



# Chit Chat



RGGS Old Girls' Association - Rockhampton

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May 2019

Volume 19, Issue 2

## Highlights at Girls Grammar - from the A/Principal

Term 1 has passed swiftly, and our girls have enjoyed a plethora of experiences to engage and contribute to our school community. I have had the privilege of leading the school in an acting position this term and with the announcement of the resignation of Christine Hills, will continue to do so for the ensuing term.

The school is flourishing academically, culturally, in the sporting arena and in the community, which is testament to the legacy she leaves us. Under Christine's direction the school has raised its academic profile and in 2019 student enrolment numbers are the best we have seen since 2014.

We wish Christine well as she pursues her lifelong passion, delivery of the Collins writing program, and building the capacity of teachers and students in literacy across the nation.

Our year led off with the announcement that our recent Year 12 leavers were in the Top 5% in Queensland for student gain from Year 9 NAPLAN results to 2018 Year 12 OP results. Again, every eligible graduate was offered a place in university.

Every single girl has graduated knowing they will always have a place here at RGGS. It is our small school, caring environment that sets us apart from the rest and we wish all our graduates every success as they undertake their next journey of life.

Our girls have performed very well so far. We have recently celebrated with Camryn (Year 8) for her successful selection in the National Indigenous Netball Team and also one of our newest students, Leah (Year 8) for her selection in the Australian Softball Team.

Abigail (Year 11) has been selected

to represent Queensland in the Queensland Reds Team and several students have been selected to represent Rockhampton and then Capricornia in several sporting disciplines.

Taylor (Year 12) was awarded Lions Youth of Year for Rockhampton, taking out both the Public Speaking Award and Club Award for 2019 and was also a finalist in the Zonta Young Citizen award.

Macey (Year 12) was a finalist in CQ Women in Business Award. Keeley and Payten (Yr10) have been selected in the Australian Trans Challenge Barrel Racing team, with both girls performing exceptionally well in the three events which required them to ride on an unfamiliar horse. Keely gained two firsts and a third and Payten was awarded two thirds and a fourth. Raven was recently awarded the QATSIF scholarship. We attract

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Report to the OGA AGM

Good evening everyone. Welcome to the 2019 OGA AGM. I would like to thank all the committee members along with other members of our Association who have helped with functions during the year. Marilyn, I thank you for your work with memberships and the production of *Chit Chat* which is appreciated by many.

We have a small dedicated and committed executive and membership in Rockhampton. We meet only four times a year and our meetings are social and relaxed.

In order to continue our service to you, we need more members to join the committee. I would hate to see our committee fold through lack of members!

Please consider joining the committee or send any suggestions which you think could help us improve what we do as an association. I am looking forward to another successful year with the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School community.

**Ngarie Kane (Amos)**  
President

May 2019

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### Special points of interest:

- Meet our OGA Committee
- 50 Years Reunion
- Dot's Special Birthday
- The Grammar School Era
- Matron Doris Broomfield
- Special Service Award - Beres Walker
- Excerpt - 1964 School Magazine

## Highlights at Girls Grammar (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

very talented girls at Rockhampton Girls Grammar and are becoming the school of choice for girls in our region.

This year our focus is on CARE. Our care of students and academics, our care of cultural and sporting programs, our care of our community including staff and leaders, our care of facilities. It is our attention to care that makes us unique. As part of our care program, we launched the screening of *Screenagers* to address the implications social media and screen time are having on our girls.

The film is an award-winning film that probes into the vulnerable corners of family life and depicts messy struggles over social media. Our team managed to secure an expert panel, including Clinical Psychologist, Jamie Parnell, University Lecturer, Kate Moore (who also works in the field of social work) and Police Officer Warren Williams. We are so very lucky to have these great community connections.

This term, our community was deeply saddened again by the tragic death of one of our own, Amanda Marshall, boarding supervisor, Jackson House. We had a large contingent of students who attended the service for Ms Marshall and were afforded the privilege of forming a guard of honour. Our presence also touched the family.

I want to share with you some of the heartfelt message we received from her two sisters, her brother and her father:

*'We are told by Mandy's girls, that a large contingent of staff and girls attended her funeral on Wednesday. While Mandy would not have wanted the girls to have to go through such a difficult thing, I know that she would have so greatly appreciated them all attending and we as a fami-*

### Visit by Old Girl

Recently we had an Old Girl visit RGGGS who was a student here in 1949. Gwen Wallace (middle) now lives in Brisbane but made the trip to Rockhampton to stop in at Girls Grammar. She hasn't seen the school since she was a student here and discovered her own photo in Marion Houldsworth's book - *Hearts Bright with Hope*. Needless to say, Gwen bought a copy.

Kim Dixon and President of the OGA, Ngaire Kane (far right), showed Gwen and her family around the school.



*ly are completely taken aback by the gesture and the effort made by the school. Our 84-year old Dad wept when we told him of the bus load of girls that had attended.'*

It resonates with me so much as I know what this community is about. I know that in times of difficulty we pull together and support one another. Our attendance was more than a gesture. It is a part of our culture to support one another, even beyond the school gates as evidenced by the number of old girls in attendance.

We are well underway with our air-conditioning project in Kollar House which looks to be completed in October. This will offer our senior students a comfortable living environment where they can better focus on their academics.

We welcome a few new staff members to our team. In finance we welcome Kathy Barsby and Kasey Mitchell. In boarding, we welcome Deborah Stanley, Gail Buchannan, Billy Jean Brown and Marcia Holi. We also welcome Katelyn Schultz to our team who will be working with our senior students in Literacy and numeracy.

Term 2 promises to be action packed. I invite you to keep an eye on our events. You are most welcome. I thoroughly enjoyed attending the AGM earlier this year and it was a pleasure getting to know some of you at the heart of the OGA..

**Michelle Gouge**  
Acting Principal RGGGS

**Editor's Note;** Pictured above is Michelle with one of our primary students.



# Meet our OGA Committee

At the 2019 RGGGS Old Girls' Association AGM, the following members were elected to the Executive Committee:

- President:** Ngaire Kane (Amos)
- Vice President:** Veronica Goddard
- Secretary:** Betty Spence
- Treasurer & School Liaison Officer:** Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
- Chit Chat Editor & Membership Secretary:** Marilyn Watts (Elgar)

Margaret Black, Margaret Littleton, Val Phillips, Wendy Bredhauer and Robyn Meredith were elected as Committee members.

**Pictured below left:** Marilyn Watts, Ngaire Kane, Veronica Goddard, Betty Spence, Kim Dixon (Insert)  
**Pictured below right:** Robyn Meredith (Buchanan) being presented with a thank you gift for her three years as Treasurer on the OGA Executive.



## From the Editor

I recently received a letter from Marjorie Fleming (Hoskings) who was a student at RGGGS 1951-1952. I thought readers might be interested in hearing news of Marjorie's sister, Betty Stabler (Hoskings) who was also a student at the School 1938-1939.

Betty is now living with her daughter in Gracemere and is fast approaching 95. She is enjoying being with family and watching the progress of her two great grand-daughters who both attend RGGGS. Betty is able to attend lots of school events.

Both Betty and Marjorie attended the RGGGS but 12 years apart. Marjorie started off at the Kindergarten before it was closed during World War 11 as it was too close to the Reservoir.

The kindergarten at that time was located further up the hill from the main school building which is now known as Paterson House. I can only assume that one of the rea-



sons for the closure was that the Reservoir, being a major part of the town's infrastructure, might be considered a bombing target by the enemy.

The Kindergarten was erected in 1899 and was originally an isolation room for sick students. Both girls and boys were students at the Kindergarten.

## New Members

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

**New Members**

Rae Cowie (Pearson) - 1967-1969  
 Deborah Wilson (Rea) - 1997-1999

**New Life Members**

Lacey-Joe O'Halloran - 2002-2006  
 Maree Fraser (Findlay) - 1983-1987  
 \* Lesley McSherry (Leyland) - 1964-1966  
 \* Jill Bredhauer - 1958-1962  
 \* Cathy Whiteman (Herron) - 1978-1983  
 (\* previous Annual Members)

Annual Members:	91
Life Members	974
Honorary Life Members	7
Associates & Friends of the OGA	10
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1082</b>

## New Member Profile

**Maree Fraser (Findlay) - 1983-1987:** Registered nurse/midwife with a focus on women's health.

**Lacey-jae O'Halloran - 2002-2006:** Employed at Callide Coal Mine, Biloela and currently undertaking (2011-2019) CPA Program. Lacey-jae was the 2018 RGGGS Speech Night guest speaker.

## Reunion Guidelines

**Editor's Note:** I often receive enquiries about whether a reunion is being held for a particular year. Whilst the OGA does assist groups to organise a class reunion, it is up to each year group to contact their cohort to organise reunion dates, venue, events etc.

If you are interested in being one of the coordinators, I can send you our *Guidelines for Organising a Reunion* which gives quite a few tips on how to get your group together. The guidelines are also available on: <https://rggs.qld.edu.au/community/old-girls-association/>.

This includes giving you contact details for girls in your year who are financial members of the OGA which is a good start to tracking down former classmates and seeking interest in a class reunion.

## 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
  - 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)**



***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 resume of your achievements to The Editor for publication in Chit Chat. Your success will inspire others to think innovatively and creatively.***

# 1966 Juniors/1968 Seniors 50 Years Reunion



The 1968 Seniors and 1966 Juniors held their 50 Years On Reunion on the weekend 24-25 November 2018. Contact was made with 41 'Old Girls' with 24 able join the celebrations.

The weekend started with a tour of the school and morning tea. There was a lot of reminiscing and much laughter as girls renewed friendships after so many years.

The main function was lunch at Dingles at which we were joined by our former teacher, Dorothy Mulder, and our school secretary, Delyse Ramm, along with Kathy Ramm (Senior 66).

The weekend was rounded off with a gathering on Saturday night and breakfast by the mighty Fitzroy on Sunday morning. **Lynne Priem**

Group photo - in Paterson Hall which is now the RGS Museum



Beth Bishopric, Anne Landsberg, Barbara Roebeck



Mary-Jane Scott, Lesley McSherry, Lynne Priem, Dianne Leahy, Judy Angel, Lyn Crooks



Lyndell Daniels, Ralda Ryan, Dianne Gottani

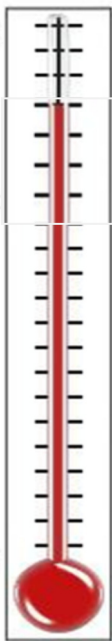


Denise McMurtrie, Kathy Warby, Ryl Edwards, Cheryl Geck, Liz Harrison

## Only \$1075 to go

Helen Bredhauer nee Marsh (1957-1958) passed away in 2018. Helen was a staunch advocate of RGGGS 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 \$5,590.00 for a small island cabinet in Helen's memory. Funds raised so far have reached the amount of \$4,515.00. The cabinets are made by local manufacturer, Large's Furniture.



**\$5590** We are almost there with only **\$1075.00** to reach our goal . We are seeking final donations, small or large, to reach our grand total of **\$5590**. All donations are gratefully accepted.

Donations should be made payable to the RGGGS 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 Kim Dixon by phone on 0456 500 592 or via email on KimDixon@rggs.qld.edu.au to confirm your donation.

## Sympathy to:



Merilyn Luck (Beak) OAM and Jenny Luck (current Board Member) on the death of their husband and father, Frank Luck. Mr Luck was a large part of our RGGGS family. His father, Mr Cedrick Luck, was Board Chairman at Rockhampton Girls Grammar and holds the naming honour of Luck House.

Jacqueline McCamley on the death of her son, Sam Palm

Hilarie and Megan on the death of their mother, Myfanwy (Van) Dunn

Margaret Bryant (Homer) on the death of her husband, John

## Deaths



Charmaine Ward (Dale) - 1954-1955

Betty Emslie -1946-49  
 Helen E Downs Prefect, Dux of the School

Jennifer Helen Mackenzie (Gill) - 1959-60, mother of Fiona Wilson

## Dot's special birthday



Dot Skewes (Chapman) will turn 90 years of age on 12 December 2019. However, as this is a very prestigious age, Dot has decided to celebrate all year.

At the March meeting of the Brisbane Branch of the OGA at the regular venue of Keri Craig Emporium, Dot delighted everyone attending with a surprise high tea. This is one of the many celebratory events Dot is planning for this year.

There is certainly no holding this lady back just because she is reaching the high heights of age. In 2018, Dot attended the overseas wedding of her grandson in the UK. Dot travelled to the UK with her family but then proceeded to go off all by herself on a tour of Cornwall.

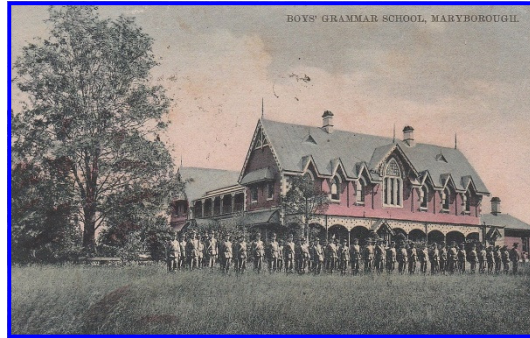
There is just no way you can keep a good Grammar girl down.



L-R: Elsie Speight, Beres Walker, Marilyn Watts, Victoria McLachlan, Jill Liddell, Dot Skewes (the birthday girl), Jan Stevenson, Lorna Hunter, Eileen Baker

## Historical Happenings—The Grammar School Era

**Editor's Note:** *The following article was sourced from the Department of Education and details the history of how Grammar Schools evolved in Queensland. Originally there were 10 Grammar Schools but Maryborough Boys Grammar School and Maryborough Girls Grammar School were transferred into the State school systems for economic reasons.*



the colony'. Grammar schools would continue but would be supplemented by a State secondary system similar to the 'superior' school system in NSW in which secondary classes were attached to primary schools.

Initially, the Department of Public Instruction opposed this extension of secondary education. The

In 1860, Queensland's first Parliament passed the *Grammar Schools Act* which allowed for the establishment of a grammar school in any town where at least £1000 could be raised locally. The Act provided for a Government subsidy of twice this local contribution. When established, each school could be run by its own seven-member board, including a Government representative.

The first grammar school established under the 1860 Act was the Ipswich *Grammar School*, opened in 1863. In the years 1863-1892, 10 grammar schools were opened, the last being the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.

Queensland grammar schools followed the traditional English model, with curricular dominated by classical subjects like Latin and Greek. Because fees were charged, the children of gentlemen, the wealthy of the colony, were the only ones likely to avail themselves of grammar schools. These schools catered for an elite, in accord with the nineteenth century view that popular education beyond the elementary level was not desirable.

Provision for the award of scholarships to grammar schools was made in the 1860 *Grammar Schools Act*. The first awards were made in 1864 for the 1865 school year at Ipswich Grammar School (the only one then existing). Between 1865 and 1873 only about twelve such scholarships were awarded. Selection was on the basis of a personal examination by a senior officer (in 1864 the Colonial Secretary acted as the first examiner). The first formal Scholarship examination was held in July 1883.

Until 1914, a fixed number of scholarships was awarded though the number varied over the years depending on the amount of money allocated. From 1914, this system was changed and all students obtaining 50 per cent or more in the examination were awarded a scholarship to any approved secondary school (which by then included State high schools).

In 1891, a Royal Commission on Education advised that a 'system of secondary schools more directly controlled as to foundation and management by the State would be less expensive and quite as effective in the education of the youth of

Under Secretary and General Inspector were both conservative men who believed that the Department had enough to do to implement compulsory, free and secular primary education.

Furthermore, they felt that Queensland's economy was not ready for such an expansion of secondary education: 'The State can only absorb a certain quantity of highly educated labour and if it spends the years of its young people in the pursuit of higher education, there will be a loss as these young people find themselves forced to fall into the ordinary avocations of life'.

Perhaps there were social reasons too for this fear of 'over education'. Despite these doubts, the *Education Act* of 1875 was amended in 1897 to allow additional subjects to be taught. Literature, science, algebra and geometry were added to the syllabus of sixth class, the highest in the primary school.

Though this change affected a small minority of schools, it can be argued that State secondary education had thus come to Queensland. Another area of development of secondary education was within the technical colleges.

During the 1880s and the 1890s, some of them provided night classes in grammar school subjects. By 1898, the Brisbane Technical College was providing a full secondary curriculum during the day and in 1905 the South Brisbane Technical College opened a high school which prepared day students for the Sydney public examinations.

In 1910, the Department of Public Instruction established separate day schools within the two Technical Colleges directly under their administration - Central Technical College, Brisbane and Warwick Technical College.

Though strongly oriented towards technical education, and consequently not regarded as the first State high schools, these schools did prepare students for the Junior and Senior examinations of the University of Queensland.

## Amazing Grammar Girls - Matron Doris Broomfield

**Editor's Note:** *Members will recall reading about our amazing Grammar girl, Doris Broomfield (1919-1921) in an interview conducted by Dot Skewes in 1994 which I previously serialised in Chit Chat.*

*Since then, I have been conversing with Ashley Reid of the Australian Country Hospital Heritage Association, who has provided me with further details of this amazing lady's life and her dedication to public health and the nursing service..*

*Many of our Old Girls have pursued a nursing career and so I thought this might be of further interest to them.*

Doris Broomfield was born in Rockhampton on 8th November 1905, the second of four daughters to Mary and Horatio. She died in Greenslopes Hospital Brisbane on 23rd July 1999 aged 93 years. Her ashes were later interred with her parents at the North Rockhampton Cemetery.

Doris attended school at Allenstown Primary School and the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School. She also successfully passed a dressmaking course at the Gracemere Rural College and went on to obtain high marks in the Trinity College of Music Examination in June 1921.

The Queensland Department of Public Instruction, recognising that many subjects taught to primary school students in rural areas did not equip them for country life after school, introduced an innovative experiment to teach students appropriate skills in agriculture and domestic science, including dressmaking.

In 1917, the first of 28 Rural Schools was established in Queensland with Gracemere Rural School opening in 1920. The District Inspector of Schools however closed the Gracemere School in 1924 believing the community needed technical



rather than agricultural skills and advised students to continue their studies at the Rockhampton Technical College.

After leaving school, Doris commenced four years General Nurse Training at the Mount Morgan Hospital in 1925 and successfully graduated in 1929. Her musical background came to the fore when in November 1926 she played music at a fund raising event and fancy dress dance held in the Mount Morgan Nurse's Quarters to raise funds for the Mount Morgan Hospital fund. The grand sum of £90 was raised from this well attended function.



During the 1920s, Mount Morgan was a bustling mining town with one of the richest gold mines in Australia. The mine commenced operation in 1882 and during its 99 years of mining a total of 225 tons of gold, 50 tons of silver and 360,000 tons of copper was taken from the ground.

The population increased from 3,514 in 1891 to 9,772 in 1911 and mining accidents occurred frequently. Hence a hospital was an essential part of the town's infra-structure.

The Mount Morgan Hospital was opened by Mrs J Wesley Hall, Mayor-ess of Mt Morgan, on 20 August 1890. In 1901, gas replaced kerosene lamps and wood burning stoves. Electricity replaced gas in 1935. The building was partially demolished in 1968 to make way for a new hospital.

Following completion of her general training, Miss Broomfield gained a post graduate certificate in Maternal and Child Welfare in Brisbane in 1929 and a Midwifery Certificate at Bundaberg's Lady Chelmsford Hospital in 1931 before moving to Western Australia.

Australia entered World War II shortly after the invasion of Poland, declaring war on Germany on 3 September 1939 and in February 1941, Miss Broomfield enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) as a Lieutenant, being promoted to the rank of Captain in April 1941.

The Australian Army Nursing Service was established on 1 July 1902 as a reserve staffed by volunteer civilian nurses. The Service became part of the Australian Regular Army in 1949 as the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC). Members were active at the outbreak of World War II serving in Australia and overseas.

Following her enlistment, she was posted overseas, travelling on the troopship Queen Elizabeth to serve at the 2/7 Australian General Hospital (AGH) at Rehovot, Israel and at Sister's Clearing Station in Gaza. Returning to Australia she was posted to Army Hospitals, 2/1 AGH, Western Australia, 116 AGH Charters Towers Queensland and 112 AGH Greenslopes Brisbane until her discharge from AANS on 6 February 1946.

Just weeks after her discharge from five years Army service, Miss Broomfield was appointed Deputy Matron of

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Amazing Grammar Girls - Matron Broomfield (Cont'd)

(continued from page 8)

the Bundaberg Hospital and later accepted an appointment as Matron of the Maryborough Hospital. She undertook further study to complete a Diploma of Nursing Administration and gained Fellowship of the College of Nursing in 1963.

During the 1950s, Brisbane was a growing city with an urgent need for a large general hospital on the south side of the city to cope with an increasing population. A newly built hospital known as the South Brisbane Auxiliary Hospital was opened in the grounds of The Diamantina Hospital in 1956. The new hospital remained under the control of the Brisbane General Hospital until "Independence Day" on 1st July 1959 when it became a separate Hospital. It was renamed Princess Alexandra Hospital (PA) in 1959 following a visit from Princess Alexandra.

Providing trained staff on secondment and student nurses on "Ward Move" rotations to the new hospital was the responsibility of Matron Burbridge from the Brisbane General Hospital until after the appointment on 27th October 1958 of Miss Broomfield as the first Matron of the South Brisbane Auxiliary Hospital.

At the time of her appointment, there were 757 inpatients in the Acute Section and 399 patients in the Chronic Section of the Diamantina Hospital and 3,893 outpatients visited clinics during the week ended September 14th 1958. The number of student nurses were - first year 142, second year 123, third year 56 and fourth year 38.

Following "Independence Day" student nurses were informed by Miss Broomfield if they wished to nominate to complete their training at the South Brisbane Auxiliary Hospital and receive a General Nurse Certifi-

cate from the hospital, they could apply in writing to do so.

The first Graduation Ceremony for 51 graduating nurses was conducted at the hospital in December 1960. The graduate nurse badge was designed by Miss Broomfield and Miss Marjorie Dickfos who commenced at the hospital in 1957 becoming Sister in Charge of the School of Nursing in January 1960.

Nurse education transferred to the new School of Nursing in August 1966 and in October 1970 just weeks before her retirement on 22nd November the school was renamed in her honour "*The Doris Broomfield School of Nursing*" and a commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Minister for Health, the Hon. S. D. Tooth.



**Matron Broomfield with Graduating Nurses**

Nurses appreciated Miss Broomfield allowing them to organize and hold dances several times a year in the Recreation Hall on the ground floor of the quarters.

Nurses excitedly decorated the Rec Hall in a theme for the night and lots of fun was had "dressing up" for the occasion.

Boyfriends were allowed to attend but were carefully scrutinized by the Welfare Officers ensuring they didn't get a chance to put one foot over the invisible line that separated the living area from the Recreation Hall. These occasions relieved the institutional feel of the nurses' home and won enormous respect for "The Matron".

Recognising the need for nurses to retain an ongoing commitment to nursing and opportunities to maintain friendships, Miss Broomfield organised the formation of The Past Nurses Association, holding the first meeting in November 1967. This Association continues today.

Various fundraising activities have resulted in providing funds for conferences for nursing staff, equipment for patients and relatives as well as providing opportunity to remain in contact with nursing colleagues from years gone by.

Some years after her retirement in 1970, Miss Broomfield made notes on her time spent at the hospital including her frustration at the process required for submissions to increase staffing levels and the disappointment when these were frequently ignored or only small increases were made after months of delay.

Among her notes, she also recalled great improvements to the staff dining room with more varied menus and better quality china and cutlery being purchased but disappointment at not being able to introduce hot meals for night staff. Despite the many problems encountered from overcrowding in the wards and at times insufficient nursing staff, Miss Broomfield praised the high level of cooperation from all levels of staff.

Years of dedicated service to the nursing profession was acknowledged by the award of an Order of the British Empire – Member Civilian, Post nominal MBE © in June 1971. She is recognised in the *Faith Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours record 1901-1989* and the *IT'S AN HONOUR website – Australians celebrating Australians*. Miss Broomfield died in Greenslopes Hospital Brisbane on 23rd July 1999.

(Continued on page 10)

## Special Service Award - Beres Walker

Another one of our very special Brisbane Branch ladies has been honoured and recognized for her many years of selfless service to the OGA. Beres Walker (Gillespie) attended RGGS 1949-1950.

Pictured right is Beres being presented with her Special Service Badge by Elsie Speight who nominated Beres for the award. Jean Bulley seconded the nomination - both these ladies are recipients themselves of the Special Service Award which shows the calibre of the ladies of the Brisbane OGA who have all worked so hard over the years to maintain a once flourishing branch but which is now declining due to the lack of younger members to take up the mantra.

The Brisbane OGA meets five times a year for a social morning tea at the Keri Craig Emporium. New members are very welcome to join us for social engagement and also to hear of current happenings at the school. The Branch provides a \$100.00 Nessie Foster Memorial Prize each year to a student for Outstanding School Citizenship.

Beres' citation reads as follows:

- **Committee Service:** Beres served in the role of Committee Secretary of the Brisbane Branch from 1995 to 2000 during the Presidency of both Jean Bulley and Elsie Speight. Beres was an enthusiastic Secretary who encouraged strong attendance at monthly meetings. This was at a time when membership was at a premium with large attendances of 100 at the Christmas Lunches. Thus the role of Secretary at this time held many responsibilities.
- **Branch Newsletter:** Beres held regular meetings at her home and printed the Branch Newsletter at no cost to the Branch. Without Beres doing such a sterling job as Secretary and Newsletter Editor, the Branch would not have had the membership strength and enjoyment during her tenure.
- **65<sup>th</sup> Branch Anniversary Publication:** Beres produced a one-off coloured seven page publication incorporating the President's address and report to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Brisbane Branch in July 1998. The speech reply by our then esteemed Patron Dot Donald was also included. The publication also included 11 colour photographs of members at this time.



- **Meeting Venue:** After the Branch ceased to hold its regular meetings at the Theodore Club, Beres kindly offered the use of her home for these meetings until a new venue could be found.
- **Regular attendee:** Beres is a regular attendee at Brisbane Branch meetings contributing many insightful suggestions for the running of the Branch. In the past, Beres helped organise the popular day Bus Trips which were very much enjoyed by members. In 1998, Beres accompanied the then President, Jean Bulley, to Rockhampton for the 1998 RGGS Speech Night.

Beres is an invaluable member of the Brisbane Branch of the OGA and has provided selfless service to the Branch over many years.

## Amazing Grammar Girls - Matron Broomfield (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 9)*

Greenslopes Hospital was built in 1942 by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide care to returned veterans and was called The Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital. Ramsay Health Care bought the hospital in January 1995 renaming it

Greenslopes Private Hospital. An agreement at the time of the sale ensured Australian veterans and their widows would continue to receive the services previously provided at the Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital.

## Excerpts - Old Girls' Notes -1964 School Magazine

**Editor's Note:** *I came across a 1964 School Magazine and spotted the Old Girls' Notes. The OGA was very active in those days and enjoyed quite an enthusiastic membership. The notes were quite comprehensive and listed the career paths of many girls. I'm sure our senior Old Girls will recognize many names and maybe even see their own name in print. Because of space, I have selected only a portion of the notes.*

### Old Girls' Notes

The Annual Meeting of the Rockhampton Branch of the Old Girls' Association was held on the School Terrace on Tuesday 24th March 1964. After welcoming Miss Millicent Jackson, Patroness of the Association and the Old Girls who were present, the President, Miss Robyn Millroy, read her Annual Report.

The Secretary, Miss Barbara Grant, read the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the Treasurer, the Financial Statement, after which the election of officer bearers took place. The results were as follows:

Patroness, Miss M Jackson, President Miss J Sinclair; Senior Vice-Presidents, Mesdames C A R Luck, W J Hempenstall and A C Pain; Junior Vice-President, Miss N Kelly; Secretary, Miss B Cave; Treasurer, Miss J Davidson; Committee Members, Misses P Snelling, E Priddle, J Seary, B Grant, J Gill, Z Martin, E Pilkington, L Dunning, J Boyd, E Cameron, E Carpenter, N Kelly, H Morris and S Dunning.

We have had a full and enjoyable year. Once again at the Parents and Friends' Association Fete in May, we ran a "Lucky Chance" Stall which was most popular. Our first social function for the year was the Annual Dinner, held on 19 May at the Commercial Hotel when Mrs Ede and her assistants from Ede's Beauty Salon provided entertainment for those present.

The Carnival Supper Dance was held in June and a Luncheon was held at the Commercial Hotel in July. A Paddy's Market was held in the Red Cross Rooms in September and Mrs A C Pain and her helpers who ran the stall had a successful morning.

Again this year, we arranged an "Activity Night" for the boarders on Saturday 19 September. The girls played a variety of games and enjoyed the evening immensely.

Our Annual Afternoon Party took place on the School Terrace on Saturday 3 October. This year, a Dress and Shoe Parade, by courtesy of Cooper's and Suzanne Shoes, was arranged which provided an interesting afternoon's entertainment.

Again this year, one of our present girls, Christine Clay, won the bursary presented by the Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools' Club of which our Association is a member.

### Personal

News from Old Girls is always welcome and any enquiries and requests to join us at our functions may be addressed to the Secretary, care of the School. The annual subscription, which in many cases entitles members to a copy of the School Magazine, is 12/6 for town members and 7/6 for country members. Old Girls badges are always available from the Secretary at a cost of 6/6.

Girls who have now entered the business world include: Gaye Carter (Bank of NSW), Jocelyn Luck (ANZ Bank), Judith Lane (National Bank), Denise Donnelly (Cooper's Casuals), Cheryl Hodges (Union Trustees), Esther Holland (SGIO), Dianne Chapman (Lucas'), Betsy-Ann Heron (Dental Nurse, Sydney), Carlie Creed, Carolyn Mackay, Bev Hardwick, Margaret Davis (Nursing Staff, General Hospital), Anita Bates (Denham Bros), Moyra Price (Governess, Blackall), Pam Chapman (Hairdresser, Biloela), Judith Nelson

(Queensland Book Depot), Dawn Olsen (Insurance Office, Mackay), Jan Bauman (Nursing, Brisbane), Elizabeth Blines (Solicitor's Office, Mackay), Kathy McGilvray (Telephonist, Springsure), Dorothy Tregurtha (Public Curator's Office), Gaye Edwards (Education Department), Helen Briggs (RACQ), Toni Nunn (Withers), Kathy Nobbs (National Bank, Biloela), Gem Dunn (Bulletin Office), Elaine Mulder (Primaries).

Last year's Seniors, now at University, are: Jan Head (Arts), Maureen Till (Medicine), Pamela Ryan (Arts), Jennifer Miles (Divinity), Vicki Sale (Science) and Gaye Botcher (Science) who is also studying music at the Conservatorium. Judy Newland is doing Veterinary Science at the Sydney University. Barbara Reid, Robin McCall, Pauline Homer and Roberta Sinclair are completing their second year at the University and Anne Heywood has done Arts 111.

Jan Kean is studying the Piano and Violin at the Queensland Conservatorium. At the Teacher's Training College are Jan Clay, Janette Davey, Lesley Green, Pauline Teasdale, Marilyn Broadfoot and Judith Shannon. Jan Clay has continued her studies in Music and has obtained her A.Mus.A.

Elizabeth Bradford is doing research in Theoretical Physics at Harwell where she has a three years' Fellowship. De-Anne Smith (formerly De-Anne Till) is teaching at Bundaberg High School and Margo Breckenridge teaches at the North Rockhampton High School.

Lesley Chase (formerly Lesley Smith) and Barbara Boyle (formerly Barbara Grant) are announcers at Rockhampton's National Television Station, ABRQ Channel 3.

**Editor's Note:** *The Notes went on to record numerous Engagements, Marriages and Births but there was insufficient room to list all these names.*

## Upcoming Reunion - 40 Years - 2019

Calling all Old Girls from the years 1975 (Grade 8) to 1979 (Grade 12) for their 40 Year Reunion. All girls from these years are welcome no matter what year they joined or left. Leigh Rycen is organizing the venue for the Saturday night tea and Debbie Wheeler is looking into a Friday Night get together venue.

**Date:** 1-2 November 2019

**Contact:** Janice Lacy (Currie)

**Email:** [janine.lacy7@bigpond.com](mailto:janine.lacy7@bigpond.com)

**Facebook:**

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



## Upcoming Reunion - 20 Years - 2019

Invitation for the 1999 Alumni. Deborah Rea wants you for your 20 Year Reunion at the RGGGS Race Day on 15 June 2019 followed by morning tea and a tour of the School on Sunday 16 June at 10.00 am.

**Email:** [rea\\_deb@hotmail.com](mailto:rea_deb@hotmail.com).

**Reunion Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/321465178288142/>



**Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School - 1999**  
 Teacher: Miss P McDevitt.  
 Grade 12A.  
 Back Row (L to R): Tessa Coulter, Donna Close, Annaliese Nelson, Mana Ingram, Belinda Clark.  
 Middle Row: Michelle Dunbar, Rosemary Purnell, Lisa Naughton, Jennifer Kawere, Diana Sparke, Natalie Smith, Phoebe Muir, Alison Coker.  
 Front Row: Laura Theodore, Emma Taylor, Alana Treasure, Heidi Warner, Kellie Waraker, Kristy Landry, Dennice Winters, Ho Ming Leung.



**Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School - 1999**  
 Teacher: Mrs D Smith.  
 Grade 12B.  
 Back Row (L to R): Angela Wia, Dania Lawrence, Sarah Fordyce, Kirsty Lillie, Jennifer Michelmore.  
 Middle Row: Patricia Khou, Anna Swanga, Delvene Middowson, Sally Robertson, Deborah Rea, Carly Schrader.  
 Front Row: Kila Mauri, Roxanne Hoare, Kathleen Keane, Melaine Barr, Reena Kwong, Hope Redden, Jenny Lipu, Amanda Kerle.



**Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School - 1999**  
 Teacher: Mrs S Longden.  
 Grade 12C.  
 Back Row (L to R): Emma Densley, Gemma Collins, Carly Parker, Kelli-Maree Kingston, Alice Maxwell, Rachel Edmistine.  
 Middle Row: Amy Thomas, Cassie White, Juliana Milroy, Vanessa Reed, Maryanne Carpenter, Sandra Clews, Rosalie Tennent.  
 Front Row: Stacey Corrie, Laura Acton, Megan Reddy, Ngaire Nunn, Emily Hare, Nicole Rea, Alison Polkinghorne, Amanda Durkin.



**Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School - 1999**  
 Teacher: Mrs D Clark.  
 Grade 12D.  
 Back Row (L to R): Joy Nowland, Leona Sanders, Jennifer Parry, Teegan Macaulay-Reif, Tamara Smith.  
 Middle Row: Carla Jensen, Renee Rodda, Michelle Jensen, Allison Johnson, Kristie Rudd, Nichole Baulch, Lindy Appletton.  
 Front Row: Melanne Gregson, Teneale Wixon, Kelly Marshall, Nadine Kelly, Katie Patrick, Shelly Azzopardi, Deanna McMeekin, Patricia Hawkins.



**Editor**

Mrs Marilyn Watts  
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MARGATE Q 4019

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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	Betty Spence
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
Margaret Littleton	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>
Marilyn Watts	<a href="mailto:marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au">marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au</a>
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>

**2019 Rockhampton Committee Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday 7 May	Tuesday 6 August
Tuesday 19 November	

**2019 Brisbane Group Meeting Dates:**

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

## Dates to Remember

**RGGS OGA Function Dates 2019:**

Queensland Day Luncheon	Wednesday 5 June
Gladstone Luncheon	Saturday 27 July
Townsville Luncheon	Sunday 4 August
Biloela Luncheon	Saturday 24 August
Mackay Luncheon	Saturday 26 October
Christmas Dinner	Friday 1 November
Brisbane Christmas Lunch	Saturday 30 November

**RGGS School Event 2019:**

Girls Grammar Race Day	Saturday 15 June 2019
Speech Night	Friday 15 November 2019

**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:

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)