated BSc with First-Class Honours, and two years later, obtained her MSc.

Her first assignment was in Tick Research on a cattle station near Murgon, and in 1920, she was appointed Acting Lecturer in the Zoology Department at the University of Queensland. She lectured students, many of whom were returned soldiers, and she also set Junior and Senior examinations.

Three years later, she took charge of the hookworm, malaria, and filarial campaigns at the Rockefeller Laboratory in Brisbane.



In 1926, Mavis went to Britain for further study at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, taking with her a specimen of a Moreton Bay tapeworm, now called *Spinobothrium Mavensis* in her honour.

Marrying in 1924, in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Mavis spent the next 24 years there, in a variety of roles, including teaching and running a laboratory at the Naval Hospital during WW II. She worked in the Censor's Office and volunteered at the Toc H canteen.

Mavis retired to Australia and resumed her interest in the Women's Graduates Association and the Old Collegians, the

Lyceum Club, the Rockhampton Girls Grammar Old Girls' Association, and the Red Cross Society. In 1993, she was made a Fellow of the Women's College, University of Queensland and died the next year at the age of 97.

Editor's Note 1: *This article was sourced through the Queensland Women's Historical Association who obtained the information from Fiona and Peter Bekkers about Fiona's mother, Mavis Sinclair.*

Editor's Note 2: *I have researched the name "Toc H" and found the following information: Toc H began in Poperinge in Flanders during 1915 when Revd. "Tubby" Clayton, an Army Chaplain, opened Talbot House and created there a home-from-home for men on active service in World War 1. The initials of Talbot House, in the Army Signallers' language of that time was "Toc H" which eventually became the name of the Movement.*

INVITATION TO RGGGS OGA SOCIAL EVENT
Will you be in Rockhampton for BEEF 2018?

Don't miss the opportunity to catch up with old school friends for drinks and canapes in the Walter Pierce Pavilion Board Room (upstairs) at the Rockhampton Showgrounds before or after your other functions.

Date & Time: Monday 7 May, 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

The OGA will cover the cost of the venue and canapes.

There will be a private cash bar for our get-together.

Bring your friends and please **RSVP** to Kim Dixon (Bredhauer):

Email: EnterpriseManager@rpggs.qld.edu.au Phone: 07 4930 0964

A composition by a 16 year old in 1957

Permission to publish kindly received from Lorna Hunter nee O'Dowd 1953-1958

A conversation between Florence Nightingale and Sister Vivian Bullwinkel

The lady of the lamp, Florence Nightingale and Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, the only woman to survive the *Banka Island* massacre during World War 11, meet in the ward of a well-equipped modern hospital.

Florence Nightingale: *Ah, my dear, what a pleasure it is to see such a clean, fully-equipped hospital. It's very different from the hospitals in which I nursed at Scutari.*

Vivian Bullwinkel: *You did fine work there, Miss Nightingale, even without equipment. I suppose conditions at Scutari were extremely over crowded.*

Miss Nightingale: *It was dreadful. When I arrived with my band of nurses there was no sign of hygiene—no medical supplies, no beds, not even proper food. The Hospital Purveyor was a foolish man. He refused to release supplies from the storeroom, unless he received permission from the authorities. I used to take the supplies forcibly.*

Vivian Bullwinkel: *How stupid of them to hold back the goods! During World War 11, we all did everything we could to help the sick.*

Miss Nightingale: *Did you serve in the War? Tell me about it.*

Vivian Bullwinkel: *I wanted to help the men who were fighting to keep our country free. I joined the Australian Army Nursing Service and I was sent to Malaya.*

When I first arrived, there was no war in the Pacific. However, the Japanese soon changed that. When they took Malaya, we were ordered to evacuate on the "Vyner Brooke", which would take us to Australia.

Miss Nightingale: *Did you reach there safely?*

Vivian Bullwinkel: *No. The next day our ship was bombed and it sunk quickly. We all abandoned ship as fast as we could. During the embarkation, a woman's voice called "Everybody stand still!". Then the voice continued "My husband has dropped his glasses." How we laughed, despite the seriousness of our position.*

Miss Nightingale: *How did you get to land? Was the ship bombed close to the coast?*

Vivian Bullwinkel: *We were ten miles from land. Many died in the water and some floated out to sea and have never been seen since.*

The rest of us floated and swum to land. The group I was with numbered some wounded people. They had



to have medical attention. A naval officer walked into Muntok and led some Japanese soldiers back to us.

Miss Nightingale: *Did the Japanese help you, even though they were fighting against you?*

Vivian Bullwinkel (Bitterly): *Indeed not. The men were taken behind some rocks and bayoneted. We nurses were told to walk into the sea. Then they machine-gunned us. I was shot in the left hip but I was the sole survivor. I dragged myself onto the beach after the soldiers left and slept for a couple of days.*



Then an Englishman who had survived joined me and we walked to Muntok. We were interned in a prison camp where the man died. I found nurses from the "Vyner Brooke" there and we dwelt under dreadful conditions till the end of the war.

Miss Nightingale: *What a harrowing experience you had! You are indeed worthy of the nursing profession.*

Vivian Bullwinkel: *If I could have done half the splendid work you have done for the sick I would be well satisfied. I only hope that, in the future, we will have only peace-time patients to nurse.*

Miss Nightingale: *I, too, hope for peace. There is enough suffering to alleviate in times of peace without men trying to harm others with guns and bombs. May there be no more wars at all.*

Editor's Note 1: This poignant story is an extract from the English Composition Book of Lorna Hunter (O'Dowd) when she was in Form VI at RGGS.

Lorna's English teacher at the time was Margaret Ward nee Crosthwaite. (See photo on page 13) She gave Lorna a mark of *A minus* with the notation *Good Choice*. Lorna recalls: *Mrs Ward dazzled us with stories of her days at Uni where they wore their academic gowns to dinner at their residential college and their long sleeves would trail through the butter when they reached for it.*

She had the unenviable task of helping us young girls to understand some of the raunchier parts of Shakespeare and our poems so we could write about them in our exams to sound knowledgeable but not coarse!

Editor's Note 2: Lorna was very diligent with her research as all her references to the *Banka Island* massacre are historically correct. The surviving Englishman referred to by Lorna was Private Kingsley and sadly he did die of his wounds.

Editor's Note 3: The 75th Anniversary of the *Fall of Singapore* was commemorated in 2017.

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Email: jdark46@hotmail.com

Rockhampton:

Mrs Margaret Black (Clark)
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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

Mystery solved



Lillian Duckett (James) has identified the three ladies in the photo. Lillian emailed Margaret Black with the following information: *They are in fact three teachers who played a big and important part of the boarding life at RGGGS during the two years that I was there -1957-1958.*

Pictured L-R: *Margaret Ward nee Crosthwaite, Helen Gaha music, and Elizabeth Jeffrey Art of Speech.*

I found references in "The Wider View" and the December, 1957 Magazine. I have a feeling that Mrs Ward and Miss Jeffrey taught the Commercial subjects as well. Photo of my typing class on page 207 of "The Wider View" with Dorothy Fisher. I really enjoy receiving the Chit Chat. This year - we are 60 years on! I hope some of my class have also responded to your query. Thanking you and best wishes. Lillian Duckett.

Thanks to the following who responded to Margaret on this matter: Velma Weaver (Brake), Ngaire Kane (Amos), Lillian Duckett (James), Phyllis Derrick (James), Gail Condie (Ogston), Elaine Mina (Allison), Mary Paine (Rodgers) and Paula Stevenson (Blank).



Editor

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Place mailing label here



"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
Veronica Goddard	v.goddard@bloomhearing.com.au
Kim Dixon	OldGirls@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

2018 Rockhampton Committee Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 7 August Tuesday 27 November

2018 Brisbane Group Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 15 May Tuesday 17 July
Tuesday 18 September Tuesday 20 November

Dates to Remember

RGGS OGA Function Dates 2018:

Yeppoon Lunch	Sunday 20 May
Queensland Day Lunch	Wednesday 6 June
Gladstone Lunch	Saturday 21 July
Townsville Lunch	Sunday 5 August
Biloela Lunch	Saturday 25 August
Mackay Lunch	Saturday 27 October
Christmas Dinner	Friday 2 November

RGGS Brisbane Events 2018:

Morning Tea	Tuesday 15 May
Christmas Lunch	Saturday 1 December

Membership fees for 2018 (Due January 2018):

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

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Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au