



Chit Chat



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

October 2021
Volume 21, Issue 3

Highlights at Girls Grammar - from the Principal

The weeks leading up to the September break have been full of events and activities for our students, staff and school community.

Keeping in the spirit of Inter-House competitions, our Year 12 House Prefects have overseen the running of Inter-House Reading and Inter-House Netball competitions in addition to the much anticipated Inter-House Choir Competition.

The energy in McKeague Hall was contagious and the Inter-House Choir Competition fierce with only one point the difference between 1st and 2nd. Smith took out the competition, closely followed by Paterson, then Downs and Williams.

The netball Fast Five week-long competition culminated in a staff vs



student event and I am slightly biased in reporting that the staff came away with a one-point win over the Year 12 girls. It was a hard fought and very entertaining game for all staff and student spectators.

Our Primary girls celebrated the 75th year of the Children's Book Council of Australia's Book Week by dressing up as their favourite book character for

our annual parade and story book reading by our Director of Primary, Mrs Goltz.

It was wonderful to see such a love of reading, characters, authors and illustrators from our Primary students and staff. Special mention must go to the staff band of 'Alpacas with Maracas' in their matching attire including their instrumental props and sombreros.

Our Year 11s celebrated their semi-formal which was a lovely evening spent with peers and guests on McKeague Deck. This was a welcome social event in between their studies and leadership processes of interviews and speeches for those who applied for a Prefect position in

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From the President

Welcome to the last newsletter with another year nearly over with 2022 not too far away. I am very fortunate to be living in Central Queensland along with many of our RGGSOGA families where we have been able to conduct our usual luncheons without too many restrictions.

The luncheons were held at Yeppoon in May, Rockhampton in June, Townsville and Biloela in August where our attendances varied in numbers but overall quite good.

Looking forward to the upcoming events to be held in Mackay (30th October), then the Christmas (yes, the dreaded Christmas word) dinner

in Rockhampton (5th November) along with Gladstone (6th November) and the ever popular Brisbane luncheon on the 27th November.

I look forward to seeing you at some of these functions and I am forever thankful to be surrounded by the hardworking committee members of the RGGSOGA.

It has certainly been a challenging year for many still unable to travel and see family/friends but hopefully 2022 will be bigger & better than ever.

Veronica Goddard (Bertram)
President



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Special points of interest:

- Upcoming 30 Year Reunion
- Amazing Grammar Girls - Emily Lang
- 20 and 50 Years Reunions
- Headmistresses of the School, Millicent Jackson
- School Reminisces, Maureen Gill (Neville)
- Early photos of RGGGS

Highlights at Girls Grammar (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

2022. The ten successful applicants were announced as next year's Prefects on the final day of Term 3.

Our Parents and Friends Association have been busy organising Girls Grammar's iconic Bulls 'n' Barrels event which is being held on Saturday 16th October at CQLX in Gracemere.

It would be wonderful to see as many Old Girls, friends and families support this P&F run event while catching up with past peers, families and staff members. In addition to planning for Bulls 'n' Barrels, our P&F have generously donated funds for various items for our girls to use across the school.

Our facilities team have been working tirelessly on many projects currently underway across the school. I am very excited to share that our pool and change rooms have had a complete refurbishment and will be ready for our girls to use in Term 4.

The finishes and tiling look superb and the colour and clarity of the water looks so inviting now that it has been refilled. The change rooms

have been completely upgraded and repainted with new cubicles and finishes and the result is fabulous. This has been a long awaited project and upgrade to Girls Grammar's facilities which will be very welcomed by our boarders, sports staff and girls during PE classes.

Students in Year 4, 5, 6 and 7 have all attended camps during the last week of Term 3. This is a valuable part of our school pastoral care program and provides many learning experiences and opportunities to enhance relationships and connections along with social and emotional development.

During the final week of term, I had the pleasure of attending Westech Field Days in Barcaldine alongside our Community Liaison Officer, Rachel Hinton. We proudly represented Girls Grammar and promoted the bright, sunny and happy colour of marigold amongst the various other trade stalls.

We took great enjoyment in meeting locals, networking with fellow school representatives and other rural businesses and connecting with Girls Grammar families past, present and



future. It was very exciting to meet and build connections with families and students who are beginning their Girls Grammar journey with us in the new year.

On our return from the Central West, we concluded Term 3 with a Year 7-9 breakfast on McKeague Deck, Narrah's Inter-House Touch Carnival, Primary Ball Games and Jump Rope for Heart Jump Off and Secondary Learning Conversations.

As staff and students enjoy a much needed break, we are preparing for an action packed Term 4. Wherever you are, enjoy the lovely spring weather (or autumn colours as the seasons change in the Northern Hemisphere).

Kara Krehlik
Acting Principal

Nita Whyte OAM, AMUSA, AMTA

Nita Whyte passed away on 17 August 2021 aged 87 years. She will be fondly remembered as "Bigger than Life" by many Old Girls and RGGS staff. In 1969, Nita was appointed to the School as music and choir mistress and served in these roles until 2004.

During that time, Nita kept the Girls Grammar Choir in the winning circle at each eisteddfod for many years. Together with music teachers Veronica Berry and Jean Sandell, she donated the Trophy for the Interhouse Music and Drama Festival. She was a Life Member of the Eisteddfod Council of Queensland and a member of the Friends of the Pilbeam Theatre.

Nita was also a member of the Rockhampton Musical Union for more than 50 years and took up the challenge as conductor in 1983. In 1987, this choir won the Chief Choral Contest at the State Eisteddfod in Gladstone and in 1988 were the B Grade Champion Choir at the All of Queensland Bicentennial Eisteddfod in Mackay. An icon of School, Nita was a remarkable woman.



New Members

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

New Life Members:

Sue Bremner - 1962-1967
 Kayleen Dagan - 1974-1978
 Rose-Marie Muller - 1994-1998

New Annual Member:

Leona McCamley - 1957

Current Membership Numbers:

Life Members:	1044
Annual Members	76
Honorary Life Members	5
Associates & Friends of the OGA	13
Total:	1138

Final Call - 2021 Subs

For Annual Members, this is the final call for your 2021 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

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.)

Upcoming 30 Year Reunion

The 1991 Seniors and 1989 Juniors are celebrating their 30 year reunion on 30th October 2021 at the Emporium Hotel, South Bank, Brisbane for a long Lunch followed by cocktails on the rooftop bar.

Starting at 12 noon. All 1991 Seniors-1989 Juniors cohort are welcome. For more information call Lara Brown on 0418 123 877.



BACK ROW: Shaneen Talbot, Angela Slater, Nicole Headley, Julie Priddle, Andrea Leeson, Amanda Walters, Nicole Watts, Ruth Hudson, Paula Giddings

7TH ROW: Sally Talbot, Trinity Nolan, Rita Kebisu, Kylie Whitford, Cete Sewell, Lenore Semple, Melissa Cattell, Joanne Hull, Fiona Anderson, Patricia Popei

6TH ROW: Nuni Titus, Cecilia Ross, Danielle Booth, Stephanie Kelly, Eloise Parker, Megan Parker, Kerrie Petersen, Charlie McKillop, Mandy Sivilour, Lara House, Emma McLachlan, Kerrie Gardiner

5TH ROW: Catherine Niven, Rachel McGregor, Suzanne Nobbs, Kimberley Smith, Jennifer Wheatley, Paula Greer, Tracey Andrews, Suzanne Skerman, Julie Winters, Fiona Purdie, Sasha Intellisano

4TH ROW: MISS KAREN HARRIS, Tracey Bishop, Leonie Muller, Megan Black, Carla Perkins, Nicole Austin, Jane Neilson, Jacqueline Nyles, Tania Bauman, Kerrie Dalliston, Marita Wotton, Christine Holmes, Christine Taylor, MR MIKE FITZ GERALD

3RD ROW: Sarah Bleines, Catharine Anson, Cassandra Deas, Rebecca Gelderd, Kylie Gibson, Lara Hansen, Anne Fielding, Rachel Keyes, Rita Fong, Karen Schutt, MRS DEANNE SMITH

2ND ROW: MISS PATRICIA MCDEVITT, Kellie Harriden, Tania McInnes, Karinda Wichmann, Heloise Halsey, Amanda McLellan, Brenda Richardson, Caroline Muirhead, Shana Horrocks, Jacqueline Wong, Kirsty O'Brien, Gaye Payne, Tina Sharp, MRS DELRAE CLARK

FRONT ROW: Tania Venamore, Celia Williams, Carol Godwin, Megan Anderson, Jocelyn Becker, Louise Vine, Kirsten Brownfield, Selina Bishop, Naomi Esdale, Tina O'Connor, Liessa Warren, Charmaine Yeung,

Amazing Grammar Girls - Emily Lang

Editor's Note: Excerpts from the following article on Emily Lang were taken from the website StableBoss.com.au. Emily attended Girls Grammar 2009-2017 and is another one of our high achieving 'Amazing Grammar Girls'.

Emily Lang has been around horses for as long as she can remember, sitting on the back of a horse for the first time at the age of 'two or three'. While she has been on and around horses for the majority of her life, she did not work in a thoroughbred racing stable until early 2020.

Only eighteen months on, she is now an apprentice to one of the most respected and most knowledgeable trainers in Queensland, Barry Baldwin. Baldwin was a jockey before retiring forty years ago and became a trainer. In his time as a trainer, Baldwin has trained over 2,000 winners between Australia and Macau.

Born in Rockhampton, Lang has spent the majority of her life in the 'Beef Capital', where she learned to ride horses from a very young age. Throughout most of her teenage years, Lang spent the most of her weekends at different equestrian events.

After her schooling, Lang was offered a job with well-known event rider Sam Lyle where she was in charge of grooming and riding horses for clients. After two years in Sydney, she decided to move north to Brisbane.

Once arriving in Brisbane, Lang started with the Chris Munce stable as a trackwork rider while studying at university. It didn't take long for Lang to catch the racing bug.

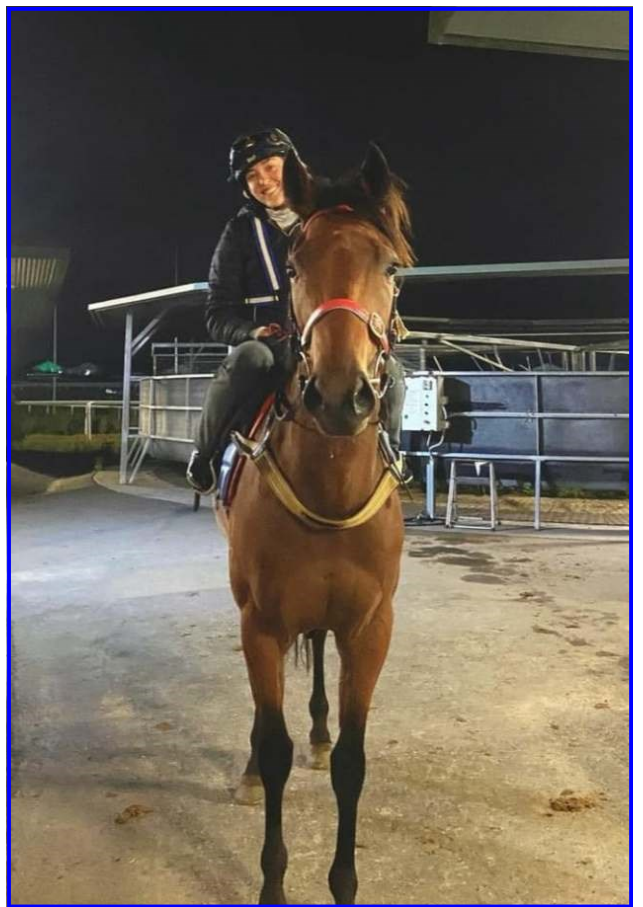
"But I guess as we all do, we get sucked into it and fall in love with racing," Lang said.

Lang returned home for a couple of months towards the end of last year, and when confirming to herself she wanted to be an apprentice jockey she returned to Brisbane and linked up with Barry Baldwin.

Since returning to Brisbane, Lang has nothing bad to say about her new boss and is grateful for everything that Barry can offer. Baldwin has encouraged Lang to ride trackwork for other trainers, and as a result, she has already made good contacts which will help when she gets towards trials and race days, which Emily hopes will start in the upcoming weeks.

Emily who was fittingly standing next to her favourite horse 'Attitude' when we spoke to her had one tip of advice for any young riders wanting to become an apprentice.

"Make sure you're in it for the right reasons, and if you want to do it, you really have to knuckle down and have a proper crack because it's not an easy game and isn't for everyone" Lang said.



Lang like almost every other jockey in Australia dreams of winning the Melbourne Cup, and when asked the question she simply stated,

"I want to win the Melbourne Cup because there's only ever been one female to win the Cup and I want to be the second."

Horses have been a part of her life for as long as she can remember, and we hope that in due course we will see Emily ride many winners. Just maybe the girl from Rockhampton will be the second female jockey to win the Melbourne Cup.

Reunions - 20 years & 50 years

The ever popular annual RGGS Race Day was held on 19 June 2021 at Callaghan Park Raceway.

20 Years and 50 years ago these lovely ladies attended Girls Grammar. Nostalgia abounded when they toured the School on the Sunday after a day at the RGGS races on Saturday.



L-R Nadine Kurtz (Newton), Sarah Mauger (Newsome), Susannah Lovegrove, Shannon Rummenie (Johnson), Bianca Best (Davison), Melissa Kimlin (Nobbs), Melanie Holland (Nelson) and bub, Margaret Black in front – teacher



L-R: Diane Kerr (Clark), Margaret Schindler (Ford), Ann Kitchiner (Deacon), Elaine Wziontek (Rees), Libby McMicking (Homer), Judy Newsome, Kirsti Kee (Rudd)

Deaths



- Rebecca Yomba 1994-1996
- Elizabeth Burfein (Green) 1953-1956
- Gwen Emery (Clarke) - 1959-1961
- Joan Dearden (Irwin) 1951-1952
- Margaret Buhmann (Skinner) 1944-45
- Beryl Thompson (Holzheimer) 1953-1954, grandmother of Chloe and Sophie Piggott
- Nita Whyte - staff music teacher & choir conductress 1967-2004
- Anne Bayton (Housden) 1948, mother of Jane 1974-78 and Catherine-Anne 1978
- Carlie Jean Creed 1950-1955, sister to Judith Stunzer & Jenny Lawrie, daughter of Fanny Creed (Geddes) deceased

Sympathy to:



- Gayle Fox and Sheryl Richards on the death of their mother, Ruth White
- Jenny Nugent on the death of her mother Estelle McCartney
- Sarah-Ellen and Rachael Geaney on the death of their father, Brian
- Fiona Petersen, Sharyn Lowth on the death of their brother, Greg Dyer

Call for OAMs etc RGGS Hall of Fame

The OGA Hall of Fame Sub-Committee consists of Chairperson Kim Dixon and members Corinne Shaw, Ngaire Kane, Robyn Meredith and Betty Spence.

One of the projects of the Committee is to update the Honour Board. To this end, they are asking for details of any Old Girl who has been awarded an OAM, OA, AC etc.

If you know of any awardees, please contact Kim Dixon on 0456 500 592 or KimDixon@rggs.qld.edu.au.

OGA Event Bulletin Board

Mackay RGGGS Old Girls
 are gathering at
Souths Suburban Bowls Club
 39 Wardrop Street, West Mackay
 (corner of Wardrop and Field Streets).
Saturday 30 October 2021
 at 11.30 am for a midday lunch.
Cost: Self Funded
 All past students & staff are welcome.
RSVP by Monday 25 October 2021 to:
mackayrgggsdinner@hotmail.com
 or cgbenji@bigpond.com
 or phone/text Chris on 0413 588 051

Rockhampton RGGGS OGA
CHRISTMAS DINNER
 to be held at the School on the
Littleton Plaza Deck
 at 6:00 pm
Friday 5 November 2021
Cost: \$39.00 - Must be prepaid
RSVP by Friday 29 October 2021 to:
 Mrs Kim Dixon
 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

Brisbane RGGGS OGA
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
The Keri Craig Emporium
 Brisbane Arcade, Queen Street, Brisbane
Saturday 27 November 2021
 Arrive at 11.30 for Lunch at 12 Noon
Cost: TBA - Must be prepaid
RSVP by Wednesday 24 November 2021
 Mrs Marilyn Watts, 2/37 Margate Parade,
 Margate Q 4019. Mob: 0401 442 948
marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au
 Payment by cheque or internet banking:
 CBA: BSB - 064001, A/C: No -10080446
Numbers are restricted to 45 persons

Marriages

Karla Hicks (2009-13) to Hop Kirby



Births

Vanessa Shaw (Palmer 2002-07) a baby boy, Elijah
 Tara Wilson (Salisbury 2006-08) 2nd daughter, Maggie
 Eloise Nicol (Lovegrove 2002-06) a baby girl, Clare
 Rita Houeix-Whap (Houeix 2012-16) baby girl, Michelle
 De-Anne Kelly (Park 1966-1970), a grandson, Oliver
 Ailsa Ung (Gee Wah 1949-1951) a great granddaughter, Lily

Engagements

Kate Warren (2011-13) to Andrew Mollard
 Stephanie Wagner (2004-09) to Clarry Eyles

Yeppoon Lunch - May 2022



L-R: Val Phillips, Margaret Littleton, Margo McKenzie



L-R: Rosie Marfleet, Denise Williams



L-R: Jan Landsberg, Robyn Meredith



L-R: Sandra Mayes, Sharyn Buchanan



L-R: Beth Bishop, Sandra Mayes



L-R: Kathy Wells, Marion Bowen

Queensland Day Lunch - June 2021



L-R: Jan Davison, Kim Dixon, Veronica Goddard (OGA President), Sally Yesberg, Felicity Truelson



L-R: Ngaire Kane, Wylie Atkinson, Pat Handley, Bev Mayne, Nanette Mclean, Ann Cook, Shirley Cooper

The annual RGGGS OGA Queensland Day Lunch was held on 2nd June 2021 and was attended by 18 Old Girls from various years at the school.

This year's event was held at the Regent Hotel in Bolsover Street, Rockhampton (previously the Rockhampton Technical College). The new venue was well received by all who attended and will be the preferred venue for succeeding years.

Pictured right L-R: Jan Landsberg, Margaret Black, Beryl Nunn, Veronica Goddard, Betty Spence, Robyn Meredith, Val Phillips



Gold Coast Lunch - June 2021

The RGGGS OGA Gold Coast Branch held their quarterly luncheon in June at the Glenelg Public House in Miami.

Our guest of honour was the RGGGS Principal, Deanne Johnston, who engaged us in great conversation and provided us with an update on our School's progress. We were delighted to have her join us.

The Gold Coast chapter welcomes any Old Girls who may be visiting the Gold Coast to join us for our quarterly lunches. Our next one is on 7 November 2021 at 12 noon at the Palette Restaurant located on the ground floor of HOTA Gallery, 135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise.

Please contact Robyn Clelland – robyn@nannasplanners.com.au if you are heading down this way and would like to join us.



L-R: Liz Keyes, Diane Kerr, Glenis Smith, Robyn Clelland, Deanne Johnston, Shirley Wagner De-Anne Kelly, Wendy Mulry, Maree Basset, Margaret Park.

Headmistresses of the School - Millicent Jackson

Editor's Note: For the fifth story in the series "Headmistresses of the School", I have chosen Miss Millicent Edith Jackson, who was the twelfth Headmistress of RGGGS 1958-1970 and the first Old Girl to be appointed to that role.

Drawing on information from the National Library of Australia Archives and "The Wider View" (a recorded history of the School), I have put together a chronological history of Miss Jackson's time at the School as a student, her teaching career on graduating from University and her time on staff at the School.

1917: Enrolled at the Kindergarten, remaining at the School for most of her education, with the exception of a period of illness and a year at the Central Girls' School in the class of her aunt and renowned Rockhampton teacher, Miss Bella Jackson. Her sister, Doris Hampson (Jackson), and her cousin, Alice Clark (Jackson), were also students at the School.

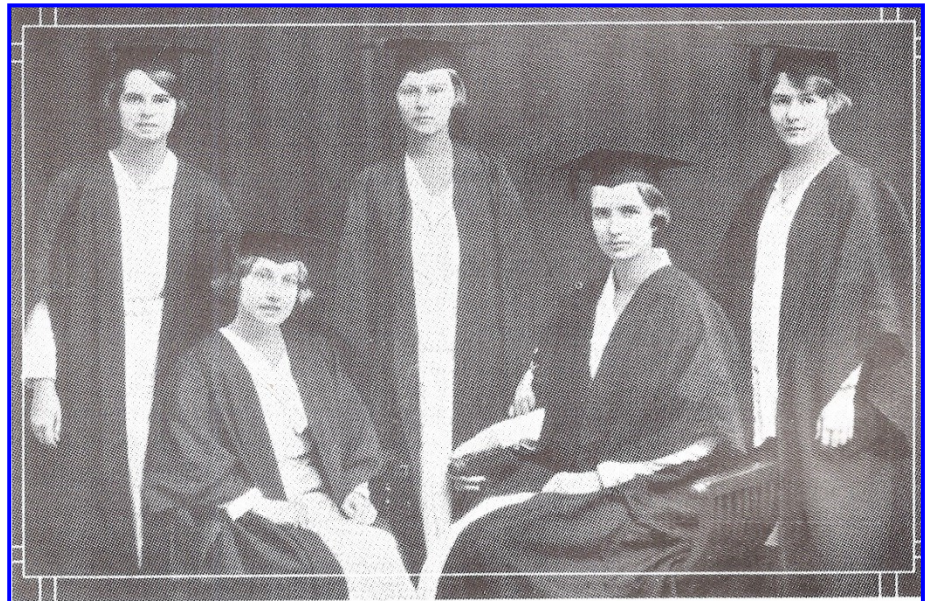
1929: Completed Senior at RGGGS.

1932: As reported in The Morning Bulletin "Miss Millicent Jackson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Jackson, Brae-street, Rockhampton, has passed her final examination and has completed her Arts course at the Queensland University and is now entitled to her B A. degree. The pass is all the more creditable for the reason that Miss Jackson suffered with a broken arm for the further treatment of which she will undergo an operation on Tuesday next."

1934-1936: Taught at Annesly Methodist Girls College, Bowral NSW.

1937-1941: Taught at Church of England Girls Grammar School Canberra (a girls boarding school), becoming Senior Mistress.

1942-56: Joined the staff at RGGGS becoming Senior Mistress.



1931, RGGGS old girls at University of Queensland: Back Row: S. Coates, K. Cleeve, Z. Sharples
Front Row: M. Jackson, M. Freeman.

1957: Travelled overseas, having gained her Bachelor of Education in 1956. She left Rockhampton on the same train that the senior class of 1956 took to go to training college.

1958-70: Headmistress of RGGGS.

After Miss Jackson's return to Rockhampton in 1942, she became very involved with the Old Girls' Association taking on the role of Vice-President 1944-1945, President 1945, 1946 and 1947 and OGA School Liaison Officer 1952.

During this time, garden and tennis parties were conducted by the OGA to raise monies for the proposed school swimming pool. The OGA also held bridge parties to raise funds for the school bursaries.

Millicent was an active member of the younger set in the 40s and 50s and attended many pre-wedding parties (mostly for Old Girls) and also many Old Girl functions including dances held at the Old Grammarian's Club with Old Boys of the Boys Grammar School.

In 1947, Millicent was a member of the Little Theatre and performed in the production of *Jane Eyre*, playing the role of Leah, the kitchen maid at Thornfield Hall.



Millicent was also a member of the Rockhampton and District Historical Society. In 1954, she presented a paper on the experiences of Mrs Charlotte Kohn, Norwegian immigrant, pioneer settler and discoverer of Johansen's Caves, in the Mt Etna district.

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Headmistresses of the School - Miss Jackson (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

In the 1970s, the Board of Trustees obtained a grant for the construction of a new building to include classrooms and boarding accommodation. In 1977, the building was opened by the Governor of Queensland, Sir James Ramsay and named Jackson House in honour of Millicent Jackson for her long years of service to the School.

The photo opposite was taken in 1970 at Betty Rodgers house at Lammernoor Beach. Mrs Marjorie Nugent and Pat Handley are beside Miss Jackson. Veronica Berry has her back to the camera. The photo was taken by Margaret Black and donated to the Museum.

From the Wider View: *Her experience and insight into all aspects of life at the School marked her years as Headmistress but in accepting her new role, her own life changed irrevocably and involvement in pupil/teacher activities lessened. She wore the cloak of office with a dedication tinged with trepidation in her responsibility to parents and trustees for the education and well-being of every pupil.*

Although unpredictable in her reaction to the behaviours of pupils and volatile in times of minor crisis, Miss Jackson was prepared to voice her appreciation of co-operation by teachers and prefects alike. In 1958, F.T. Milne, Inspector



of Secondary Schools reported that the Headmistress' control is effective and firm. An excellent tone of earnest endeavour pervades the School and this is due, in no small measure, to the leadership of the Headmistress.

Editor's Note: *Miss Jackson was my Headmistress when I was at the School 1961-1962. I did not have Miss Jackson as a teacher although my sister, Lenore Elgar, took the subject of Art under Miss Jackson's tutelage and was quite fond of her. However, I am afraid Miss Jackson was not a favourite of mine as she banned the school dances. In the time I was at the School, I only ever remember one dance which was held at the Boys Grammar School.*

North Qld Lunch



Six Grammar Old Girls enjoyed a get-together at 'Our Place' Restaurant at Yungaburra, Atherton Tablelands.

Pictured above clockwise: Elsie Butler (Robinson), Gwenda Butland (McLean), Gail Russell, Merry Robertson (Carter), Linda Piddick (Sawtell-Harrigan), Jan Monk (Dooley).

Linda is grey-nomading around and found out about the lunch from Merry, which was lovely.

Townsville Lunch



Grammar Old Girls from the 40s through to the 70s recently attended the Townsville Lunch which was held at the Hermit Park RSL on Sunday 1 August 2021.

L-R: Back row: Margaret Black (Clark), Heather Fraser, Sue McDougall (Turner).

L-R Front row: Pat Faulkner, Marilyn Swan (Daley), Diane Gottani (Bowden),

School Reminisces from Maureen Gill (Neville)

Editor's Note: I received this wonderful letter from Maureen Gill (Neville) who was a student at RGGS 1939-1942 when Miss Jackson was Senior Mistress. Maureen reminisces about her school days which I found fascinating. Hope you do too.

How I do enjoy 'Chit Chat'. It recalls so much of my wonderful years at Girls Grammar and how, under very difficult circumstances, teachers managed to get us ready for final exams.

All you said about Maud Hegvold was so true. Every morning she would ride her bike from the end of Yamba Road across town and up Denham Hill by 8:00 o'clock for netball practice, Best goal shooter - could pot from anywhere.

Of course, war had broken out and all interschool sport was cancelled; so the School divided students into Gold and Whites and we completed against each other. Maud would have been in Senior Year and Captain of one side. (Editor's Note: Maud went on to become Headmistress of the School 1977-1989.)

Maud had gone off to Teachers' Training College, Brisbane and my form, only six of us, were to do Senior but then the schools closed.

We got a message "I have all your books. Be at my home, do not wear uniforms and do not come together." This was from Miss Millicent Jackson (Old Girl) who was our teacher for Zoology, Botany and English.

We did as told and did the full day's work at her home on The Range arriving separately and bringing our lunch. I always went up Albert Street, carrying a tennis racquet and my lunch. Mum thought I had gone crazy on American tennis which the soldiers brought with them - 21 score to 2 and won a game.

We did a day's work and off home to return the next day. That could have been all of January, so plenty of work covered. News on the Australian Day weekend (holiday) said "This Sunday, schools may reopen but no boarders."

Of course we arrived at school proud to be back in our school uniform and did the rest of the year likewise. My parents had no idea of any of this. It was so bad all over, so many schools closed out in Barcaldine and Longreach.

American officers had taken over Somerville House, a boarding school like Grammar in Brisbane but our education never was halted.

The day I went to the Treasury Building for enrolment at Kelvin Grove Teachers College (evacuated from Turbot Street in the city), there was a collection of country stu-

dents who had had such a hard year just to complete their Senior and fulfill their ambitions but I was confident, like the other Grammar girls, that we were only there because of Miss Jackson and what she did for us.

Many years down the track and years of my teaching behind me, I had a daughter out in Blackall, my home town, and guess what arrived in the mail, an enrolment form from Girls Grammar Rocky for her. Miss Jackson was by then Headmistress of Girls Grammar. Whenever any correspondence happened between us, she referred to my daughter as "a chip off the old block".

Once more Grammar came to the fore—this girl wanted to do straight Law not Arts Law just a B.A. She decided to be a lawyer and no girl was doing that. She was only 16 in December; so Grammar went into bat for her and she commenced that year at Uni, the only girl in a form of men.

I am only speaking of my experiences but you can guarantee there would have been many instances where Grammar came to the assistance of students. In my year, one lass wanted to be a Science Teacher (High School) but her Grammar subjects were not for such. So the School arranged she could go over to Boys Grammar and so she was able to follow her wish.

A much lighter side of life was when we had dancing lessons (first year with Boys Grammar boarders who walked over). Teachers were Miss Hulbert and Miss Walters and we did The Lambeth Walz, Gypsy Tap and Barn Dance.

The boys had to sit on seats in front of the stage and we sat down the opposite end. Miss Hulbert, with her whistle, would announce "Take your partners." If there was a mad rush from the boys, the whistle was blown and the boys told to approach their partners correctly. If we went out for a drink at the fountain, one teacher would be there to chaperone the girl. Golly, they watched us like hawks.

Second year, we had air raid trenches down in the boarders garden and in the midst of a lesson, three whistles from Miss Hulbert and off to the trenches.

There was a big competition "Gone with the wind" and a girl, not Grammar, won and had to stand outside the Wintergarden on Saturday night dressed like "Scarlett" - must have been boring.

Another Senior promised me the book to read at every lunch break. We were day girls and really out of bounds but I read "Gone with the wind" chapter by chapter to my mates in that garden.

Many wonderful memories and moments. Amen.

Maureen Gill (Neville)

Some early photos of RGGs— 1935, 1939, 1950



Entrance gate 1935—Many thousands of Grammar girls have passed under this leafy archway



Corner conversation from the Headmistress' Office



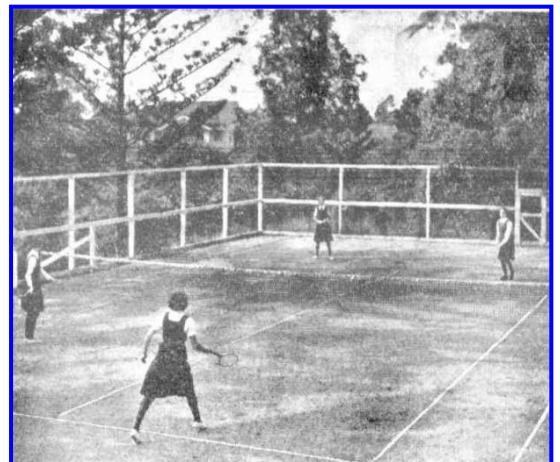
Excited supporters at the 1939 ball games



Girls Grammar School Choir who won the Blanning Cup for the secondary schools choral contest at the 1950 Eisteddfod



1939 Speech Night on the Terrace - Headmistress Miss Smith



Tennis Court 1939 - now heritage listed

Branch Contacts

Rockhampton:

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Unit 13, 240 German Street
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Ph: 07 4928 2490

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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

Eulogy - Gwen Emery (Clarke) - 1959-1961

Gwen was born 12 January 1945 in Sydney. After the war they moved to Gympie. In 1951 Gwen started school at Gympie Primary school.

In 1953, Gwen was enrolled at Bundaberg Central State school and remained there until the newly completed Walkervale school was opened in 1955. In Bundaberg she learnt Scottish Dancing, was a Girl Guide and played netball for the school.

In 1956 she moved to Emerald State School. In Emerald she enjoyed swimming in the Nogoa River.

In 1959 and 1960 Gwen went to board at Rockhampton Girls Grammar School. In 1961 and 1962 Gwen attended Ipswich Girls Grammar School.

Gwen received a Teacher's Scholarship. She attended Kelvin Grove Teachers College in 1963 and 1964. She enjoyed college life – hanging out at the beach with friends and attending the Beatles Concert in Brisbane.

Gwen and Graham were married for 47 years. They met when she was teaching in Wallumbilla in February 1969 at an old time dance. They continued their relationship when she returned to Dalby. They were married on 13 October 1973 in Ipswich.

Gwen was a dedicated teacher. She taught in Churchill, Bundamba, Dalby, Roma and Wallumbilla. She was one of the early adopters of flexible work arrangements when she co-taught with Debra Howse in the 1990s.

She went above and beyond for her students. She would have an activity card for you to work on if you finished your work quickly.

She also had additional resources when you were struggling to grasp a concept. At times she bought lunch for her students. She particularly enjoyed teaching her students poetry. She continued to follow the careers of her former students.

Gwen was an active member of the Wallumbilla community. Over the years she has volunteered for Anglican Guild, CWA, Tuckshop, Hospital Auxiliary, Girl Guides, Netball & Football Association, Swimming Club and Calico Cottage. Her final position was treasurer of the Yuleba Bowls Club for the past 8 years.

Gwen passed away on 14 July 2021 aged 76.



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	Ngaire Kane (Amos)
Immediate Past President	Ngaire 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	

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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 Rockhampton Committee Meeting Date 2021:

Tuesday 23 November

Final Brisbane Group Meeting Date 2021:

Tuesday 16 November

Dates to Remember

RGGS OGA Function Dates 2021:

Mackay Lunch	Saturday 30 October
Christmas Dinner	Friday 5 November
Gladstone Lunch	Saturday 6 November
Gold Coast Lunch	Sunday 7 November

RGGS OGA Brisbane Events 2021:

Morning Tea	Tuesday 16 November
Christmas Lunch	Saturday 27 November

RGGS Events 2021:

Speech Night	Friday 19 November
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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
Phone: 07 3283 7265 Mobile: 0401 442 948
Address: Unit 2, 37 Margate Pde, MARGATE Q 4019
Email: marilyn_m_watts@yahoo.com.au