



Chit Chat



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

**May 2022
Volume 22, Issue 2**

Highlights at Girls Grammar - from the Principal

What a special way to welcome back our girls to Term 2 with our 130th Birthday celebrations. It felt like a reset and refresh for the year after the conditions and circumstances in which we began Term one, almost four months ago.

With the continued easing of restrictions, it was wonderful to be able to welcome parents and families back on school grounds as our boarders returned to commence a new term of learning.

Foundation Day celebrations were an exciting way to welcome our day girls back and members of our OGA as they entered through the giant balloon arches and 130 decorations at the School's entrance along Agnes Street and on to McKeague Deck.

The first day back for Term 2 was marked with a very special assembly where we had all students from Prep-12 and staff together in McKeague Hall for the first time in 2022.

Members of our Old Girls Association, Mrs Kim Dixon, Mrs Ngaire Kane and Mrs Robyn Meredith were special guests, and the girls had the pleasure of listening to Mrs Jan Davidson and Ms Emily Hare, our OGA guest speakers.

I know we all enjoyed quite a few laughs and moments of surprise as these ladies described conditions and experiences with great clarity and humour from their time at Girls Grammar.

Our 2022 Prefects took us on a trip down memory lane as they modelled

uniforms that have been worn throughout the generations. It was a fun and entertaining way to honour and celebrate our rich history.

Our gold coin spiral created under the CAB following Foundation Day assembly raised over \$1,000 to the ongoing restoration of Paterson House.

These donations from the girls, parents and staff were greatly appreciated, and we are eagerly awaiting the removal of scaffolding to reveal our new Paterson House roof scheduled to be completed late May/first week of June.

The day following Foundation Day, we commemorated Anzac Day with

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

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Special points of interest:

- Hall of Fame Update
- Our School - by Pat Carver
- Event Bulletin Board
- Foundation Day
- Amazing Grammar Girl & Teacher Ida Kennedy
- Upcoming R.G.G.S. Events



Highlights at Girls Grammar (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

another special assembly which was a touching tribute to the men and women who have fallen and to those who continue to serve our country.

As a school we came together to pay our respects to those who have represented our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice and were joined by special guests Mr Robert Lang on behalf of Rockhampton Rats of Tobruk as well as bugler Mr Graham Ivers who we were privileged to have play the Last Post and Rouse.

This year we had the privilege of Rockhampton cadets attend for the service and this added to the emotion of the ceremony.

Our primary students participated in the laying of their class decorated wreaths and the inclusion of their hand decorated poppies along the stage were a special touch.

Both of our special guests and many staff provided much positive praise for this ceremony as the most professional, engaging and well executed Anzac Day assembly they had ever attended.

Our Year 12s represented Girls Grammar with much pride and esteem as they donned their marigold berets and performed the candlelight vigil at the Dawn Service. Each year, this is a privileged right of passage for our seniors despite the 3.00am wake up.

Our Prefects then attended the Rats of Tobruk Memorial where our Head Girls Allysa and Nylah had the honour of delivering the speech they had written under the guidance of Mr Robert Lang.

Our School was proudly on show as students from Prep to 12 represented Girls Grammar as they marched in unison through the streets of the CBD, paying tribute to those men



and women who have served and continue to serve our country.

As we commence a new term in what is our 130th year, I am proud to share with the Rockhampton Girls Grammar's Old Girls two documents that planning began for in 2021 and were finalised last term during term

1. Our Strategic Directions document for the next three years outlines our School's Vision, Mission and Values and four core strategic focus areas. Each of these focus areas contain strategic goals and strategies we are committed to in upholding our vision for our school.

Our Strategic Directions document can be found on our School website as a PDF https://www.dropbox.com/s/8dr3xlapy7qa4in/Strategic%20Directions%202022%20FINAL_Spread.pdf?dl=0 and in a beautifully designed flipbook version by clicking on <https://fliphtml5.com/zpuj/lvub/>,



2. Our Master Plan is another document that outlines priorities for our School's future and encompasses stakeholder feedback gathered throughout Semester 2, 2021.



This document can also now be found on our website as a PDF <https://www.dropbox.com/s/7yizxtvqt4xft4x/Master%20Plan.pdf?dl=0> and viewed in its flip book version at <https://online.fliphtml5.com/zpuj/cmhm/>.

I hope you enjoy reading both of these documents and share in the exciting future we have planned ahead of us here at Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.

Tickets are now on sale for the Annual Girls Grammar Race Day. On what is the 20th anniversary of this premier event on the social racing calendar, I look forward to connecting with many Old Girls on Saturday 18th June.

Kara Krehlik
Principal

New Members

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

New Life Members:

Brigid Fickling (Quinn) - 1996-1997
 Audrey Gem Findlay (Dunn) - 1959-1962

New Annual Member:

Nadene Housman (Moran) - 1995-1996

Current Membership Numbers:

Life Members:	1069
Annual Members	76
Honorary Life Members	4
Associates & Friends of the OGA	13
Total:	1162

2022 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
Cheque: Posted to the Membership Secretary
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.)

New Member Profile

Audrey Gem Findlay - 1959-1962: Gem says she has been a personal assistant and done voluntary work and religious teaching at state schools. You might say a bit of everything.

Nadene Housman (Moran): Bachelor Education (Secondary) majoring Maths and Art. Head of Department - Mathematics at North Rockhampton State High School for 13 years. QCAA Lead Endorser, Lead Confirmer and Lead Marker for Mathematical Methods.

Musical Theatre performer for Rockhampton Regional Council and Rockhampton Musical Union Choir. Business Owner of Scrutiny Strength and Conditioning with my husband for 8 years.

Unknown Payment Correction

Editor's Note: *The following notice appeared in the February Chit Chat. However, the date should read 23 January 2022 not 2018. I have repeated the notice and would request the depositor to contact me so that I can credit her account.*

Did you make an internet transfer to the RGGGS OGA bank account on 23 January 2022 for \$15.00?

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

If you receive an invoice asking for payment and you believe you have already paid, please contact the OGA as follows:

Mob: 0401 442 948
 Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au.

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
or Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au

From the Editor

Our RGGGS OGA President, Veronica Goddard (Bertram), is currently enjoying a wonderful holiday in the Northern Territory. Veronica will return in the next Chit Chat to give you an update on all Old Girl happenings.

Hall of Fame Update

As an Association, we remember the girls who have gone before us. We've seen the paths they have taken. We treasure them.

Our Old Girls are very important to us and so we must not forget them nor the contributions they have made/are making to their School, their chosen profession and to society in general.

This is the tenet of the Hall of Fame to demonstrate that we honour and cherish their memory.

The location of the Hall of Fame is the hallway in Paterson House between the classrooms.

Progress to date:

- In 2021, the OGA donated \$8,000 to the School to paint the hallway for setting up the OGA Hall of Fame. This has been completed.
- Signage has been designed and has now been installed (see photo below). Photos and brief resumes of selected Old Girls will be affixed to the wall below the sign. These will be displayed on a rotational basis or selected for a particular theme or school celebration.
- An application form is to be designed for nominations to the Hall of Fame. This will ensure background information can be presented in a consistent manner.
- The Hall of Fame By-Laws are also being drafted to ensure a formalised nomination process is in place with overriding governance.

The Hall of Fame Sub-Committee consists of Chairperson, Kim Dixon, and members Corinne Shaw, Ngaire Kane, Robyn Meredith and Betty Spence. The Sub-Committee will also be joined by Marilyn Watts who will meet with the other members via Zoom.



RGGS OGA 2022 Executive



The RGGS OGA Annual General Meeting was a small affair for 2022. Because of the strict Co-vid restrictions at the time for gatherings at the School, the AGM had to be held offsite.

The event was conducted at the home of Kim Dixon's father in Gillinder Street, the Range, with only the Committee in attendance. The Committee is most grateful to Mr Rod Bredhauer for the kind offer of his home for our venue.

At the meeting, nominations were received and the following members were elected into officer positions:

President:	Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
Vice President:	Ngaire Kane (Amos)
Secretary:	Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
Treasurer:	Robyn Meredith (Buchanan)
School Liaison Officer:	Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
Membership Secretary:	Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
Chit Chat Editor:	Marilyn Watts (Elgar)

Members of the Management Advisory Committee:

Margaret Black (Clark)	Margaret Littleton (Baker)
Corinne Shaw (Shoecraft)	Alix Jasperson
Felicity Truelson (Faint)	Betty Spence

The next General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 August at the School in the RGGS Board Room. All are welcome to attend.

Meetings are at the heart of an effective organization, and each meeting is an opportunity to clarify issues, set new directions, sharpen focus, create alignment, and move objectives forward.

Paul Axtell (Consultant & Personal Effectives Trainer)

To the Editor

Sandra Barnbaum (Boreham) - 1956-1959: You may have heard by now, as Pat (Tomson) Carver was such a lively and likeable member of RGGGS OGA, that she passed away in palliative care on about 10th April.

My cousin, Betty (Trott) Rodger, rang to share the news, very upset. They had been close friends since starting at the Girls Grammar together in 1929 when they were five years old.

Betty said Pat's mind was still 'sharp' until a matter of days before she died. If my memory is correct, I think Pat was one of the few old girls to be granted Life Member status, probably on account of her holding executive office in the Old Girls' committee for a lengthy time!

I will personally miss Pat's cheerful optimism and bright company. She was a talented singer for many years and I am sure she will be sadly missed, not only by the Old Girls, but in many areas of the Rockhampton community.

Editor's Note: *Pat was only one of 10 Old Girls who have been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Old Girl's Association for service to the OGA.*

Pam Jensen (Richardson) - 1950-1953: Again many thanks for an interesting Chit Chat. I am always extra pleased when I read of someone whom I have known. In this latest copy, it was of much interest that I read of the outstanding career of Enid O'Toole who was still at school I feel, when I began. I remember her.

Editor's Note: *The following two letters were received in response to my sending out the video of the School's 130 Year Anniversary Celebrations:*

Sandra Barnbaum (Boreham) - 1955-1959: I very much appreciate your sending the above video last night. I had forgotten about the Anniversary, but the video helped me to feel I was part of the celebrations and I became just a little emotional as memories of happy school days flooded in. Changes in society and especially education of girls have been simply amazing since 1892. In fact, things have improved markedly even since my time at RGGGS in the 1950s.

Dorothy Skewes (Chapman) 1944-1945: Thank you Marilyn for sending me the video. When I was a student in 1944-45, I remember thinking when our song said 40 years on, "We will all be dead by then."

In 2020 at the age of 91, I was playing indoor bowls with a lady of 98 years. I am very grateful my mother sent me to RGGGS when the attitude was "Do not educate your daughters because they just get married and have children."

I went to my first Old Girls Christmas party in 1988 and have not missed many Christmas lunches or morning teas held on the third Tuesday of second month starting in March each year.

Going to RGGGS changed my life because I realised many people will try to help you but it is up to you if you want to succeed. Thank you for brightening my day.

Deaths



Delvine McDonald (Weber) -1953-1954, cousin to Lorette Kirby (Cowie) 1959-1960

Diana Lawson (Brown) - 1939-1942

Dr Gayle Fox (White) PhD BA (Honours) Psychology -1970-72, sister to Sherryl. Gayle was on the staff at CQU and was guest speaker at Speech Night, 2007.

Kay Babington (Crawford) - 1953-1956

Pat Carver (Tompson) - 1929-1930, 1938-1939. OGA President 1976-1977. Mother of Alexa Bowen and Robyn Tank.

Phyllis Derrick (James) - 1956-1957. Mother of Lorraine & Janice. Sister to Lillian Duckett.

Births



Alisha Thackeray and partner Jarrod Moore welcome their daughter Aria Grace Moore born 25th Feb 2022. First grandchild to Lucy Thackeray (Chapman) and great grandchild to Barbara Chapman (Squire)

Sympathy to:



Alison, Diane and Kay on the death of their mother Coleen Mary Skewes

Past uniform



Did you wear this Speech Night uniform when you were at school? It was also the boarder's church dress at one time.

Our School - by Pat Carver

Editor's Note: *Sadly one of our OGA icons, Pat Carver, recently passed away at the wonderful age of 98. When Pat was 91, this amazing lady wrote the following article of school reminiscing which I published in the October 2015 Chit Chat. With the School currently celebrating their 130 Year Anniversary, I thought it fitting to republish Pat's memories.*

The story begins when my mother, Alexandra Ray Cargill, commenced at the Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School, aged five years, in 1903.

In those days, the family lived down in either Derby or Stanley Street. Her cousins, Ida and Maud Todd, older pupils at the school, escorted her to and from school - a long way for little five-year old legs to carry her. Not long after, the family relocated to Agnes Street, very close to the school

I have a close connection with the school on my father's side, too. His cousins, Jessie Headrick and Jane and Beatrice Lilley, also attended the school. Later on, another cousin of my mother's joined the school - Lorraine Irwin.

At that time, boys also attended the kindergarten before going on to the Boys' Grammar School. My mother used to tell me the boys would run a Bracelet Race at their school and they would each run for a girl from Girls' Grammar. The boy who won the race would give the bracelet to the girl he was representing. Roy Jardine, who later became Headmaster at Boys' Grammar, often won the race and on at least one occasion, presented the bracelet to Jessie Headrick.

My mother loved her school and never stopped talking about it, even when quite old. I know the names of some of her teachers well - the beautiful Miss Watson, the severe Miss Downs, of course, and her



even more fearsome mother! My mother spoke fondly of Fraulein Furer who was Swiss and taught both French and German.

During this time at the school, a Major Sheets arrived in town. He put on a concert called "The Living Whist", where the performers played the parts of cards. The girls used to troop down to the Oddfellows' Hall, situated in Denham Street, for rehearsals. When talking to the late Mrs Ailsa Dunn (nee Robertson and a pupil at the school), I asked her about "The Living Whist" as she had appeared in it also. She said to me: 'You and I would be the only ones now to know anything about it'.

Other girls at the school in my mother's day included Hilda Gair (another good tennis player), Florence Marisce, Francie Dunbar, Ruby Florence (later a much-loved teacher at the school), Marjorie McGill and the Robertson girls

Mother recalled that girls who were considered 'not terribly bright' were put into a room called "Remove". It is now an office near the entrance to Paterson House. She also remembered a girl who used to cry a lot and another who would be sent to the

laundry for a bucket for her to weep into. This would undoubtedly be frowned upon today.

My mother and her sister remained at the school until they left at age sixteen. Mother first worked for her father in his brokerage office and then as a bank clerk at the Queensland National Bank during World War One. Aunty Sadie worked at the Union Bank initially and, as she had always been interested in nursing, she later became a Dental Nurse at Church's' Dental Surgery. Few girls went on into their senior years. Exceptions were Adah Stuart and Doris Skyring who both became doctors, and Amy Roseman who attended Teachers' College.

Now I shall move on to my time at Girls' Grammar.

I started at the kindergarten in 1929 aged five, along with Joan Macfarlane and Betty Trott who became lifelong friends. Others I can recall were the Matheson girls and Audrey Hearn, the Walker sisters, Paquita Day and her sister. I was escorted to school for the first few weeks by Lorraine Geddes, a Grammar girl some

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My School - by Pat Carver (Cont'd)

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nine years my senior, who lived in the same street.

(Editor's Note: *Excerpt from an email from Robyn Meredith (Buchanan) the current OGA Treasurer: "My mum, Lorraine Buchanan, née Geddes, had very fond memories of walking Pat to school when Mum was a 'big' girl and Pat was a 'little' girl."*

One of my earliest memories was seeing two senior girls arriving at school in a sulky which they had driven from Pink Lily.

The kindergarten was located in an old wooden building near where McKeague Hall is today. There was a sand pit under the building and some shade trees. I can still remember the Christmas Tree in December. I was not happy once when my chewing gum was confiscated. That teacher was in my bad books, but I did like Mrs Catt, one of the other kindergarten teachers.

I was very happy there for two years when all was rudely disrupted. My father was getting business from the Range Convent, so he removed me to go there, much to my mother's chagrin and I was not pleased either.

I had three years at the Convent and I disliked every one of them. I was relieved when he took me away and I attended the Central Girls' School until Scholarship Class when I was returned to Girls' Grammar. Whilst I enjoyed my few years at Central Girls', I was overjoyed to be returning to Girls' Grammar in 1938.

The Headmistress was Miss Margaret Smith, whom I liked very much. She was tall, raw-boned and sandy-haired, and she only taught the Classics - Latin and Greek. Miss Smith often presided over her classes, wearing her academic gown which was held together with safety pins.

Pictured below: Pat with daughters Alexa Bowen (1967-1969) and Robyn Tank (1970-1972)



One of my favourite teachers, the earlier-mentioned Miss Florence, told me that Miss Smith regarded her as a 'lesser mortal' because she only taught Commercial subjects and Geography.

Another of my favourite teachers was Miss Hodgkins who taught my favourite subjects - English and History.

Miss Madeline Hulbert was a memorable leading teacher, her main subject being French. "Hully", as we called her, was very 'mannish' with closely-cropped hair, shirt and tie, tweed skirt, thick stockings and stout brogues. To signal the end of a lesson, she would stand in the corridor and give a shrill blast of a whistle which she wore around her neck. I think this made her feel empowered.

Miss Hulbert was also our ballroom dancing teacher. In the winter months, the boys would come over from the boys' school on Friday nights to be our partners, the lesson ending at 9pm.

The transformation of "Hully" was breathtaking! She would emerge on the stage in Paterson House in flow-

ing chiffon and elegant high heels. At the piano on the stage in Paterson House would sit Miss Dorothy Walters - one of her favourite tunes being "It Happened on the Beach at Bali Bali".

Miss Walters, who was only about nineteen, modelled herself on Miss Hulbert and looked like a younger version of her.

At the end of three months of dancing lessons, the girls wore formal, long gowns on the final evening. I got my first evening dress. It was a demure, girlish gown of pink georgette - so different from the glitz and glamour of today's formal gowns.

My mother was so concerned the neckline was too low and, as there were left-over frills, she sewed some on the neckline. On this last night, we actually stayed later than 9pm and were treated to a resplendent repast.

Our uniform at that time was either a box-pleated navy tunic or a navy skirt with any sort of a white blouse. We used to wear ginger ribbed stockings.

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My School - by Pat Carver (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 7)

No tie was worn. I loved the old style of blazer, complete with gold piping, which sadly, was changed some years ago. The present ones, in my opinion, do not look as if they represent a school in the same way as ours did. For formal occasions, such as choir performances and Speech Night, we were decked out in white dresses and black stockings. The girls thought that we all looked like magpies.

Speech Nights were held on the Basket Ball court (the area at the foot of the stairs) and on one occasion, I can remember it being held on the Terrace. I can still see a friend of mine, Betty Tardent - a very clever girl - collect so many prizes that she could have filled a wheel barrow. Betty left school at Junior to be apprenticed to E.N. Symons as a pharmacist. She had a year or two at the University of Queensland to conclude her course and became a fully fledged pharmacist at just nineteen.

I would love to have done an Academic Course but my father insisted I do a Commercial Course. The male mantra was: "Girls don't need careers. Get a nice office job, then get married." I left school in 1939 and enjoyed my secretarial jobs but I still would have loved the chance to go on to university.

My daughter, Alexandra Louise Carver, started at Girls' Grammar in 1967 and I begged her to continue to complete her senior years but she was determined to leave. I must admit she has flourished in the business world and is CEO of her own IT company which employs a large staff.

My younger daughter, Robyn Margaret Carver, was lucky enough to win a scholarship to Girls' Grammar in 1970 and she pursued an academic course, finishing her last two years at Ipswich Girls' Grammar School. She has a M.Mus (Qual) and an undergraduate degree in Music

Education and teaches Classroom Music at Ipswich Grammar School.

So ends my rambling anecdotes on an institution which has been an integral part of our lives.

**Patricia J. Carver
(nee Tompson)**

Editor's Note: *Pat had a lovely singing voice and would lead us in the singing of the School Song at many OGA functions. We were notified of the sad loss of Pat by her daughter, Robyn Tank, who wrote as follows:*

"I am messaging to impart the sad news of the death of one of your oldest 'Old Girls', my mother Patricia Joyce Carver née Tompson. Mum died three days ago on 10th April at Arcare Springwood, Brisbane at the age of 98 years and 2 months.

She began her schooling at RGGGS in the school's kindergarten at age five in 1929, and apart from brief stints at Central Girls School and The Range College, completed her schooling at RGGGS in 1939.

Mum's mother and aunt, Alexa Ray Cargill and Sadie Cargill respectively, were both students at RGGGS in the early 1900s, with a trophy donated in their names for Speech Night recipients several years ago. All three adored their school and regaled us with many tales of their school experiences.

Both my sister, Alexa Bowen née Carver of Brisbane and myself, Robyn Tank née Carver of Ipswich were also students at RGGGS during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

As mentioned, mum loved her school dearly and one of her many regrets about having to move to Brisbane was her reduced contact with her school. I have included a few photos of mum taken at the age of 96 when she was still fairly physically capable. We miss her terribly."

Girls Grammar Action Tour

Thinking of enrolling your daughter at Girls Grammar? Step inside the classroom and see our school in action through an individualised tour of our grounds and learning facilities.

Our Girls Grammar Action Tours are designed to give prospective parents and students the chance to tour the school, hear first-hand why our girls love attending Girls Grammar and have all of your questions answered by our friendly staff. The tours conclude with a morning tea hosted by Principal, Kara Krehlik, and members of the Executive.



OGA Event Bulletin Board



RGGS Old Girls are gathering at
[Keppel Bay Sailing Club, Yeppoon](#)
 Vince Edward Jones Memorial Drive
 on Sunday 15 May 2022
 for lunch at 12.00 Midday
 Cost: Self Funded
 Please let us know if you
 need transport to the luncheon.
 RSVP: Wednesday 11 May 2022 to:
 Marion Bowen 07 4939 4045
 Email: t_m_bowen@telstra.com
 Robyn Meredith 0407 372 646
 Email: robyn.meredith@gmail.com



RGGS OGA Brisbane Group
 would like to invite you to a
 Morning Tea
 Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 10.00 am
 Keri Craig Emporium, Lower Level, Brisbane
 Arcade, Queen Street Mall
 Cost: Self-funded
 RSVP: Tuesday 10/05/2022
 Contact: Mrs Sandra Ries
 Mobile: 0408 120 946
 Email: sandraries@rocketmail.com



Rockhampton Girls Grammar Old Girls
 are holding a TOWNSVILLE gathering
 at
 The Rockpool Pavilion
 The Strand
 on
 Sunday 31 July 2022
 at 12.00 noon
 for lunch
 Cost: Self funded
 RSVP by Monday 25 July 2022 to
 Diane Gottani (Bowden): Mob: 0416 213 441
 Email jdgottani@live.com
 Margaret Black (Clark): Ph: 07 4928 2490
 Email: blackpm@dodo.com.au
 Patricia Faulkner: Mob: 0409 629 018



Rockhampton Girls Grammar Old Girls
 are holding a gathering
 at
 The Settlers Hotel-Motel
 Dawson Highway
 Biloela
 on
 Saturday 27 August 2022
 at 12.00 noon
 for lunch
 Cost: Self funded
 RSVP by Monday 24 August 2022 to
 Wendy Bowkett (Creed): 07 4996 5292
 Jean Rathjen (Churchward) 07 4992 1170
 Margaret Black (Clark) 07 4928 2490 or
 Mob: 0426 541 665



OGA events to come. Keep these dates in mind.

Rockhampton Xmas Dinner: Friday 4 November

Brisbane Xmas Lunch: Saturday 26 November

Foundation Day Highlights & 130 Year Celebrations

The inaugural Foundation Day was held on 19 April 2012 as part of the School's 120 Year Celebrations. It was the initiative of the Principal at the time, Melinda Scash (see photo pictured below right) and has been held every year since.

At the 2012 Foundation Day, our little Grade 1 students paraded with framed photos of our Board of Trustee Chairmen and school reminisces were given by Jill Liddell, Beryl Thompson, Robyn Meredith, Kathy King & Michelle Gately.

The School is now celebrating its 130 Year Celebrations together with Foundation Day. The event was held in McKeague Hall and renditions of previous school life were given by Jan Davison and Emily Hare. A parade of various uniforms from previous eras was also held.



L-R: Old Girl guests: Kim Dixon, Emily Hare, Jan Davison, Robyn Meredith and Ngaire Kane with Principal Kara Krehlik.



Jan Davison (McLachlan) talks about her years at the School (1956-1959). Jan has a granddaughter at RGGGS.



Melinda Scash (Principal 2010-2015) with the 2011 Head Girls: Kelsie Realf and Emma (Georg) Kime



Emily Hare remembers her years at RGGGS 1995-1999. Emily has a daughter at the School in Year 7.



2022 Year 12 Prefects model various school uniforms from previous eras including sports and day uniforms.

Amazing Grammar Girl and Teacher - Ida Kennedy

Editor's Note: *For this edition of Chit Chat, I would like to honour the memory of Ida Maud Kennedy OAM, BA, B.Ed, AASA/LSA, MACE, HON F MUS.A. Ida was a student at RGGGS 1939-1942 and a teacher at the School 1954-1959. Sadly Ida passed away on 17 December 2014. Following is a list of her accomplishments and awards and a resume of her life.*

Education:

- Hall State School (Girls & Infants)
- Rockhampton Girls Grammar School
- University of Queensland, B.A, B.Ed; A.A.S.A. /L.A.S.A. (Associate/Licentiate Teacher Diplomas, Speech and Drama) and M.A.C.E. (Member of the Australian College of Education).

Awards and Honours:

- **1977** - Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal for service to Education
- **1985** - Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International (The Rotary Club of Albion) for service to Rotary and Education
- **1989** - Certificate from U.N.I.C.E.F. (Qld.) for most outstanding support given by a College Principal
- **1995** - O.A.M (Medal of the Order of Australia) for service to Queensland Education
- **1996** - Honorary Fellowship of Music Australia (Hon. F. Mus. A.) for service to the Australian Music Examinations Board
- The Ida Kennedy Building Clayfield College named in her honour

Community Service:

This was a treasured component in her life. The experience and expertise of Ida Kennedy was appreciated throughout the community:

- Member of the Crime Prevention Council
- The ABC Advisory Committee for School Broadcasts
- The Queensland Australian Music Examinations Board
- President of the Association of Independent Girls' Schools of Australia
- Chairman 1988 Board of Secondary School Studies

Ida Maud Kennedy, was the only surviving child of Colin Vincent and Ethel Kennedy, born on 4 April 1925 in Rockhampton.

Ida began her Primary then Secondary teaching career (English, Modern History, French, Speech and Drama) at the Girls' Grammar School, Rockhampton. After 15 years there (1959), she was a resident secondary teacher at Moreton Bay College also establishing a practical, career-based non-tertiary entrance course at its Moreton House, Wynnum North. From August 1964 to December 1990, she was resident Principal at Clayfield College.

Over the years, she represented the Association of Independent Girls' Schools of Australia, most intensively as its President 1981-83, on numerous boards and committees and was a member of an official group of Australian Independent School Heads invited to study educational systems in China (1982) and the U.S.S.R. (1984).

After seventeen years on the Queensland Board of Secondary Studies as a Minister for Education nominee, she was its Chairman in 1989. In 1966,



she became a member of the Queensland Australian Music Examinations Board Committee.

In her early years in Rockhampton, as a pianist and singer, she was in various choirs and musical productions and organised many concert programmes for community and charity groups.

After retirement, she was also active in community organisations including Patroness of the Clayfield College Old Girls' Association; six years on the Craigslea Citizens Club, two years as its Vice President and two years as President; five years on the committee of the Rockhampton Old Girls' Association, Brisbane Branch – four years as Vice President; and member of church and garden clubs.

Ida also had membership of the Albion Rotary and Brisbane Lyceum Clubs, O.W.N. (Older Women's' Network) City Branch, Council on the Ageing and Disabled and chairing its Brisbane North and Pine Rivers committee, very worthwhile endeavours.

Amazing Grammar Girl - Ida Kennedy (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 11)

Editor's Note: *I have selected the following two articles to further demonstrate the calibre and professionalism of this Old Girl - one of our finest.*

Source: *Queensland Children's Hospital School*

Miss Ida Kennedy Teacher Scholarship

The *Miss Ida Kennedy Teacher Scholarship* is awarded each year and gives a regional teacher the opportunity for professional learning and development through engaging in visits to other hospital programs in Queensland.

There is vast expertise in our regional teacher network and this scholarship will capitalise on this expertise of colleagues. It's anticipated that the successful candidate will visit 'like programs' to their area of work (i.e. teacher in a paediatric ward will visit other paediatric wards or a teacher in a mental health inpatient unit or day program will visit similar programs).

Source: *Wikipedia:*

Miss Ida Kennedy O.A.M., was the Principal of Clayfield College, Brisbane, from 1964 through to 1990, a period of 26 years.

She was dedicated to her position, and strategically led the Clayfield College Community through major periods of growth which included a visionary strategic plan for the development of excellence in teaching and learning, and which also included a significant building program and expansion plan for the college.

Under her leadership the college grew and thrived. The generous funds for our *Miss Ida Kennedy Teacher Scholarship* has been made available through Miss Kennedy's will and her desire to develop the capability of teachers.

The school's second principal, Ida Kennedy, who retired in 1990, saw the establishment of a science building, a new boarding house, an assembly hall, separate primary department, a second boarding house, the music centre and new



Pictured below at Ida's 80th birthday celebration in 2005 are L-R: Betty Rodgers, Jill Liddell and Ida.



classrooms during the 1970s and 1980s. The college Chapel was built in 1985.

Editor's Note: *As a final tribute to Ida, I have re-printed excerpts from a quote by Jan Kashin (Brunsdon) that was published in the May 2010 Chit Chat. Jan had just joined the OGA as a Life Member and was asked why she had done so when she couldn't attend any functions.*

"Your school days are the most influential time of your life. The template for your future learning and later lifetime responses is laid down by your educators and influenced by your fellow students. Grammar girls as a bunch are guilty of unbridled optimism!

Mrs Black had said the money would be put to good use for the school. I thought that was a good idea.

But for myself, it was a way of acknowledging my educational debt (if there is such a thing?) to Ida Kennedy.

I still use all the tricks of learning that were part of her armoury in 1956. When I became a teacher myself, I modelled my teaching on her role of 'the enabler'.

She taught me how to re-adjust after adversity. She dared me to dream of achieving my fondest goals, knowing that she would always support me with her thoughts and prayers.

She encouraged me to step outside the square and be myself.

The cost of life membership hardly comes close."

Branch Contacts

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Upcoming RGGGS Events (50 Year Reunion for 1972 Seniors)

Girls' Grammar School (Rockhampton)
PINK DIAMOND
RACE DAY
Proudly supported by PHIL PEEL JEWELLER
PHIL PEEL JEWELLER EAST STREET

Saturday 18 JUNE 2022 CALLAGHAN PARK

JOIN US FOR
Fashions ON THE FIELD
RACES | PRIZES | 20TH ANNIVERSARY AFTER PARTY
A CHANCE TO WIN A \$5000 PINK DIAMOND

Corporate SPONSORSHIP \$2500
Party PAVILLION \$200 P/P

Includes:
• Entry to Callaghan Park for ten guests
• Table for ten in Corporate Marquee
• Three course meal and beverage package*
• Opportunity to win the lucky ticket prize of a pink diamond (valued at \$5000) from **Phil Peel Jeweller**
• Opportunity to win fabulous fashion prizes from **Something Different, Embellish Hats, Chemist Warehouse and Mark Bunt Menswear**
• Inclusion of your business logo on selected advertising material and race book
• Exclusive sponsorship (to your industry/business) offered annually

Includes:
• Entry to Callaghan Park and the opportunity to win the lucky ticket prize of a pink diamond (valued at \$5000) from **Phil Peel Jeweller**
• Picnic Lunch and beverage package* served to your table of 10
• Opportunity to win fabulous fashion prizes from **Something Different, Embellish Hats, Chemist Warehouse and Mark Bunt's Menswear**

* Includes wines, premium beers and non-alcoholic beverages

Ticketholders are invited to stay on after the races to celebrate our 20th Anniversary at our After Party with live music by Side Hustle. (After Party is from 5pm - 8pm. Drinks and Finger Food available to purchase during the After Party)

Book with Vicki Jackson 0419 791 836 or Merin Weston 0418 193 162 /GirlsGrammarRaceDay

The RGGGS Race Day is recognised as a major event in the Rockhampton racing calendar and attracts a large crowd each year.

The 1972 Seniors have chosen the RGGGS Race Day as the venue for their 50 Year Reunion. Contact: Libby Homer on her email: homerandson@bigpond.com.

Save the date for the RGGGS Long Lunch - another premier event not to be missed.

130
ROCKHAMPTON GIRLS GRAMMAR
Long Lunch

Join us as we celebrate 130 years of Rockhampton Girls Grammar School! Formal event details and information to follow.

SATURDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
1.00PM - 6.00PM



Editor

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Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au

Place mailing label



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

Committee Information

Executive Committee:

President	Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
Vice President	Ngaire Kane (Amos)
Immediate Past President	Ngaire Kane (Amos)
Secretary	Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
Treasurer	Robyn Meredith (Buchanan)
School Liaison Officer	Kim Dixon (Bredhauer)
Membership Secretary	Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
Chit Chat Editor	Marilyn Watts (Elgar)

Rockhampton Committee Members:

Margaret Black	Felicity Truelson	Val Phillips
Margaret Littleton	Corinne Shaw	Alix Jaspersen
Betty Spence		

Email Address—Rockhampton Committee

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Marilyn Watts	marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au
Margaret Black	9margaretblack38@gmail.com
Margaret Littleton	marmaxl@bigpond.net.au

Rockhampton Committee Meeting Dates 2022:

Tuesday 03 May Tuesday 02 August
Tuesday 22 November

Brisbane Group Meeting Dates 2022:

Tuesday 17 May Tuesday 19 July Tuesday 20 Sep

Dates to Remember

RGGS OGA Function Dates 2022:

Yeppoon Lunch	Sunday 15 May
Queensland Day Lunch	Wednesday 1 June
Townsville Lunch	Sunday 31 July
Biloela Lunch	Saturday 27 August

RGGS OGA Brisbane Events 2022:

Morning Tea	Tuesday 17 May
Morning Tea	Tuesday 19 July
Brisbane Xmas Lunch	Saturday 26 November

RGGS Events 2022:

RGGS Race Day	Saturday 18 June
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Membership fees for 2022 (Due January 2022):

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

Phone: 07 3283 7265 Mobile: 0401 442 948

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

Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au