



Chit Chat



RGGGS Old Girls' Association - Rockhampton

May 2021
Volume 21, Issue 2

Highlights at Girls Grammar - from the Principal

March 2021 highlights a period of rejuvenation for Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.

The school has been a flurry of activity, not only because our student numbers have increased, but because of the significant capital works projects undertaken over the recent months. The scaffolding and other construction equipment around the school grounds are exciting signs of the direction in which the school is heading.

In January, we welcomed 75 new students to Girls Grammar and our numbers have further increased since then. Our 'sisters program' ensures new students are welcomed and supported and the warmth and friendliness of our girls means it is not long before new students feel at home and at ease.

Our teachers are highly-relational, dedicating time, care and attention to every girl. Importantly, they believe every student can succeed so they set high standards in both learning and behaviour. It is within our small-school environment that girls have the confidence to be themselves, to learn, make mistakes, self-reflect and challenge themselves to be the best they can be.

We are excited that 2021 has seen a return to community functions. It was with much pleasure that we were able to have our parents, Old Girls and supporters of the school share with us the commissioning of our 2021 school leaders.



We welcomed our Old Girls back for their Annual General Meeting and dinner on McKeague Deck and we were thrilled to have so many Old Girls attend our inaugural Long Lunch.

Our 2021 calendar is filled with a number of key events, including a combined school/Old Girls event for Beef Australia on 4 May, our annual Mother's Day gathering on 8 May, the P&F Trivia Night on 15 May and the Rockhampton Girls Grammar Race Day on 19 June.



2021 has also allowed us to participate once again in significant historical events. On April 25, Girls Grammar proudly showed our respects to our servicemen and women by attending three ANZAC services throughout the community.

The Year 12 cohort had the honour of wearing the traditional yellow berets in a candlelight vigil at the Botanic Gardens Dawn Service. Following this, they attended the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Service where our Head Girls delivered a speech. Finally, our school community joined together to proudly march in Rockhampton's ANZAC Day Parade.

On Wednesday 28 April, our community gathered to celebrate Foundation Day and Girls Grammar's 129-year history of providing quality
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Special points of interest:

- FNQ Group Lunch
- Jean Sandell - Music Teacher
- Rockhampton Deck Dinner/AGM
- RGGGS Long Lunch
- STEM Mentoring Programme
- Headmistresses of the School
- Amazing Grammar Girls

Highlights at Girls Grammar (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

education to girls and young women. At the Foundation Day assembly, we reflected on the development of the School, from its opening in April 1892 to the present day.

In 1892, Paterson House consisted of an Assembly Hall, two classrooms, a dining room and a hat room. Off the porch, there was a drawing room and this was adjoined by the mistresses' dining room. There were also a number of rooms where the servants worked: a scullery, laundry, store, boot room, wood store and earth closets.

Three staircases led to the upper floor: one for pupils that led to dormitories and music rooms, one that led to

the mistresses' upper apartments and one for the servants' bedrooms. It is interesting to consider how very different the brief for the building of a new school would be today!

Our co-curricular calendar continues to be busy and varied, offering lots of opportunities for girls to build friendships and develop skills. In Term 1, over 30% of our secondary students played club netball for Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.

We also had over 30% of our students representing Girls Grammar in touch football. 14% of secondary students played OzTag for the school and 15% of our students were training and/or playing in the rugby 7s squad. A further 20% of students engaged in Learn-to-Row sessions, Running Club, water polo or basketball. We also had 30% of students engaging in fitness training, either through strength and conditioning, gym sessions or swimming sessions.

We also have a very busy cultural program. In March, 12 of our students were selected to participate in the 2021 State Honours Ensemble Program Capricornia (SHEP), a Griffith University program that connects the finest young musicians with a team of eminent international and national conductors in pursuit of musical excellence.

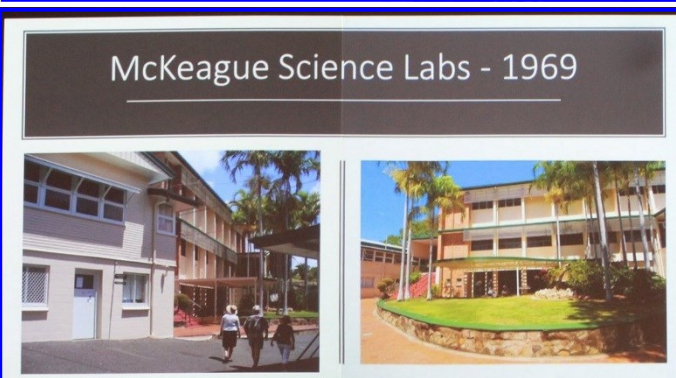
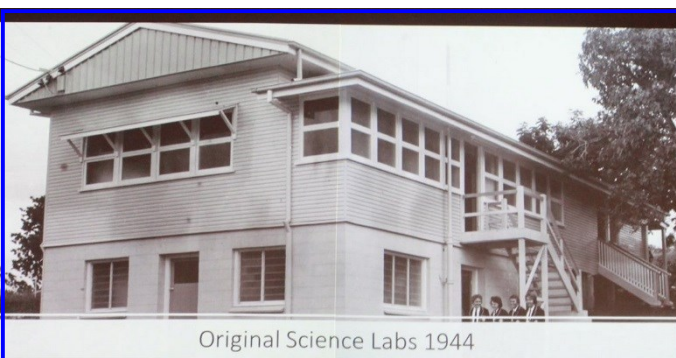
We also saw the return of interschool debating with Girls Grammar Junior and Senior teams participating in Round 1 against Rockhampton Grammar School with our junior team victorious. Cast and crew are currently rehearsing and preparing for this year's musical, *Annie*, which will be performed in Term 3.

We are anticipating next week's Beef Australia event and would love to see our Old Girls and community visit us at our trade stall to say hello. The Girls Grammar Show Team will be attending and participating in a number of events, including junior judging.

In time for Beef Week, we are also releasing our next edition of the *Connections* magazine. This will be available in digital format but if you would like a hard copy of this or any of our other publications, please contact rachelhinton@rggs.qld.edu.au.

Girls Grammar remains a very dynamic school and we are excited by the activities and opportunities that will be occurring over the coming year. As always, I extend an invitation to our Old Girls, past parents, family and friends to visit the School, have a tour or just have a look at the recent works we've been doing. We would be very happy to meet you and hear about your connections with Girls Grammar.

Deanne Johnston
Principal



From the Vice President

Our President, Veronica Goddard, is away camping at the moment and has no connection to the internet. So I am filling in for her.

With very few of our functions able to go ahead during Co-Vid in 2020, we look forward to bringing you lots of events in 2021. I hope many of you enjoyed the combined RGGGS/OGA Beef Week event held on 4 May.

Look out for your invitation to the Annual Queensland Day Lunch on 2 June and make up a party for the RGGGS Race Day on 19 June.

Ngairé Kane (Amos)
Vice President

New Members

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

New Life Member:

Hayley Hewitt (Diamond) - 1993-1995
 * Gail Russell - 1969-1972
 * Janet Flood (Johansen) - 1949-1950
 (* Previous Annual Member)

New Annual Member:

Alexa Bowen (Carver) - 1967-1969

Current Membership Numbers:

Life Members:	1046
Annual Members	76
Honorary Life Members	5
Associates & Friends of the OGA	13
Total:	1140

2021 Subs now due

For Annual Members, your 2021 Annual Subscription is now due. 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
M/Order: Posted to the Membership Secretary
Cheque: Posted to the Membership Secretary and made out to RGGGS-OGA

Internet: Rockhampton members:
 ANZ Branch No: 014690
 A/c No: 3944-13077

Internet: Brisbane members:
 CBA Branch No: 064001
 A/c No: 1008-0446

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

Update your details

Notification of change of address and/or email:

Name:.....
 New mailing address:.....
Postcode:.....
 Phone/Mobile number:
 Email address:

To: Mrs Marilyn Watts, Membership Secretary
2/37 Margate Parade, Margate Q 4019
Mobile: 0401 442 948
or Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au

Brisbane OGA Group



Where is she now?

Judith Davison nee Dennis (1966-1969) lives and works in the Northern Territory near Darwin and would love to catch up with other Old Girls who live in the Northern Territory.

If you know of any Old Girls living in NT who may be interested in catching up with Judith and other Old Girls, please ask them to contact Judith. Details are as follows:

Email: davisonlegal@bigpond.com
 Mobile: 0450 326 733
 Web: www.davisonlegal.com.au

Whilst the Brisbane OGA Group are no longer an official Branch of the RGGGS OGA, we continue to meet five times a year at the Keri Craig Emporium in the Brisbane Arcade, where we also hold our Annual Christmas Lunch.

Our volunteer scribe, Jill Liddell, continues to keep us all informed with member doings by sending out social notes of all our personal activities. It is a nice way to keep in touch with everybody.

The photo above was taken at our recent March gathering. Pictured left to right are: Trish Frost, Marilyn Watts, Glenda Parker, Sandra Ries, Jill Liddell, Jean Bulley, Eileen Baker, Elsie Speight, Dot Skewes and Victoria McLachlan.

Jean Sandell RGGGS Music Teacher



Editor's Note: Many Old Girls will remember Jean Sandell who was an RGGGS Music Teacher for many years.

Jean's husband, Fred Sandell, recently featured in the local Rockhampton newspaper, CQ News Today, celebrating his 100th birthday.

Jean first commenced teaching music at RGGGS in 1953 and left in 1956. In 1978, she returned to the School and remained on staff until 2003.

Together with Nita Whyte and Veronica Berry (fellow RGGGS Music Teachers), Jean donated a music trophy to the RGGGS Inter-House Music and Drama Festival. The trophy was won by Downs House in 2003 and Paterson House in 2008.

Whilst living in Kenilworth in 2015, Jean was awarded the Nicklin Award for her work in guiding Kenilworth Arts Council, as President, for the last three years, as well as her long standing contribution to music education and her volunteering in many other fields.

Jean and Fred are now retired and live in Nambour close to their daughter, Mirth Fabro (Sandell), who attended Girls Grammar 1978-1982.

Far North Queensland OGA Group - October 2020



We had a small gathering, with most of the ladies coming down from the Atherton Tablelands. We convened at Mondos at the Cairns Hilton, overlooking Trinity Inlet.

As usual we caught up with everyone's year (such that it has been). Pictured above L-R: Merry Robertson (Carter), Gail Russell, Heather Waite (Marshall), Elsie Butler (Robinson) and Jan Monk.

Elsie was new to the group this year and Heather recognised her from their same time at the school. Next year's lunch will be on the Tablelands.

Gail Russell

Editor's Note: My apologies to the FNQ Group. Their story should have gone into the February Chit Chat but I forgot. Looks like they had a beautiful day for their outing.

Proposed OGA Hall of Fame

At the recent RGGGS OGA Annual General Meeting, OGA Patron and Principal, Deanne Johnson, proposed the creation of an OGA Hall of Fame.

The suggested siting of the Hall of Fame is the hallway in Paterson House which has been recently repainted with funding assisted by an \$8,000.00 donation by the OGA.

A sub-committee has been formed consisting of Chairperson Kim Dixon and members Corinne Shaw, Ngaire Kane, Robyn Meredith and Betty Spence.

Rockhampton OGA Dinner on the Deck & AGM



L-R: Kim Dixon, Ngaire Kane, Veronica Goddard, Margaret Littleton, Marilyn Watts

On Tuesday 2 March, twenty-six Old Girls attended the Rockhampton OGA Dinner on the Deck. They were joined by School Principal, Deanne Johnston.

A delicious meal was prepared by School Chef, Kent Reid, and served by our own RGS hospitality students. Following the meal, the Annual General Meeting was conducted with the following office bearers elected;

- President: Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
- Vice President: Ngaire Kane (Amos)
- Secretary: Margaret Littleton (Baker)
- Treasurer: Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
- Membership Secretary: Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
- Chit Chat Editor: Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
- School Liaison Officer: Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)



L-R: Jan Davison, Joy McCartney, Jill Bredhauer, Wendy Harris, Val Phillips, Betty Spence



L-R: School Chef, Kent Reid, with outgoing President, Ngaire Kane.



L-R: Ann Cook, Margaret Littleton, Margo McKenzie, Minette Leyden



L-R: Janet McKenzie, Felicity Truelson, Veronica Goddard, Alix Jaspersen, Merin Weston, Julie Sandeman, Corinne Shaw

RGGS Long Lunch - March 2021

Held on Sunday 21 March at the Robert Schwarten Pavilion, the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School's inaugural Long Lunch welcomed over 230 people.

The guests included current and past parents, Old Girls, current and past staff as well as friends and supporters of the school. Attendees enjoyed a three-course meal, catered by Whisk Yeppoon and entertainment by Camille Trail, a very talented singer songwriter who graduated from Rockhampton Girls Grammar School in 2015.

It was a wonderful community afternoon for the Girls Grammar community, providing a great opportunity for everyone to relax and catch up with friends. I would like to thank the P&F Association for their support and Committee members Rachel Hinton, Stacey Graham-Hohn and Liz Curtis for all their work and organization.

What a fabulous day! Thank you again to our generous sponsors and all our guests for attending the inaugural Rockhampton Girls Grammar School Long Lunch.

Deanne Johnston



L-R: Leya Olive, Veronica Goddard, Kerry McKenzie, Ann Dunne, Janet McKenzie, Struan Ferguson, Emma Ballentine Finlay, Laura Mallet



L-R: Penny MacGibbon, Emma Ballentine, Kerry McKenzie, Leya Olive



L-R: Jenny Luck, Kathy Batts, Deanne Johnston, Meg Albert Luke



L-R: Struan Ferguson, Emma Ballentine Finlay



L-R: Kylie McTaggart, Lara Brown, Gail Godwin-Smith, Kathy Batts

Engagements



Karla Hicks (2009-2013) to Christopher Kirby 18/09/20

Births



Donna Velechik (Close) and husband Stephen, welcomed baby boy Nathanael born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA on Thanksgiving Day, 26 Nov 2020.

Marriages



Hayley Diamond (1993-1995) and Chris Hewitt were married at sunset in the gardens of their Frenchville residence on Saturday 5 December 2020.

Hayley is daughter-in-law to Carolyn Hewitt nee Ward (1960-1963) and sister-in-law to Danielle Barnes nee Hewitt (1986 -1990).

Deaths



Jan Stevenson (Blank) 1963-1964

Cynthea McNeill (Stewart) 1943-1944

Lois Mifsud (Bettridge) 1960-1961

Helen Patteson 1957-1960

Sympathy to:



Susan Handyside (Payton) on the death of her husband, Russell

Marilyn Roser (Major) on the death of her son, Michael

Dorothy, Helen, Janet, Alice, Emily and Lilian on the death of their father and grandfather, John Quaife

De-Anne Kelly (Park) & Margaret Park (Bauman) on the death of her husband and her son-in-law, Roger Kelly

Fiona Kajewski (Robertson), Natalya and Helaina Kajewski on the death of their mother and grandmother, Elaine Lucas

Andrea Hall-Brown on the death of her sister Lyndsay Simpson

Janelle and Debra on the death of their mother, Bernice Eva Wilkinson

TRANSFER FROM CAP

We have received a payment of \$10.00 for subscription dues but have been unable to identify the member. The transaction was received on 18 March 2021 with the following description: TRANSFER FROM CAP.

It was probably a deposit made in person at a bank or building society but the branch was unable to put in a personal description.

If this was your payment, please contact me on email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au or 0401 442 948 to avoid receiving a second invoice.

Marilyn Watts - Membership Secretary

Women in STEM - RGGGS Mentoring Program

Many of our Alumni have pursued successful STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers, allowing our current students to see and hear the stories of women who are forging pathways in traditionally male-dominated industries.

Designed by Director-Middle Years, Christie Dey, herself a qualified industrial chemist, The Girls Grammar STEM Mentoring Program supports Girls Grammar students by connecting them with inspirational Old Girls who work in science, technology, engineering, mathematics or medical related fields.

We currently have 15 past students who have volunteered to become mentors, showcasing the breadth of experience and expertise available to our girls. Throughout their careers, many of the mentors would have faced stereotypical beliefs and perceptions about women in science-related fields and, by sharing their experiences, they can encourage our students, build their self-confidence and provide suggestions for overcoming stereotypes and barriers through participation in STEM.

At our recent Old Girls STEM Mentoring Program (February 2021), girls from Years 10 to 12 met 2014 graduating senior, Ashleigh Collette. Ashleigh spoke of her experiences completing a dual degree in mining and geotechnical engineering and geological sciences whilst working as a geotechnical engineer for BHP at Goonyella Riverside Mine.

At the National Youth Science Forum in December 2020, a number of our students met Jennifer Taylor (Class of 1990). Jennifer studied biochemistry and genetics at university before completing her PhD in schizophrenia genetics. Today, she is a senior researcher with CSIRO, studying wheat genomes and the impact on agricultural systems.



L-R: Old Girl Ashleigh Collette, with Teacher Christie Dey

WOMEN IN STEM

MENTORING PROGRAM







Rockhampton Girls Grammar School
Est. 1892

WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM OLD GIRLS WHO ARE PRESENTLY EMPLOYED/ENGAGED IN THE STEM AREAS TO MENTOR YEAR 9 & 10 STUDENTS. THREE MEETINGS DURING 2021.

CONTACT: [KIMDIXON@RGGS.QLD.EDU.AU](mailto:kimdixon@rggs.qld.edu.au)

In March 2020, Tess Camm (Class of 2008), joined us as guest speaker at the Senior Investiture Ceremony. A fifth-generation grazier, Tess is the General Manager of Signature Beef, an award winning vertically integrated beef company, that draws upon technology, innovation, creativity, and problem-solving to deliver solutions that aren't common in the marketplace.

At our 2019 Speech Night, Kelsie Melrose (nee Ford, Class of 2008) talked about her experiences working as a physiotherapist, including her time with the Gold Coast Titans.

Current parent and past student, Jennifer Cousens (nee Kitchings, Class of 1998) has spoken at both Investiture and International Women's Day assemblies about her role as a paramedic and in upper management.

As a partner school with Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA), our girls have access to inspirational women, including former Rockhampton Girls Grammar School student Tania Bauman, a Human Resources Business Partner with Coronado Global Resources, who returned in 2018 to encourage students to consider the wide range of science and engineering careers available in the resources sector.

Our Old Girls network is vital to stimulating our girls' curiosity, inspiring their enthusiasm and motivating them to pursue their interest in STEM studies and careers. We are grateful for their support of our current students and we remain committed to ensuring that girls' career aspirations are not limited by gender stereotypes or perceptions.

Deanne Johnston
RGGS Principal

Headmistresses of the School - Mrs Bendall

Editor's Note: For the fourth story in the series "Headmistresses of the School", I have chosen Mrs Maud Isabel Bendall (Hegvold), an Old Girl of the School, who was Headmistress of RGGGS 1977-1989.

The October 1989 RGGGS Newsletter (see opposite) features a story of the official farewell to Mrs Bendall. My apologies for the poor quality. It is a photo of a photo of the item from ehive (the Paterson Museum digital records).

The following information was sourced from "The Wider View" (a recorded history of the School) plus my own memories of Mrs Bendall during my years at RGGGS in the early 60s and my daughter's time at the School in the late 80s.



Mrs Maud Bendall

Maud Hegvold (along with her three sisters) attended the School 1938-1941 and was the Form VI Captain, Dux of her Senior year and the Helen E Downs Prefect.

ROCKHAMPTON GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL



NEWS UPDATE NO. 15
DECEMBER, 1989

FAREWELL, MRS. M.I. BENDALL

At the end of the Term Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School will bid a sad farewell to retiring Principal, Mrs. M.I. Bendall.

Having been educated at Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School, and later returning to teach, Mrs. Bendall has given years of dedicated service to the School and to the education of young women.

Mrs. Bendall's presence will be sadly missed by the students, parents and staff of Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School. We wish her happiness and enjoyment in her retirement.

A framed poem and ink wash-drawing of Paterson House by local artist, Mrs. E. Walsh, was presented by the Chairman, Judge R.J. Smith to Mrs. Bendall on the School's Official Farewell. It was attended by more than 250 members of the School Community. Mrs. Bendall's gift to the School was an engraved frame to be used for the Annual Inauguration of Student Officers.

At The Parents and Friends' Association's enjoyable Springtime Dinner Dance Mrs. Bendall received an engraved Champagne Bucket.

Other functions where Mrs. Bendall has been guest of honour included Dinners organized by the School's Old Girls' Association in Mackay and Rockhampton and the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Queensland's Brisbane.



Mrs Bendall presents an engraved frame to Head Prefect Kathy Blair and Teacher Gwynne.



Judge R.J. Smith presents Mrs. Bendall with the Poem and Wash-Drawing of Paterson House.



Mrs. E. Walsh, President of the Old Girls' Association, with Mrs. Bendall at the Rockhampton Old Girls' Association's Farewell to Mrs. Bendall.

After graduating from Brisbane Teacher Training College, Maud taught at Blackall and Rockhampton. She was a much loved Grade 8 teacher at The Hall School (Girls & Infants) for many years after which she was appointed to her old school in 1959 as Mistress in Charge of the Junior School.

Following this appointment, she became Head of Staff in 1970 and Deputy Principal in 1972. During her time as Headmistress (1977-1989) Mrs Bendall revitalised the Old Girls' Association and became the Patron of the Association.

Whilst as a student, Maud showed keen interest in sport and was Captain of the inter-school netball and swimming teams. This interest in sport continued in her later life as a keen golfer and member of the Rockhampton Golf Club and in her retirement as a member the Bargara Golf Club.

(Continued on page 10)

Headmistresses of the School - Mrs Bendall (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

Editor's Note: Mrs Bendall had an amazing memory. She knew the name of every girl during her time as Headmistress. Even more amazing was the time I attended the 1987 School Orientation Day with my daughter, Nicole. On seeing me enter McKeague Hall, Mrs Bendall greeted me with a smile and said "Hello Marilyn". I had not seen Mrs Bendall since I attended the Hall School in the 1950s and then RGGGS in the early 60s - 20 years prior.

The following article was taken from an RGGGS April 2012 media release where tribute was made to Mrs Bendall through the renaming of the Centenary Arts Building.

Girls Grammar School honours Maud Bendall

Mrs Maud Bendall, past principal and student of Rockhampton Girls Grammar School was officially honoured for her important contribution to the School at the Foundation Day celebrations on Wednesday 18th April, by renaming the Centenary Arts Building the 'Maud Bendall' Centenary Arts Building.

Her son, Kerrod and daughter-in-law Alison were delighted to accept the honour on her behalf due to Mrs Bendall's passing in 2011.

"We wanted to acknowledge her extraordinary commitment and dedication to the School and its students over a career that spanned more than 30 years, together with her tireless efforts to raise funds for the Centenary Arts Building," Principal Melinda Scash said.

"Maud worked tirelessly, annually travelling throughout the western districts to meet with families and supporters to raise funds to open the building in time for the School's 100 year anniversary. We therefore felt it timely to recognise her efforts as we celebrate yet another milestone for the school," Ms Scash said.

Touted for her calm demeanour and highly effective organisational abilities, Maud was a driving force behind reviving and maintaining traditions that connected the girls to the School's past while preparing them for a world of changing social mores and opportunities.

Maud Bendall (nee Hegvold), together with her three sisters, was educated at Rockhampton Girls Grammar School. She was Form VI Captain, Helen E. Downs Prefect and Dux in her senior Year of 1941. During her time at RGGGS her interest in sport made her an excellent "all-rounder" and popular as a member of the RGGGS inter-school swimming and netball teams and captain of both sports in her senior year.



"Her contributions to the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School have been many and her memory here will endure," Ms Scash said.

Editor's Note: Melinda Scash, another dedicated past Principal of RGGGS (2010-2015), was a dynamic and committed educator.

The portrait above was painted by well-known artist, Edith Neish (Broadfoot) RGGGS student 1928-1931, another one of Our Amazing Girls. Edith also produced many excellent sketches of historic buildings both in Rockhampton and throughout Central Queensland.

RGGGS FLAG



RGGGS would like to have its very own School Flag.

Are you able to help? If so, please contact Kim Dixon, our OGA Alumni Liaison Officer, who will be able to supply you with the School Crest.

Contact details are:

Phone: 4930 0900

Email:

kimdixon@rggs.qld.edu.au

Amazing Grammar Girl - Bronwyn Reid

Editor's Note: Bronwyn Reid, another one of Our Amazing Girls, was a student at Girls Grammar 1972-1976. The following is an article from CQ Today titled "Pushing research limits".

For almost 25 years, 4T Consultants has been collecting ecosystem data from Central Queensland catchments.

The Emerald based company is a for-profit data collection analysis and consulting enterprise and its central drive is to help improve long-term planning and develop best management practices for a range of clients.

Bronwyn Reid, the founder of 4T Consultants, spoke with CQ Today to explain the work she and her small company have been doing these last few years.

"We set up the business here in Emerald. Our first contract was a research contract with a multinational agricultural research agency. It was about best management practices, specifically in agriculture. That led to some more contracts, doing the same sort of thing," she said.

With the federal government, 4T has undertaken basin-wide research to analyse the entire pollution stream.

"Under that project we were looking at the whole of the Fitzroy Basin, how the ecosystems work together because of course, we're all worried about run-off on the reef. But at the same time, we were measuring pollution on the reef, at the end of the system, once the water had gone out of the rivers. Our argument was you had to be in control of the hazard situation up where it happens. Up here in the catchments."

4T works with farmers to help them monitor their water quality. They also map our land use and monitor macroinvertebrates in the region's streams and waterways.

"If you monitor those, they will give you a really good indicator of the health of the ecosystem," Ms Reid said.

This work, pursued over decades, has resulted in a massive amount of data collection. Moving forward, the company hopes to transform this bulk data into a comprehensible body of information that can influence and shape long-term environmental planning.



Bronwyn Reid, the founder of 4T Consultants.

"We've been looking for this holy grail for about 10 to 15 years," she said. "We've tried all sorts of things that have come up, being able to get more information and indeed wisdom out of these massive data sets, and it's not just ours. It's the mining companies and the government, and now, with artificial intelligence and massive leaps forward in that sort of technology, we believe we can do that. We can get a lot more knowledge out of these data sets. That will be valuable for long-term planning.

4T is presently conducting its own in-house data analysis and also hopes to collaborate with universities to sharpen up and accelerate its ambitions. "The technology and the AI stuff is beyond the capability of our little company. So we're looking to collaborate with a university," she said.

Ms Reid's vision has been supported of late by the Central Highlands Development Corporation (CHDC). She was selected to take part in last year's 'Brisbane mission', a CHDC initiative that saw entrepreneurial Central Queenslanders in the Ag-tech space travel to Brisbane to network together and meet with venture capital firms.

Ms Reid credits the initiative for helping her find potential contacts for collaboration. "Most of the university collaborations that we are looking at, have come through contacts through the program," she said."

Corner Quip

*"The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you're very courageous: be strong, be extremely kind, and above all be humble." – **Serena Williams**, professional tennis player who has won more singles titles than any man or woman.*

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From the Editor

Chit Chat is the official newsletter of the RGGGS OGA and 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

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

Vale - Cynthia McNeill



Cynthea Lillian McNeill (Stewart) was born 26 July 1929 in Rockhampton and passed away in Brisbane on 22 February 2021.

The following excerpts were taken from the Eulogy given by Cynthea's son, Scott McNeill, at her funeral.

Cynthea completed her primary school education at The Hall State School (Girls and Infants) and then attended Rockhampton Girls Grammar School as a boarder 1943-1944.

During her time at the School, Cynthea forged an athletic legacy in sprinting, an unbeaten star of her time, and also as a swimmer where she was unbeaten in her backstroke. Her swimming coach at the time asked Cynthea to train for the Olympic Team but she declined.

In following years, Cynthea continued her interest in sport. She was a keen tennis player and also played lawn bowls.

After leaving school, Cynthea worked for the Federal Department of Veteran Affairs but had to leave once she married as at that time, only single women were allowed to work in the Federal Government.

Cynthea was very proud of her school and was a much loved member of the Brisbane RGGGS Old Girls' Association. She regularly attended the Group's meetings and events.



Pictured opposite is Cynthea at the 2018 Annual Brisbane OGA Christmas Lunch with long term fellow Brisbane OGA members: Jean Bulley, Dot Skewes and Elsie Speight.

Cynthea embodied the true spirit of a Grammar Old Girl - kind, friendly and always a lady.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered.

Editor

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

Committee Information

Executive Committee:

President	Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
Vice President	Ngairé Kane (Amos)
Immediate Past President	Ngairé Kane (Amos)
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	Felicity Truelson	Wendy Harris
Robyn Meredith	Val Phillips	Corinne Shaw
Alix Jasperson	Betty Spence	

Email Address—Rockhampton Committee

Ngairé Kane	ngairekane@gmail.com
Veronica Goddard	v.goddard@bloomhearing.com.au
Kim Dixon	KimDixon@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

Rockhampton Committee Meeting Dates 2021:

Tuesday 3 August Tuesday 23 November

Brisbane Group Meeting Dates 2021:

Tuesday 18 May Tuesday 20 July
Tuesday 21 September Tuesday 16 November

Dates to Remember

RGGS OGA Function Dates 2021:

Yeppoon Lunch	Sunday 16 May
Queensland Day Lunch	Wednesday 2 June
Townsville Lunch	Sunday 1 August
Biloela Lunch	Saturday 28 August
Mackay Lunch	Saturday 30 October
Christmas Dinner	Friday 5 November
Gladstone Lunch	Saturday 6 November

RGGS OGA Brisbane Events 2021:

Morning Tea	Tuesday 18 May
Christmas Lunch	Saturday 27 November

RGGS Events 2021:

RGGS Carnival Race Day	Saturday 19 June
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Membership fees for 2021 (Due January 2021):

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:
Mrs Marilyn Watts, Membership Secretary