



# Chit Chat



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

May 2020  
Volume 20, Issue 2

## Highlights at Girls Grammar - from the Principal

2020 has seen many wonderful events as well as unprecedented challenges.

Recent weeks have been dedicated to navigating the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic which has required us to move all learning to an online environment and close our boarding house for the foreseeable future.

The move to online learning required significant planning as our teachers reflected on teaching and learning in new ways and how best to support students, both academically and pastorally.

Our transition has been very successful so far with our students enjoying their learning and proving their resilience, flexibility and adapt-



ability. Our parents have been supportive and, as a community, we have worked in partnership to ensure our girls have every opportunity to thrive.

Term 1 also saw many memorable events.

- Our welcome barbeque and our morning tea for new students were wonderful opportunities to gather as a community and for me to meet our families and students.
- At our primary and secondary investitures, we welcomed guest speaker Tess Camm (see photo left) - Class of 2008 - and celebrated the amazing leaders we have at Girls Grammar.
- We invested Molly Harwood as the Helen E Downs Prefect and Jemma Green as the Prue McKeague Prefect. We were also

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Message

Hello to all readers

I hope you are all keeping well and coping with the Pandemic and social distancing. Many of you are possibly working in essential services and are to be thanked for this.

I am sorry I did not get to all the country visits last year and I had good plans to visit all groups this year.

Sadly, however, we have had to cancel our Yeppoon Luncheon and it will be a wait and see with regard to all future events.

I would like to thank Marilyn for

keeping Chit Chat in production as this is one way we can still keep in touch with our members.

With all my free time at home my washing is up to date, house cleaned and I am rearranging my kitchen! Have cleaned up the garden as well! Books are being read, crosswords done, sewing yet to be done, chocolate cake cooked (comfort food).

There will be books being written in the future as the present pandemic becomes history. All I can say is how lucky are we who live in Australia.

**Ngairé Kane (Amos)**  
President



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

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### Special points of interest:

- 2019 Schoolies Report
- Our high achievers
- Dr Elizabeth Bradford
- The first enamel prefect badges
- Headmistresses of the School
- Amazing Grammar Girls
- Rockhampton Deck Dinner/AGM
- Special Badge award - Kim Dixon

## Highlights of Girls Grammar (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

grateful that so many Old Girls joined us for the event, including Ngaire Kane (nee Amos) (Helen E Downs prefect 1960) and Jan Davison (nee McLachlan) (Helen E Downs Prefect 1959) - see photo top right.

- Our Boarders' long weekend and Central Highlands Tour in February allowed us to visit current families but also meet a number of Old Girls who shared many fond memories of Girls Grammar and acknowledged the strong foundations the school had given them.
- Our Years 4 to 11 camp program was a huge success. The camps facilitate opportunities for the girls to take smart risks, to engage in activities that build their fun, their friendships, their sense of belonging and their confidence. (See photo middle right - Caves Camp photo, Deanne Johnston, students and instructor.)
- I enjoyed meeting many Old Girls at the OGA dinner and Annual General Meeting in March. I am also grateful to the Old Girls who volunteer their time each week at Girls Grammar. We look forward to seeing them again once government restrictions are relaxed.
- Our partnership with the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA) allowed Year 12 student, Alyssa-Jane Nicholls, to participate in the Girls in Resources Mentoring Program, hosted at QUT in Brisbane. This program provides the girls with a mentor from the industry they're interested in pursuing. We would be keen to hear from Old Girls who would be interested in mentoring our senior students to support them to achieve their desired career pathways.
- We also continue to seek opportunities for our girls to hear from inspirational and successful women. As part of International Women's Day, we took a group of seniors to a Hastings Deering hosted breakfast to listen to guest speaker Katarina Carroll, Queensland's first female police commissioner. A second group of seniors attended the Zonta Club's International Women's Day Breakfast where we enjoyed catching up with a number of Old Girls, including Jan Landsberg, Pat Handley, Joy McCartney and Kath King - see photo bottom right.
- A great deal of work has gone into the implementation of the new senior system. Girls Grammar has successfully navigated all the new processes and systems. We continue to work hard as our Year 12s complete their internal assessment items and move towards their external examinations in Term 4.

Girls Grammar is a very dynamic and vibrant community and there is so much I could say about Term 1. Our community is blessed with many gifts and much generosity which has

been very evident in the celebrations and activities over the term, but even more apparent in how we've faced the challenges of recent weeks.

As I reflect on the term as a whole, I feel so lucky to have joined the Girls Grammar community this year. I know we will continue to work together to meet the current challenges and I know we will emerge a stronger community as a result. I am looking forward to continuing to get to know everyone and to working together for the benefit of our girls.

**Deanne Johnston**  
Principal



## New Members

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

### New Life Members

Toni Grant (Campbell) - 1980-1982

### Current Membership Numbers:

Annual Members:	86
Life Members	999
Honorary Life Members	7
Associates & Friends of the OGA	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1104</b>

## Brisbane Group



The Brisbane Group of RGGGS Old Girls last met at the Keri Craig Emporium, Brisbane, on 17 March 2020 with only a small group in attendance.

Picture above are - Back row (L-R): Jill Liddell, Sandra Ries, Victoria McLachlan. Front row (L-R): Elsie Speight, Dot Skewes, Glenda Parker.

Whilst the Group no longer holds the status of Branch, members continue to meet five times a year on a social basis. One of our long-term members, Shirley Crow (Rhodes) recently celebrated her 95th birthday. Another long-term member, Elsie Speight (Waite) will be celebrating her 90th birthday later this year.

All being well, the Group will once again hold their Christmas Luncheon on Saturday 28 November 2020. So please keep this date free in your calendar. All Old Girls are welcome to attend, whether they are financial members or not. Hope to see you there.

## Unknown payment 110762

On 20 February 2020, a deposit of \$10.00 was made into the Old Girls ANZ bank account with the description of Agent Deposit 110762. If this was your deposit, please contact Marilyn Watts on 0401 442 948 or 3283 7265 so that you don't receive another invoice.

## 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)**

## This is what Lucy & Morgan did for Schoolies

**Editor's Note 1:** *Lucy Brown, our 2019 Prue McKeague Prefect, and Morgan Brauer spent their Schoolies week a little differently. Lucy tells us about it:*

Morgan and I went to Borneo with a program called *Schoolies Unearthed*. This was an amazing experience and I would recommend it to anyone! We went for ten days, met some pretty amazing people, ate some awesome food and saw some pretty amazing views.



The first few nights we stayed in Kuching which had eight of us in a room, all on bunk beds. We went to the markets here, saw the orangutans and explored the city.

We then went to a remote village in the mountains – roughly four hours drive from Kuching – for 4 days. It rained here almost every night. Here we helped the village men build an extension on their church.

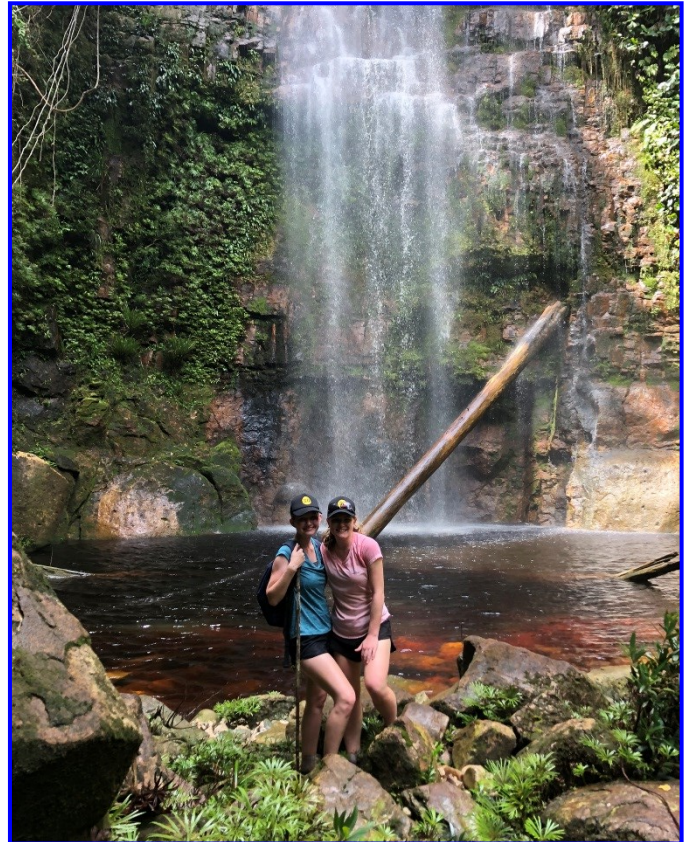
On the last day at the village, we finished the church in the morning and then we were able to go and see a waterfall. The walk there was through the jungle.

We had to walk through rivers, thick bush and a lot of mud. Once we got back to the village, we went to the local school and played soccer, badminton and taught them how to *Nutbush* (see **Editor's Note 2**).

After this, we then went to Bako National Park where we went on hikes and saw numerous different types of monkeys. We stayed here for two nights then we went back to Kuching and flew home.

Overall, we ate so much rice, chicken and noodles that we came home and didn't even think about eating that for a while.

Also, I got accepted into the course of my dreams. In 10 days – on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February – I will be travelling up to



Townsville to start a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at the James Cook University. I am extremely excited as this is something I have wanted to do forever.

**Lucy Brown**



**Editor's Note 2:** *"Nutbush City Limits" is a semi-autobiographical song written by Tina Turner in which she commemorates her rural hometown of Nutbush, Tennessee. In Australia, this song is often played at weddings and community events, and people dance the Nutbush - similar to line dancing.*

## Our high achievers - Carol Godwin

**Editor's Note:** Carol Godwin (RGGS student 1987-1991) is one of our many high achievers. The following excerpts were taken from an article in "The Morning Bulletin" dated 13 March 2020.

After a nationwide recruitment campaign, AnglicareCQ has appointed a familiar face as its new CEO. Carol Godwin, who has been with AnglicareCQ for about ten years, has landed the top job.

With more than 20 years experience in the community service and housing sectors, she said she was looking forward to her new role with "enthusiasm and vigour".

The 45 year old grew up in Central Queensland attending boarding school at Rockhampton Girls Grammar School and then Central Queensland University. After graduation, she worked across the sector in Queensland until she turned 30 and then lived and worked in London for a few years before returning to Rockhampton in 2007.

Ms Goodwin said she always wanted to assist others especially those who didn't have the same sort of opportunities in life as she had and AnglicareCQ was the answer.



New Role: AnglicareCQ CEO, Carol Godwin, with AnglicareCQ Board Chair, Elizabeth Homer.

## Our high achievers - Camille Trail

**Editor's Note:** Camille Trail (RGGS student 2013-2015), an aspiring new singer-songwriter, was featured in the October 2019 Chit Chat on the occasion of her debut album "Devil's Drink". Following are excerpts from "The Morning Bulletin" dated 18 March 2020 on Camille's rising star status.

When Camille sent her demo to long-time musical idol, Shane Nicholson, she didn't expect a reply. So when Camille found a reply in her in box just a few hours later, her world was turned upside down.

Now two years later, Camille is signed with two singles out and an album ready for release.

Camille grew up in the small town of Baralaba on her family's cattle farm, where she still works when she is not recording or performing.

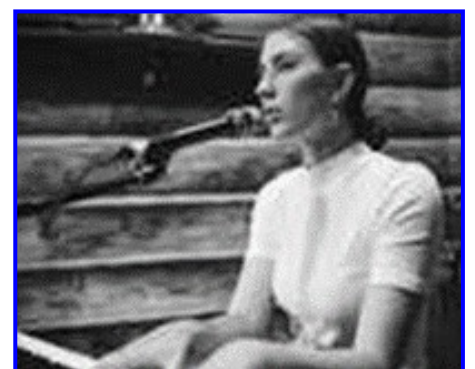
At the age of 14 she played her first gig at the local pub with half the town coming out to support her.

Although music has always been Camille's passion, it wasn't until she began high school at Rockhampton Girls Grammar School that she realised that she could make it a career.

With the support of her town, family and teachers and later her idol Shane Nicholson, by the time Camille graduated from JMC Academy in 2019 with a Bachelor of Music, she was a fully formed singer-songwriter, ready to introduce the world to her sound.

Just three months into the year and Camille is already making serious moves. In January, she performed on stage with Shane at the Tamworth Musical Festival locking up a recording agreement with Compass Bros records.

At 21, Camille is just getting started in the industry and if the start of the year is anything to go by, she is one to watch.



## Elizabeth Bradford - ANU's first female PHD in Physics

**Editor's Note:** The following article was sourced from the website of the Australian National University as part of the ANU Research School of Physics & Engineering's 2019 70th Anniversary's news and events.

Elizabeth Bradford is one of our Amazing Grammar Girls. She was a student at the School 1941-1953 and was the 1953 Helen E Downs Prefect. Sadly, Elizabeth is in care now but she is one of ours and we will always be proud of her achievements.

### CELEBRATING DR ELIZABETH BRADFORD: THE FIRST WOMAN TO RECEIVE A PHD IN PHYSICS FROM ANU

When Elizabeth Bradford was completing her PhD in Theoretical Physics at ANU, the view from the Oliphant Building wasn't of Lake Burley Griffin but a grassy race track. Her PhD came before the water.

It was 1962 when Dr Bradford graduated, the same year that the Research School of Physical Sciences got its first computer, the IBM 1620. Dr Bradford's graduation marked another first for the school: she was the first female student to receive a PhD in physics.

Dr Bradford came to ANU after completing a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physics and Mathematics at the University of Queensland.

While she was originally interested in astronomy, she didn't like the idea of staying up all night completing observations, so instead moved into theoretical physics.

Supervised by Dr Fred Barker, Dr Bradford's thesis was on proton reactions in light nuclei. While she was the only female PhD student, there were already other women working at the research school as computer operators and 'calculators'.

This was a critical function which



Dr Bradford and Sir Mark Oliphant. Credit: Rare Books & Special Collections, The University of Adelaide Library

many women held within physics at the time, including thousands who served at Bletchley Park - where the newly arrived Head of Theoretical Physics ANU, Kenneth Le Couteur had worked during the war.

Now in her eighties and living in Wellington, New Zealand, Dr Bradford says she has fond memories of ANU from the 1960s.

"I enjoyed my time at ANU. I didn't face difficulties being a female student - rather I was given positive support."



Professor Brian Robson, who collaborated with Dr Bradford on two papers and remembers her as a "self-assured student", says that in many ways, she benefited from being the first.

"There were no other female students, so no-one thought to treat her differently."

After graduating, Dr Bradford received a scholarship to travel to Copenhagen and Brighton, where her thesis examiners were located, and

later spent three years at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, UK, before returning to work for several years at the CSIRO in the Division of Plant Industry.

At this point in her career, she says she realised that theoretical nuclear physics was not her interest and instead moved to the Applied Mathematics Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in New Zealand, where she stayed until the early 1990s, when DSIR was split into several standalone parts.

"Then I got a job in Fisheries analysing fisheries data which I enjoyed," Dr Bradford says. "The part of Fisheries where I was working soon got merged into the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere (NIWA).

By the time I reached 65, I knew that if I was to progress, I would have to do some formal statistical study or retire."

Dr Bradford opted to retire and study other interests. "I found out more about New Zealand, mainly flora and fauna, and I did courses on classical Greece and Rome."

*(Continued on page 7)*

## The first enamel Prefect Badges

**Editor's Note:** The following article was written by Margaret Park (Bauman) who was an RGGGS student 1947-1949. At this time, there was a transition from the fabric prefect badges to the current enamel badges. Thank you Margaret for this wonderful piece of RGGGS history which I am sure will be of great interest to Chit Chat readers.

When I was a prefect at school, we had a changeover from the fabric prefect badges to the enamel ones with the school badge and the safety chain.

For over a century, the Head Prefect has always pinned the magnificent gold Helen E Downs Prefect Badge to her uniform.

Prior to 1949, the prefects wore the embroidered fabric badges. This badge was made of a length of navy blue grosgrain ribbon two and half by one and half inches (6x4cm) with the capital letter "P" embroidered in gold silk fancywork thread.

1949 was the first year that prefects were presented with the enamelled prefect badges.

It was an exciting day when we five prefects were presented with these beautiful enamel badges featuring the school badge. On the reverse, our initials and year date were engraved. We proudly pinned our new badge to our tie or blouse lapel.

**Margaret Park (Bauman)**

(Photo at right - **Back row L-R:** Deanne Preston, Margaret Bauman

**Front Row L-R:** Jeanette Chapple, Andrea Dunn, Betty Emslie (Helen E Downs Prefect), June Williams)



## Elizabeth Bradford - ANU's first female PHD in Physics (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

Over a cup of coffee at University House, Professor Robson recalls his years working with Dr Bradford. He has been a member of University House for almost 60 years, starting from when he used to live here. He remembers when Canberra's first traffic lights were installed and he remembers the lake being filled with water.

It's tempting to add Dr Bradford's graduation to a list of these historic moments but it doesn't feel like a notch on a timeline, fixed in the past. It feels more fluid than that, like that water rushing into the lake.

She set in motion the circumstances for other female physicists to graduate after her and for a previously closed-off future to open up.

"What she achieved was important," Professor Robson says. "She showed it could be done."

The [ANU Research School of Physics and Engineering](#) celebrated its 70th anniversary on October 25, 2019.

For more information, please email: [Ea.rspe@anu.edu.au](mailto:Ea.rspe@anu.edu.au)

## Headmistresses of the School - Mrs V E R Byres

**Editor's Note:** *This is the first article in a series I am introducing on the Headmistress of the School. The first Headmistress I have chosen is Mrs Vera Evangeline Rose Byres who was Headmistress of the School 1953-1956.*

*Mrs Byres replaced Dr Alice Paterson (1950-1952) whose reputation as an educationalist at English and New Zealand schools preceded her arrival but the School was simply not prepared for a woman of her experience and expertise. Dr Paterson seemed to some students an unsympathetic disciplinarian.*

*However, Dr Paterson was profound in promotion of women and it was no coincidence that during her term, Mrs Clarice McKeague was appointed as the first female member of the Board of Trustees.*

*Mrs Byres was the antithesis of Dr Paterson in personality and style and brought her own changes to School administration curriculum.*

*The following excerpts have been taken from "The Wider View" (a history of the School) relating details of Mrs Byres' time at the School.*

*Also detailed below are newspaper articles sourced from the National Library Archives recounting details of Mrs Byres' appointment and arrival in Rockhampton.*

### Source - "The Wider View"

Following the resignation of Dr Alice Paterson, the Trustees conducted an extensive advertising campaign for a suitable headmistress. Trustee, Mrs Clarice McKeague, was requested to assist in the assessment of applicants.

The forthright attitude of the Headmistress and her obvious desire to 'get things done' was appreciated



by some students and staff as 'you knew where you were with Mrs Byres' who 'treated seniors as seniors'. Yet her sometimes haughty demeanour was not enduring to anyone.

Mrs Byres envisaged a new summer uniform of green and gold checked gingham, styled as a sundress with bolero (picture opposite supplied by June Anthony nee Hanson). It was designed to alleviate the distress students experienced in Rockhampton's summer heat.

The new uniform was unpopular and the comfort of students seemed to be ignored when the existing regulation uniform, indicative of School establishment, became the centre of a challenge to dress style and standards.

Several girls who attended the 1953 ABC Symphony Concert in Rockhampton displayed a new winter uniform with grey jacket suit and gold beret, brown stockings and



shoes; but the polarity between the proposed new styles and the regulation uniform was too radical for parents, students and trustees to accept and the navy skirt and white blouse, worn with the tie and blazer, stockings and shoes, survived to be worn in all seasons.

### Source - Morning Bulletin - 1952

Mrs V. E. R. Byres, who will take up duty as Headmistress of the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School when it resumes after the Christmas vacation, has had a wide experience in the teaching profession. She is vacating the position of Senior Mistress at the Moreton Bay Girls' High School to come to Rockhampton. Her appointment will date from January 1, 1953.

Mrs Byres, who before her marriage was Miss Eva McFadden, was born in Gympie and matriculated in Arts and Science from the Gympie High School. She was awarded a teacher's scholarship to the University of Queensland and resided at the Women's College within the University.

Then followed an extensive experience in State High Schools throughout Queensland and at one time, Mrs Byres was on the staff of the Rockhampton High School.

She was Senior Mistress at the Townsville High School when she resigned to be married. After the death of her husband, she returned to teaching and for the past three years has been Senior Mistress at the Moreton Bay Girls' High School at Wynnum.

Mrs Byres for many years has been keenly interested in amateur dramatic and musical circles. During the war years, she produced a musical comedy in Townsville for Red Cross funds.

She will take the place of Dr Paterson at the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School. Dr Paterson, who came from England to the school for three years, will retire at the end of the year.

*(Continued on page 9)*



# Headmistresses of the School (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

## Source - Morning Bulletin - 1953

Arrival by the mail train from Brisbane yesterday afternoon of Mrs V. E. R. Byres who will shortly take up duties as Headmistress of the Girls Grammar School. Mrs Byres was welcomed at Stanley Street station by Mr. F. A. Horner, representing the Chairman of the Girls Grammar School Trust (Mr. A. H. Paterson) and the Secretary (Mr. D. McColl).

The party later enjoyed an informal chat over a cup of tea at the residence of Mrs J. McKeague who is a member of the School Trust.

Mrs Byres is staying at the Criterion Hotel until next week. She is no stranger to our city as she was at one time on the staff of the Rockhampton High School.

Mrs. Byres has had a wide experience in the teaching profession and prior to accepting this appointment was Senior Mistress of the Moreton Bay Girls' High School.

## Source - Qld Country Life - 1952

A course in home culture will be one of the innovations introduced by Mrs Byres at the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School as from the beginning of next term.

Mrs Byres said that the course in home culture will embrace lessons in English, psychology, interior decoration, health and hygiene, art, music, dramatic art, millinery, dressmaking, cookery and botany.

"Girls taking this course will be encouraged to use their hands, to read, and to express themselves in our language," she said.

She believes that education in these subjects related to life, together with an appreciation of the arts, will enable girls to find greater happiness in the home and the community while maintaining interest in the best that the world can offer.

Mrs Byres emphasised that the home culture course would be for non-examination students and would be in addition to courses designed to prepare girls for junior and senior.

## Source - Morning Bulletin - 1954

Mrs V. E. R. Byres, Headmistress of the Girls Grammar School, has been granted six months' leave and she proposes to sail for the United Kingdom on the P. and O. liner, Arcadia, from Sydney on March 4.

Mrs Byres' leave from duties commences on March 1, 1954 and she will resume again at the Grammar School in September.

In February, Mrs Byres will be at the school to interview parents and at the end of that month Mrs Christine Hartland will arrive from Brisbane to act as Headmistress.

Mrs Hartland was for some years Headmistress of St Aidan's Church of England School, Brisbane.

During her holiday in England, Mrs Byres will renew old friendships. In June she will attend a conference in London of the Associated Headmistresses of Britain. She also is looking forward to visiting the Continent before returning to Australia.

## Sympathy to:



Ilma O'Farrell (Winning) on the death of her husband, Jim  
 Caroline Holmes, Stephanie, and Velma Weaver on the death of their husband, father, and brother-in-law, Tom  
 Del Clarke (Home Ec. teacher 1973-2000) and Nicole Hills (Helen E Downs Prefect 1986) on the death of their son and brother, Anthony Clark  
 Mollie Livingstone on the death of her grandmother, Dawn  
 Roxanne Hodda on the death of her father, Neville Tickner  
 Wendy, Jill, Maxine and Linda on the death of their brother, Peter Bredhauer  
 Val Phillips (Smith) on the death of her brother, Ronald  
 Shirley Cooper (Bauman), Sharon and Jacqui on the death of their husband and father, John

## Deaths



Maureen Horrigan (Godwin) 1962-1963  
 Diana Lawson (Brown) 1939-1942  
 Julie Laws (nee Ward) 1970-1974  
 Serin Marie Nebe - Boarding Mistress 1984-88  
 Daphne-Jill Burke (Davis, Finnigan) 1951-1952, mother of Tammy and Daphne, sister to Jacqueline



***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.***

## Amazing Grammar Girls - De-Anne Kelly (Park)

Hon De-Anne Kelly (Park), an Old Girl of the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School, was appointed as a Member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal by the Attorney General, Hon Christian Porter in 2019.



De-Anne hears cases on appeal in the migration division and recommends to the Department of Immigration on whether applications should be granted or affirmed, i.e. refused.

De-Anne graduated in Migration Law and Practice from Griffith University in 2008 and had extensive experience as a Minister in the Howard Government from 1996 to 2007.

De-Anne's primary education was by correspondence lessons mailed weekly from the Correspondence School, Brisbane, to her home at "Alarm Creek", Calliope. From 1966 to 1970 she was a student boarder at Rockhampton Girls Grammar.

In 1971, she became the first female in Australia to be awarded a Comalco Scholarship to study engineering. De-Anne graduated as an electrical engineer from the University of Queensland in 1977 and in 2005 was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Engineers Australia,

[Source of article below - Parliament of Australia](#)

### Biography

#### Parliamentary service

- Elected to the House of Representatives for Dawson, Queensland, 1996. Re-elected 1998, 2001 and 2004. Defeated at general elections 2007.

#### Ministerial appointments

- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Trade 7.10.2003 to 26.10.2004.
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services 7.10.2003 to 26.10.2004.
- Minister for Veterans' Affairs 26.10.2004 to 27.1.2006.
- Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence 16.11.2004 to 27.1.2006.

- Parliamentary Secretary for Trade 27.1.2006 to 29.9.2006.
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Regional Services 29.9.2006 to 3.12.2007.

#### Committee service

- Joint Statutory: Corporations and Securities 18.6.1996 to 31.8.1998.
- Joint Standing: Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade 8.12.1998 to 11.2.2002; Treaties 8.12.1998 to 11.2.2002.
- House of Representatives Standing: Family and Community Affairs 27.6.1996 to 7.9.2000; Primary Industries and Regional Services 8.12.1998 to 30.8.1999; Employment and Workplace Relations 20.3.2002 to 4.11.2003; Publications 20.3.2002 to 1.12.2003.

#### Conferences, delegations and visits

- Bilateral visits to Sweden and Estonia, October 1999
- Member, Parliamentary Delegation to Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa, December 2002
- Member, Parliamentary Delegation to Indonesia, March 2003
- Official visits to UK, March 2005
- Official visits to Turkey & United Arab Emirates, April 2005
- Official visits to Borneo, June 2005
- Official visits to Hawaii, August-September 2005
- Official visits to Vietnam, May-June 2006
- Official visits to Fiji, June 2006

#### Occupations before entering Federal Parliament

- Sales engineer 1978-81
- Business proprietor 1981-88
- Cattle producer 1987-96
- Cane farmer 1994-96



John Howard and De-Anne Kelly in question time in Parliament House Canberra.

## Rockhampton AGM & Dinner on the Deck - March 2020



L-R: Janet Gentle, Robyn Meredith, Deanne Johnston



L-R: Betty Spence, Rob Fay, Pat Handley



L-R: Jan Coombe, Wendy Harris, Joy McCartney, Jan Davison, Zelma Mace, Jill Bredhauer



L-R: Felicity Truelson, Corinne Shaw



L-R: Esther Black, Elizabeth Jacobsen, Margaret Black



Group photo - Dinner on the Deck

## Special Service Award - Kim Dixon

At the March 2020 OGA AGM and Dinner on the Deck, a very special honour was bestowed upon our current Treasurer, Kim Dickson (Bredhauer), who was presented with the Association's prestigious award, the Special Service Badge for outstanding service.

Kim's citation is as follows:

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

- Rockhampton OGA President – 2015
- Rockhampton OGA Secretary – 2017-2018
- Rockhampton OGA Treasurer - 2019-2020
- OGA School Liaison Officer – 2012-2020

Kim has been a member of the OGA for 20 years and has been a regular attendee at numerous OGA functions, committee meetings 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.

In her previous School role of Enterprise Manager and her continuing role at RGGGS, Kim has been of great assistance as a contact for those Old Girls wishing to organise a class reunion.

Her vast knowledge of past and present students and events at the School has been invaluable to the OGA in the ongoing preservation of the School's history.

She has worked hard to raise funds for a Memorial Cabinet for Helen Bredhauer (Kim's mother) who was a tireless worker for the Paterson House Museum.

Kim 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: OGA President, Ngaire Kane, presenting Kim with her Special Service Badge



## New ways for old

***Are you the type who tends to accept the status quo or do you constantly question the old, tried and true method?***

***Scientists and "ideas" people don't have a monopoly on new concepts. Everyone has the potential to come up with a new solution to an age-old problem or find a more efficient approach to a given situation.***

***But first, you must have confidence in your own ideas. Don't be afraid to speak up when you think you've found the answer to the problem that everyone else has been scratching their heads over for weeks.***

***Even if you're wrong, at least you have the satisfaction of knowing you make a contribution. And if you're right? Stand up and take a bow.***

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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  
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### or Email to:

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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

## Did you know?

Did you know that Rockhampton Girls Grammar School was the last of ten Grammar Schools to be opened in Queensland? There were ten grammar schools opened under the *Grammar Schools Act 1860* – eight of which remain open today. In chronological order, they were:

- Ipswich Grammar School for boys (1863)
- Brisbane Grammar School for boys (1868)
- Toowoomba Grammar School for boys (1875)
- Brisbane Girls Grammar School (1875)
- Rockhampton Grammar School for boys (1881)
- Maryborough Grammar School for boys (1881)
- Maryborough Girls Grammar School (1883)
- Townsville Grammar School for boys and girls (1888)
- Ipswich Girls Grammar School (1892)
- Rockhampton Girls Grammar School (1892)

When it opened in 1881, Rockhampton Grammar School was co-educational. Only four years later, the Board of Trustees decided to exclude females from the School, leading to the construction of Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.

The latter opened on 11 March 1892 – one day after the official opening of Ipswich Girls Grammar School. Girls were readmitted to Rockhampton Grammar School in 1977.



In 1936, hit hard by the effects of the Great Depression, the Maryborough Grammar School and Maryborough Girls Grammar School were forced to close.

They were subsequently taken over by the Department of Education, Queensland Government, and renamed the Maryborough State High and Intermediate School for Boys and Maryborough State High and Intermediate School for Girls. In 1974, these schools merged to become the Maryborough State High School.

**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 (Baker)
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	

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**2020 Rockhampton Committee Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday 4 August    Tuesday 8 December

**2020 Brisbane Group Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday 19 May (cancelled)    Tuesday 21 July  
Tuesday 15 September    Tuesday 17 November

## Dates to Remember

**RGGS OGA Function Dates 2020:**

Yeppoon Luncheon	Cancelled
Queensland Day Luncheon	Cancelled
Biloela Luncheon	Saturday 1 August
Townsville Luncheon	Sunday 9 August
Mackay Luncheon	Saturday 31 October
Christmas Dinner	Friday 6 November
Gladstone Luncheon	Saturday 7 November

**RGGS Brisbane Event 2020:**

Christmas Lunch	Saturday 28 November
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**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:

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