



Chit Chat



RGGS Old Girls' Association - Rockhampton

October 2020
Volume 20, Issue 3

Highlights at Girls Grammar - from the Principal

Term 3 saw Girls Grammar settle into our new normal. Day students returned for the start of the term and relaxation of government requirements, particularly around interstate travel, meant all our boarders were also able to return.

Throughout the term, we also welcomed a number of new students. We will be commencing Term 4 with just under 300 students, an overall increase of 20 students this year.

Term 3 also provided an opportunity for our community to come together.

- Our Year 12 formal was a very successful night. Despite many regulations that impacted the format of both the walkthrough and the dinner, the seniors had a wonderful evening with their family and friends. A change of date saw the formal held on a Friday, allowing the walkthrough to be held in front of the whole school. The younger girls were so excited to see their 'big sisters' arrive in their cars and walk past them on the red carpet. A highlight for the Preps and Year 1s was the opportunity to present each senior with a flower as they walked past.



- This year's musical, *Alice in Wonderland Jnr*, was a wonderful showcase of the talents of our students and staff. The atmosphere was enhanced by the outdoor picnic setting and the costumes, sets and performance were all of the highest quality. We received many accolades from those who attended.
- A weekend art camp followed the *Alice in Wonderland* theme and provided an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in two days of art activities.
- Twenty of our students participated in the Cancer Council's Ponytail Project, raising just over \$25,000. Year 12 student, Lily Geary, was the top individual fundraiser in Queensland, raising more than \$10,000 for the charity.
- We held a number of events to welcome new and potential students into the School. Our Action Tour allowed families to see the school in action, spend some time chatting with the Executive and hear all about the school from staff and students. Our P-3 Tea Party was well attended by a number of our 2021 Preppies as well as families considering Girls Grammar in the coming years.

Enrichment at Girls Grammar has also had a focus this term. Our secondary students entered the Optiminds Competition, finishing first in Central Queensland in the Language and Literature section. We also started our primary enrichment group, meeting each Thursday morning in the library to engage in project-based learning.



Over the term, a number of our girls also challenged themselves with the ICAS Maths, Science and English competitions. Unfortunately, a number of other competitions were cancelled in 2020 but we expect the opportunities will return in 2021.

(Continued on page 2)



www.facebook.com/RGGSOGA

October 2020

Volume 20, Issue 3

Special points of interest:

- Amazing Grammar Girls
- Memories of the 50s
- New Board Chair
- Headmistresses of the School
- Memories of an RGGS Boarder
- Marriages, Deaths, Sympathy
- Vales

Highlights of Girls Grammar (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Over the recent break, in addition to the usual general maintenance schedule, our Facilities and Services team has been busy undertaking a number of projects around the School:

- Painting walls and sanding and polishing floorboards in a number of ground floor rooms in Paterson House;
- Constructing a new student reception area in Paterson House;
- Resurfacing of Paterson House driveway;
- Continuing planting of fruit trees and other plants in our new agriculture plot;
- Continuing with a tendering process for the refurbishment of the pool and pool sheds;
- Upgrading windows in the Science laboratories;
- Preparing Primmer classrooms in readiness for the arrival of new furniture and technology in October;
- Conducting preliminary work for the installation of a new alarm and fire system;
- Undertaking preliminary design and other works for our new uniform shop to be located in Paterson House.

The past practice of maintaining a school garden was reintroduced this term through a House competition, encouraging girls to bring in some 'colour after covid'.

The girls embraced this activity with enthusiasm, re-vamping a dedicated garden bed in their House colours.

Little additions such as handmade gnomes, painted rocks, fairy lights and sculptures added accents of colour and personality to each garden.

Head of Boarding, Stacey McCarthy, and I made two rural visits. On our first trip we visited the townships of Moura and Biloela, enjoying morning teas with families in both towns.

Two weeks later, we travelled to Rolleston, Springsure and Emerald where we met with current and potential families as well as a number of Old Girls. Each trip provides us with a valuable opportunity to meet with members of our community. They also help us better understand the region and the needs and issues affecting our families.

In a few short weeks, our Year 12s will be commencing their external examinations, the final stage of their educational journey. They have been working very hard on their assessment throughout the year. We wish them well as they prepare for the examination block.

2020 has been a very busy year and Term 4, with its many events and end of year celebrations, will be no exception. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Old Girls for their support over the year.

I would also like to extend an invitation 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 experiences of Girls Grammar.

Deanne Johnston
Principal



Amazing Grammar Girls - Di Kerr (Clark)

Editor's Note: One of our Amazing Grammar Girls featured in this edition is Di Kerr who was a student at RGGGS 1967 - 1971. The following article was sourced from the ICPA Qld News and Views magazine which details Di's long and dedicated service to caring for girls in boarding schools. Our congratulations to Di on her semi-retirement.

A well-known face in Queensland boarding schools, Di Kerr, has retired after more than 17 years caring for girls in three of Queensland's top boarding schools. Di has been Clayfield College's Head of Boarding since 2011, following boarding roles at Ipswich Girls' Grammar School and St Margaret's since 2003.

At 65, Di will remain as the Weekend Boarding Supervisor at Clayfield but looks forward to spending some more time gardening, walking, sorting photos and going to the beach from her Gold Coast home. Spending time with her grandchildren is also on the semi-retirement agenda. Two of Di's granddaughters, Olivia 15 and Darcy 13, are boarders at Clayfield.

Apart from her career in boarding, Di has had a long association with rural and regional Queensland. Growing up in Rockhampton herself attending Rockhampton Girls Grammar, her daughter teacher Jessie Persse became the Queensland Country Life's The Farmer's Wife after she met and married Thallon grazier Charlie Persse.

"With Jessie's three children growing up on a property, I have a thorough understanding of the pressures and joys of children growing up in the bush today which has helped me immensely in my role," said Di. But no understanding or experience could have prepared Di for the impact of COVID-19 on boarding schools which didn't even exist when Di made the decision to retire at the beginning of the year.

According to Clayfield College Principal Dr Andrew Cousins, "Di is a much-loved member of our Clayfield family, and I sincerely thank her for her commitment and energy. She has provided an exceptional level of care for our boarders throughout her time at Clayfield College." Dr Cousins said

Over almost two decades in boarding, Di has seen many other changes in boarding. The impact of long-term drought on rural families has delayed the start of some children at boarding



school. "More boarders now come from regional towns such as Roma, Goondiwindi, Gladstone and Emerald to access top quality coaching and training in sports such as swimming or dancing.

We also have many more local students boarding whose parents have jobs that require them to work away from home." Di said the international boarders are also from a far broader mix of countries including Papua New Guinea, the Pacific Islands, China and Hong Kong.

Di said that in the last 20 years, boarding staff have also significantly changed. "The stereotypical older matronly woman is no more.

We now have a great mix of staff with several who are younger university students and great role models for the girls. Boarding staff are also more qualified doing ABSA courses in areas such as mental health, first aid and child protection."

President's Message

Hello my fellow Old Girls! Who will not forget 2020? I hope you have remained safe and coped with deprivations. We have not been on some of the country tours or held our usual social functions in Rockhampton so far this year.

However on October 9th, we are having a small function to dedicate the cabinet in memory of Helen Bredhauer née Marsh who did so much towards the Museum and the Archives. There are continuing activities to be carried out in the Archives if you are interested in helping. I

must thank Helen's two sisters-in-law for helping and also Margaret Black who is a stalwart.

Margaret travelled to Townsville this year for a convivial OGA branch luncheon there. I am looking forward to travelling to Mackay with a number of others for the branch luncheon at the end of October. It is good to do some socialising after being in lockdown.

Lastly I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2021.

Ngairé Kane (Amos)
President

Another Amazing Grammar Girl - Heather Fraser

Editor's Note: In this edition of *Amazing Grammar Girls*, I am also featuring Heather Fraser who was a student at RGGS 1971-1975. Heather was recently awarded the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award for her commitment to the teaching profession over many years.

Not only is Heather an English teacher at the Pimlico State High School but she is also a lecturer at the James Cook University in English Curriculum as well as President of Townsville Branch of the English Teacher's Association.

Announcement from the ASG:

Twelve of Australia's most outstanding early childhood, primary and secondary educators have been recognised in the ASG-supported National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA). These talented committed and caring teachers all demonstrate the excellent personal qualities, skills and passion required of educators in a fast-changing uncertain world.

NEiTA Chairman Allen Blewitt says this year's National Excellence in Teaching Awards winners are outstanding educational role models. "Each year, I am honoured to see the great work of many teachers through NEiTA. These teachers are leaders and innovators in the classroom and in the teaching profession. I know they are already rising to the challenge of today's difficult environment as they continue to change lives through their teaching and by their good example."

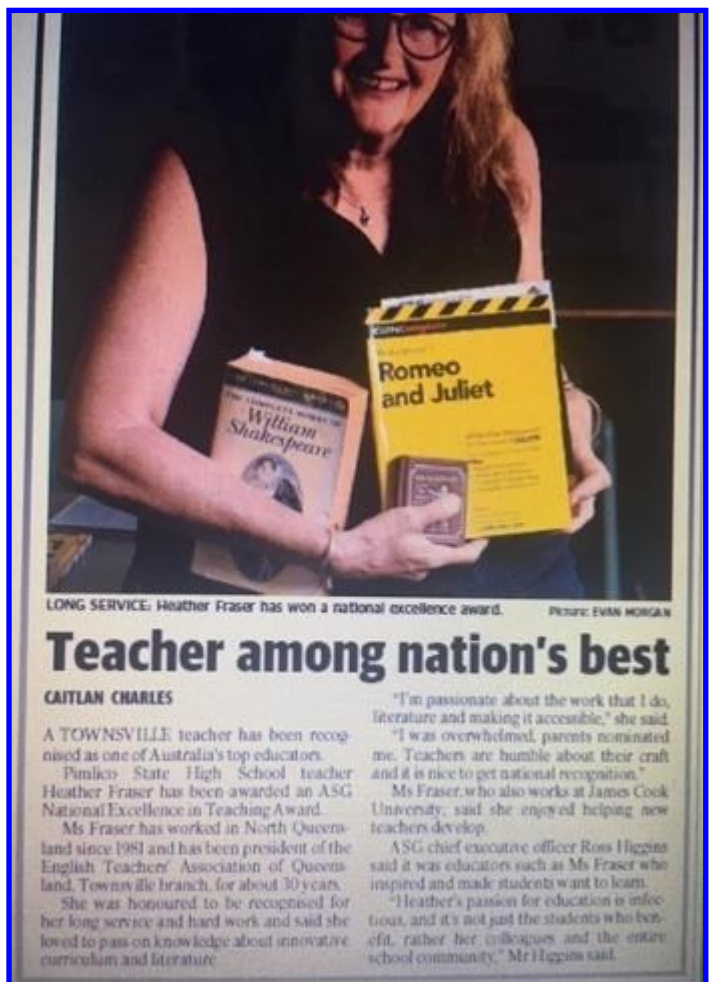
ASG CEO, Ross Higgins, said the 2019/20 National Excellence in Teaching Awards winners are an inspirational group who make students want to learn. Higgins added that a NEiTA nomination is proof that members of the school community acknowledge the contribution of a teacher and value it.

"The current climate of uncertainty highlights how valuable teachers are and the critical role they play, especially when students are feeling stressed or anxious. I congratulate all the NEiTA recipients. They represent all the dedicated teachers across Australia who genuinely care about the educational success and wellbeing of their students. They are education heroes in their own right" Higgins said. NEiTA Chairman Blewitt remarked that:

"It is NEiTA's 25th anniversary, and it's wonderful that parents, in particular, when nominating a teacher are recognising and applauding inspirational educators who are making an outstanding contribution to their children and to their community."

Heather's citation read as follows:

Heather Fraser believes great educators must have insatiable desire to accumulate new knowledge and inspire students. As President of the English Teacher's



Association of Queensland (Townsville Branch), Heather facilitates learning for her fellow teachers by organising professional development workshops for other English educators.

To succeed as a teacher, Heather believes educators should never stop exploring and learning, at all times stay current and connected, attend professional development workshops and take every opportunity to stretch themselves.

New Members

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

New Life Members

Hilarie Dunn - 1969-1973
 Penny Farrell (Thomasson) - 1985-1989
 * Diane Gottani (Bowden) - 1963-1964
 * Heather Fraser - 1971-1975
 * Susan McDougall (Turner) - 1971-1975
 (* Previous Annual Members)

Current Membership Numbers:

Annual Members:	85
Life Members	1003
Honorary Life Members	5
Associates & Friends of the OGA	13
Total:	1106

From the Principal

Hannah (Year 11) shared this photograph of her grandmother (Enid) and her grandmother's sisters from when they attended Girls Grammar.

Pictured with their mother L-R Ellen (Grade 7), Elsa (Grade 3) and Enid Schnitzerling (Grade 10) are wearing their Girls Grammar winter formal uniform in the year 1950.



Thank you for your feedback

From the Editor: I received a lot of feedback on the article in the May edition of *Chit Chat* about one of our *Amazing Grammar Girls*, Elizabeth Bradford. Many girls remembered Elizabeth with great fondness.

Unfortunately, Elizabeth is now in a Rest Home in New Zealand and it is likely she is suffering with dementia. So sad to see a great mind fade away.

Last call for 2020 Subs

This will be the last opportunity to pay for your 2020 Annual Subscription. 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
Internet:	Brisbane members: CBA Branch No: 064001 A/c No: 1008-0446

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

Update your contact details

If you would like to receive the newsletter in less time than it takes to arrive by post and help save on the costs of postage, join our email list. Just complete and return the form below.

Notification of change of address

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

Send to:

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

Memories from the 50s

Editor's Note: For this edition, I am including some snaps from the 1950s to correspond with the article on Dr Alice Paterson (see Page 8) who was Headmistress at the School in the early 50s. Perhaps this will bring back some memories for our 1950s girls.

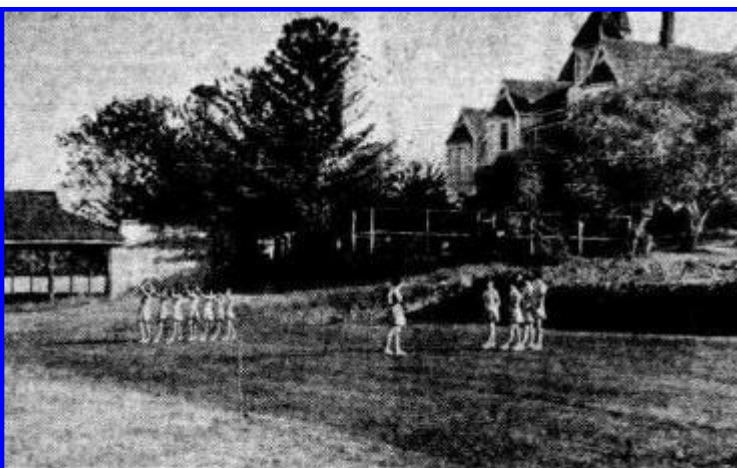


Miss Ruth Davey, of Raglan, music teacher at the Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School, supervises duet practice by Theodora Andronico, of Finch Hatton, and Brenda Strange, of Yeppoon.

READY FOR THE JUNIOR



Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School pupils, Pat Edwards (top) and Moya Landsberg, made a final perusal of their text books before the Junior English paper yesterday morning.



This new sports oval at the Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School was built by the Parents and Friends' Association. It will be officially opened at a garden party and fete in the school grounds on October 18.



Tunnel Ball teams, Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School.

Memories of the 1950s (cont'd)

Editor's Note: Pictured right is our very own Margaret Black (Clark), member of our current RGGS OGA Committee. Many girls from 70s, 80s & 90s will also remember Margaret as the Senior Mistress.

The sport depicted in the photo on the previous page has been mistitled as Tunnel Ball. I believe this should be Leader Ball or Overhead Ball.



An action study of C. Weaver (Girls' Grammar), who won the 54 yards junior breast-stroke.



Pupils and teachers of the Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School gathered in the assembly hall at the school on Thursday for the final assembly at the end of the first term, to congratulate three of the pupils who won bursaries on the results of last year's State scholarship. This picture shows (l-r): The headmistress (Mrs E. R. Byres), Fay Burton, the president of the Grammar School Old Girls' Association (Mrs A. Fain), Margaret Clark, the deputy-chairman and treasurer of the School Trust (Mr F. A. Horner) and Janice Williams. Fay Burton and Margaret Clark were awarded bursaries for day pupils by the Old Girls' Association and Janice Williams received the Trustees' bursary for boarders.

Congratulations to our new Board Chair

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Jenny Luck who was recently appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees. Jenny is the first Old Girl of the School who has been appointed to this position. Below is a precis of Jenny's association with the School:

Jenny has been associated with Girls Grammar since commencing as a boarding student in 1970. She returned to the School as a teacher in 1988 and continued as a permanent member of staff until 2005.

In 2003, Jenny was appointed Assistant Principal - Administration and gained a first hand experience of, not only the mechanics and challenges of the day to day running of a P-12 school, but also the importance of strategic planning and the role of the Board in School governance.

As an employee of the School, Jenny was heavily involved in out of school activities and regularly represented the school at Marketing events. She was the Staff Liaison for the RGGS Cattle Club, and is still currently a member of the Race Day Committee.



In 2006, along with her business partner, she established a very successful Educational Resources business. This ensured she maintained a deep understanding of the direction of education in Queensland.

Announcement – Chair of the Board of Trustees - July 2020.

At our recent Board meeting, Ross Johnson stepped down as Chairman of the Board of Trustees after five and a half years in the role. On behalf of the Board and Rockhampton Girls Grammar School, I would like to thank Ross for his outstanding contribution and leadership. Happily, he

has agreed to remain as a Board member and continue to provide his wise counsel.

We are confident that the strong governance and stewardship of the School will continue under the new Board Chair, Jennifer Luck. Jennifer has a long association with Girls Grammar, as both an Old Girl, former staff member and member of the Board of Trustees for the past seven years.

The Board acknowledges Jennifer for her wealth of experience, knowledge of the education sector and strong leadership. I would also like to recognise Noel Livingston, who has generously given almost ten years' service to the Board of Trustees. This included four years as Board Chair followed by more than five years as Deputy Chair.

At our last Board meeting, Noel submitted his resignation from the Board and will finish his role in the coming weeks.

Claire Applewaite
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Headmistresses of the School - Dr A R Paterson

Editor's Note: *This is the second in the series "Headmistresses of the School". For this edition, I have chosen Dr Alice Paterson who was Headmistress 1950-1953.*

Source: The Wider View

Although Dr Paterson seemed to some students an unsympathetic disciplinarian, demanding of girls a mature outlook far beyond their years, she challenged set attitudes to education and administration and presented the Trustees with constructive criticism of existing facilities. She made numerous suggestions for modernisation at the School which ultimately, but not necessarily during her own term of office, brought progress and change.

Editor's Note: *Examples of the changes which occurred during Dr Paterson's tenure:*

- *Opening of the Sports Oval in 1952*
- *Creation of the Sport Houses: Smith, Downs and Williams*
- *Formation of the Parents & Friends Assn*
- *Appointment of the first woman on the Board of Trustees, Mrs Clarice McKeague*

Dr Paterson was highly sought after as a guest speaker and spoke at such events as the Rosstrum Club Luncheon where her topic was "Some Fundamentals of Good Speaking" and the YWCA Business Girls' Club where her topic was "Women and World Peace".

The following are excerpts from the Morning Bulletin relating to Dr Paterson.

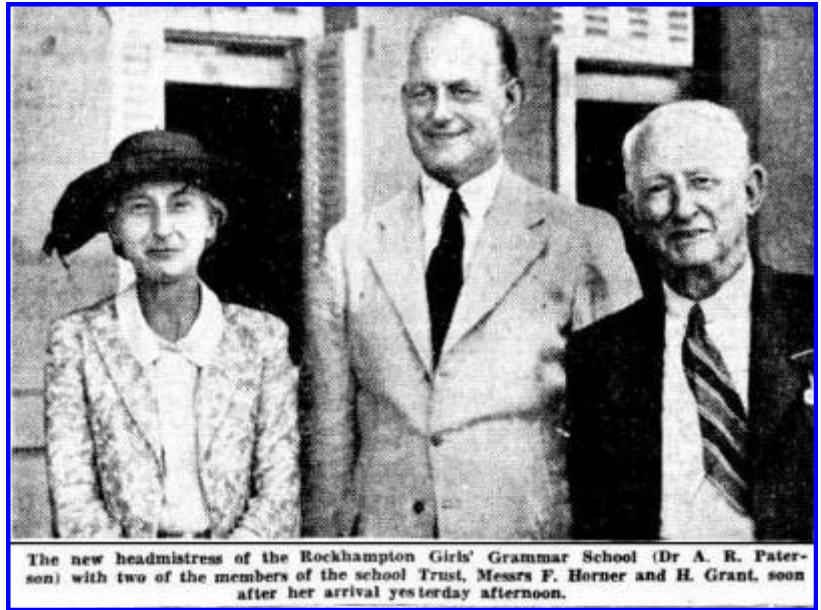
Source: Morning Bulletin Jan 1950

Of wide interest is the arrival in the city by air this afternoon from Brisbane of Dr Alice R Paterson, the new Headmistress of the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.

Dr Paterson arrived in Brisbane earlier this month on the SS Orcades from England where she has fulfilled many interesting posts over the past 12 years.

On her arrival at Connor Park Airport, there was a warm welcome waiting for her from the Chairman of Trustees of the Girls Grammar School (Mr A H Paterson), other members of the School Trust and the Old Girls' Association.

Dr Paterson renewed acquaintance with Mr and Mrs Cedric Luck, whom she met in Lon-



The new headmistress of the Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School (Dr A. R. Paterson) with two of the members of the school Trust, Messrs F. Horner and H. Grant, soon after her arrival yesterday afternoon.

don, and who at that time were able to enlighten her with first-hand jottings of her new home town. After her arrival, Dr Paterson was entertained to afternoon tea at the school.

Source: Morning Bulletin Feb 1950

The newly appointed Headmistress of the Girls Grammar School (Dr Alice Paterson) was feted by the executive of the Old Girls' Association of the school last night when she attended a dinner party at the Criterion Hotel.

The President of the Association (Mrs Arthur Pain) presented Dr Paterson with a pretty corsage which toned with her frock, and had pleasure in introducing the guests, who included the President of the Swimming Pool Committee (Mrs J McKeague), Dr Doris Skyring, Mrs W. J. Hempenstall and Miss Millicent Jackson (Vice-Presidents) of the Old Girls' Association, Miss Pat Faulkner (Hon Treasurer), Miss Heather Madge (Hon Secretary), Misses Margaret Smithers, Kitty Cleeve, Jess Mulry, Marian Day, Doris Harris, Pamela Millroy, Elsie Waite, Pat Tompson, Margaret Cran and Margaret March (Committee) and Miss Shirley Rhodes (Secretary of the Social Committee). The party adjourned to view the film "Sons of Matthew" at the Wintergarden Theatre.

Source: Morning Bulletin Feb 1950

Dr A R Paterson, Headmistress of the Girls Grammar School, gave a most stimulating informal talk to the members of the YWCA Business Girls' Club when she was the guest speaker at their monthly dinner party on Tuesday night. Dr Paterson chose as her subject "Women and World Peace".

"Women as individuals, women in society and women in the great family of human kind throughout the generations have longed for a righteous peace. Perhaps the ideal society is, in essence, not so different from a well-ordered home. For the home, not the individual, is the true basis of society" said Dr Paterson.

(Continued on page 9)

Headmistresses of the School (cont'd)



(Continued from page 8)

The harmony and security of such a home are what are missing in the world today. "The dominating influence in the home is the wife and mother, She, it is, who moulds the life of a child in its early years and it is she who has to manage the home, and her influence is paramount. Even for the women who are not homemakers, for instance the bachelor women, their personality is the key to the value of their work and so in every sphere, women contribute to the life of society.

The hindrances and difficulties of realising an ideal are patent but these constitute a challenge to be met by courage, fortitude, faith and humour and a constant recharging of spiritual power. The future may be dark but we must believe beyond the darkness, knowing that in the end, the dawn must come.

Source: Morning Bulletin Jul 1951

Adult Education classes: **Literature Class:** This evening at 8 o'clock in the John Knox Hall, Bolsover Street, Dr A R Paterson, Headmistress of the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School, will commence a series of lectures on literature and everyday life, under the auspices of the Rockhampton Adult Education Centre. It will be remembered that Dr. Paterson's psychology lectures proved very popular last year and this year's series should be even more so, as the subject under discussion touches every person in the community at some time or another.

OGA Event Bulletin Board

★★☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
 Mackay RGGs Old Girls
 are gathering at the
Boomerang Hotel
 307 Nebo Road, City Gates, Mackay

 Saturday 31 October 2020
 at 11.30 am for a midday lunch.
 Cost: Self Funded
 All past students & staff are welcome.
 RSVP by Monday 26 October 2020 to:
 Kathy on 4956 1828 (leave a message)
 Janette on 0427 275 492
 or Email:
 mackayrggslunch@hotmail.com
 ★★☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
 Rockhampton RGGs OGA
 CHRISTMAS DINNER
 to be held at the School on the
Littleton Plaza Deck
 at 6:00 pm
 Friday 6 November 2020
 Cost: TBA - Must be prepaid
 RSVP by Friday 30 October 2020 to:
 Mrs Kim Dixon
 PO Box 776 Rockhampton Q 4700
 Email: kimdixon@rggs.qld.edu.au
 Mobile: 0456 500 592
Payment options:
 Cheque~ Posted to Kim Dixon
 Internet~ RGGSOGA ANZ Bank
 BSB No 014690 Account No 394413077
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Memories of an RGGS Boarder 1955-1958

Editor's Note: *Continuing with "Memories from the 50s", I came across this story from the Pater-son House Heritage Museum Archives. The arti- cle was penned by Delma Marland (Uren), RGGS student 1955-1958.*

In January 1955, accompanied by my parents, I eagerly entered the front gate in Agnes Street, walked past the triangle and around the impos- ing building to the office of the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School.

Here I was enrolled as a new boarding pupil and placed in Form 4A. Thus began the next four of the very important years of my life. I'm sure these years helped to shape my future in so many ways. How fortunate I was to be surround- ed by a group of marvellous girls as we learned to live together in the "red roof prison" (the fa- vourite name for our school!).

Many of our original class left after Junior to pur- sue their vocations and ten of us remained as senior students. Suddenly, three of us were cho- sen to be prefects and expected to be good role models for the younger students as well as car- rying out many extra duties in the boarding house e.g. sitting at the head of the table at meal times and "encouraging" everyone to eat what was put in front of them no matter how unappe- tising it looked, taking prep at night, supervising nails, shoes, hair inspections etc.

Then in our final year, all 6A were prefects and I had the honour of being chosen as the Helen E Downs Prefect and wearing the large gold brooch that had been presented to Helen E Downs when she retired.

A few years previously, some of the Callide Valley students were alighting at a train station at Biloela as we made our trip home when the then Head Prefect dropped the "precious" badge.

Fortunately, my father found it and when I became Head Pre- fect, the first thing he did was ask permission to have a safety chain put on the badge. It really was irreplaceable.

Memories that spring to my mind:

- Wonderful interhouse competitions in sport, drama, choir and gardening
- Sharing a sao biscuit six ways as everyone's supply of food from home was running out and the joy when you had a birth- day and your mother posted you a fruit cake.
- Our competitive spirit in winning interschool basketball, tennis and athletics. Gosh we were good!!
- Dancing classes with the Grammar Grubs (indescribable).
- Debating them and winning!
- Saturday night entertainment which consisted of listening to records such as "South Pacific". Films were a rarity.
- Very few excursions into the "real world" and always in twos, dressed in school uniform.

Food:

How can anyone adequately describe "sinkers", "Fitzroy mud", "cold sausage meat turning up at the edges for Sunday lunch", 'liver tinged with green'.

We were allowed to bring a bottle of sauce from home and I al- ways made sure I had a bottle of Worcestershire sauce ready for emergencies.

One good thing from our culinary delights is that I can eat abso- lutely anything now, even if I hate it!

Townsville Lunch - August 2020



The annual Townsville Lunch was held on 9 August at the RSL, Charters Towers Road, Hermit Park.

Pictured left are: **Back L to R:** Heather Fra- ser ,Margaret Black (Clark), Sue McDougall (Turner)

Front L to R: Patricia Faulkner, Diane Gottani (Bowden), Yvonne Benn (Eite)

See Page 12 to read about our Amazing Grammar Girl Heather Fraser and see Page 6 to see a young Marga- ret Black (Clark). Margaret travels to Townsville each year to join our Townsville girls for lunch.

Marriages



Jessica Smoothy (Senior 2014) to Tom Nelson 20/12/19.
Jessica and Tom were married at *Gabbinbar Homestead*.

Elizabeth Wagner (Senior 2007) to Dan Firth 01/08/20.
Liz and Dan were married at Maleny at the venue *Weddings at Tiffany's*.

Sympathy to:



- Helen Stanton (Lindeman) on the death of her mother, Yvonne (Vonnie)
- Rosilyn Burkett (Cameron) on the death of her mother
- Pam Jensen (Richardson) and Alison Jensen-Scott on the death of their husband and father

Deaths

- Courtney Smith 2013-2017
- Bonita Farmer (Brice) 1956-1957
- Betty Griffiths (Hannah) 1945-1946
- Esther Kerr 1953-1954

Vale - Bonita Farmer



Bonita (Bonnie) Farmer (Brice) 1956-1957.

Bonita was the OGA's Branch contact for Gladstone for over 20 years and was one of the organisers of the annual Gladstone Luncheon.

Prior to this, Bonita volunteered to decorate the tables at other OGA lunches and dinners.

Bonita was a talented artisan and in particular, her printed silk scarves were much admired. She had exhibited samples of her art at an RGGS Art Exhibition.

In 2018, Bonita was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association in recognition of her service to the OGA.

Vale - Betty Griffiths (Hannah)

Betty Griffiths (Hannah) was a student at RGGGS 1945-1946. For her long and dedicated service to the Brisbane Branch of the OGA, Betty was awarded the Association's Special Service Badge in 2009 and in 2018 was made an Honorary Life Member. The following tributes were received from members of the Brisbane OGA:

Jean Bulley:

Betty was a year ahead of me at RGGGS, and although we lost contact for many years, she contacted me again in the early 1990s which resulted in my joining RGGGS OGA Brisbane.

Betty was a very efficient office bearer of RGGGS OGA Brisbane before being elected President and later being awarded a Special Service Badge.

Dot Skewes:

I was at RGGGS with Betty and she was a very good singer. There are no words at a time like this. I will remember the good times.

Elsie Speight:

I feel very sad at the passing of Betty Griffiths. We were in the same class at school when she was Betty Hannah. We were together at Grammar the day World War 11 was declared over.

Betty was part of our Brisbane Branch of RGGGS Old Girls' Association through the years when we blossomed under the guidance of the wonderful Dot Donald. So many strong friendships began at those meetings and still continue.

*Betty was part of it all and many of us have wonderful memories of her borne out by the many group photographs in our Album. **Betty was a fine person - she made a difference.***



Vale - Courtney Smith

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Courtney Smith, from the Class of 2017, who was tragically killed in a road accident.

Whilst at Girls Grammar, Courtney showed herself to be an enthusiastic and dedicated student. She was one of the School's highest achievers, receiving top results in Chemistry, Physics, English and Mathematics B. She also studied English Extension and took every opportunity to pursue enrichment opportunities.

Whilst in Year 11, Courtney won a STEM competition, allowing her to meet 2015 Nobel Prize winner, Japanese physicist Dr Kajita.

When interviewed for a media article in 2016, Courtney said, "Women can achieve anything, do what they want

to do, be where they want to be if we just put the effort in. The fact that I am regional student and a woman and I am going to Brisbane is just evidence that you don't need to be in the city or a man to get into these fields."

The staff at Girls Grammar all speak very highly of Courtney and remember fondly her time at the School. She was a student who always 'did her best' and she was a wonderful role model for other students.

We will miss her.



Deanne Johnson - RGGGS Principal



Catch up with prize winner

Margaret Littleton (Baker) 1958-1959 and her husband, Max, recently caught up with Karla Hicks 2009-2013 at Rubyvale. Karla was the 2013 recipient of the Karen Littleton Memorial Award. Karla and some of her school mates meet up every year to reminisce about their times at Girls Grammar.

Margaret and Max are generous benefactors of Rockhampton Girls Grammar School not only through their Annual Speech Night Prize but also through the opening of Littleton Plaza in 2014, an upgrade made possible through their major donation. Littleton Plaza was named in memory of Max and Margaret's beloved daughter Karen, a graduate of Girls Grammar who passed away in a car accident in 2001.

Four generations of Margaret's family have attended the school, starting with her mother, who graduated 100 years ago. Since Margaret graduated in 1959, she has been a tireless supporter of the school and was a recipient of the rarely-awarded RGGGS Old Girls Association Special Service Medal.

Branch Contacts

Brisbane:

Mrs Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
2/37 Margate Parade
Margate Q 4019
Ph: 07 3283 7265
marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au

Sunshine Coast:

Mrs Freda Wengert (Pack)
PO Box 173, Nambour Q 4560
Ph: 07 5441 2623

Melbourne:

Mrs Pat Rabi (Webb)
Unit 1 - 115A Williams Road
Pahran VIC 3181
Mob: 0418 140 642

Cairns

Ms Gail Russell
16 Karloo Close
Worree 4868
Email: grussell@tropicnet.com.au
Mob: 0431 352 850

Townsville:

Mrs Diane Gottani (Bowden)
17 Terek Walk, Kayinda Chase
Bottle Plains 4817
Ph: 0416 213 441

Mackay:

Mrs Janette Dark (Davey)
7 Corney Street
North Mackay Q 4740
Ph: 07 4942 2434
Email: jdark46@hotmail.com

Rockhampton:

Mrs Margaret Black (Clark)
Unit 13, 240 German Street
Norman Gardens Q 4701
Ph: 07 4928 2490

Biloela:

Mrs Jean Rathjen (Churchward)
PO Box 305
Biloela Q 4715
Ph: 07 4992 1170

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

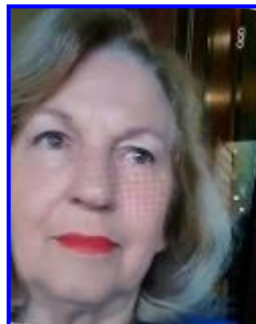
The purpose of *Chit Chat* is to provide general information on Old Girls of the School and to give an update on the School's current activities.

Marilyn Watts (Elgar)
Editor

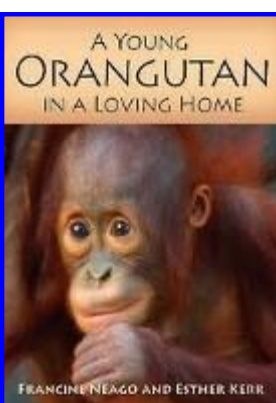
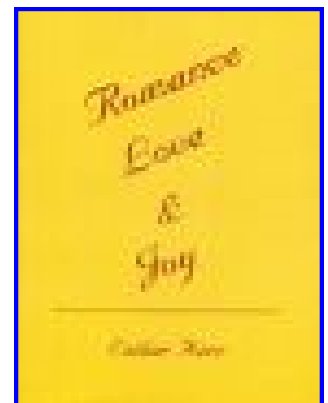
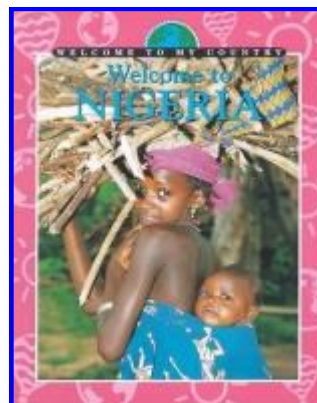
Vale - Esther Kerr

Esther Kerr attended RGGGS from 1953 - 1954. Whilst at School, Esther was a strong swimmer and upon leaving School was a member of a Water Ballet group which provided entertainment at the opening of the School swimming Pool in 1958.

Also performing in the Ballet were Esther's older sister, Gladys, and school friend, Delvine McDonald (Weber).



The second book for Time Life, "Welcome to Nigeria" was co-authored with Yinka Ismail and was published in 2002. Esther also wrote "Romance, Love & Joy" published in 2004.



In 2006, Esther co-authored a children's book titled "A Young Orangutan in a Loving Home" which is based on Francine Neago manuscripts of her adventurous life with animals. The book was purchased in a bulk order for sale at the 1954 Juniors Reunion.

The introduction to the book says: *Esther Kerr is an Australian grandmother who began writing full time in 2000 after a varied career. Esther is the co-author of the non-fiction, juvenile version of Welcome to Nigeria, Times.*

Other aspects of her life include:

- Mother of 3 and grandmother to 5 grandchildren & 1 great grandchild. Two of Esther's children, Di Kerr 1982-1984 and Susan Fry 1975 attended RGGGS
- Area Manager for Woolworths - Canberra and NSW (in the 70's)
- Graduated Central Queensland Institute (now CQU) in 1986 with a Bachelor's Degree
- 1988 President of the RGGGS Old Girls Association.

Editor

Mrs Marilyn Watts
Unit 2, 37 Margate Parade
MARGATE Q 4019

Phone: 07 3283 7265 (H)

Mobile: 0401 442 948

Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au



Place mailing label here



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

Committee Information

Executive Committee:

President	Ngairé Kane (Amos)
Vice President	Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
Immediate Past President	Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
Secretary	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
Betty Spence	Robyn Meredith	Val Phillips
Corinne Shaw		

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

Final 2020 Rockhampton Committee Meeting Date:

Tuesday 24 November

Final 2020 Brisbane Group Meeting Date:

Tuesday 17 November

Dates to Remember

RGGS OGA Function Dates 2020:

Mackay Luncheon	Saturday 31 October
Christmas Dinner	Friday 6 November
Gladstone Luncheon	Saturday 7 November

RGGS OGA Brisbane Event 2020:

Christmas Lunch	Saturday 28 November
-----------------	----------------------

RGGS OGA Function Date 2021:

Dinner on the Deck & AGM Tuesday 3 March, 2021

RGGS OGA Brisbane Event 2021:

Morning Tea	Tuesday 17 March 2021
-------------	-----------------------

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:
Mrs Marilyn Watts

Phone: 07 3283 7265 Mobile: 0401 442 948

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

Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au