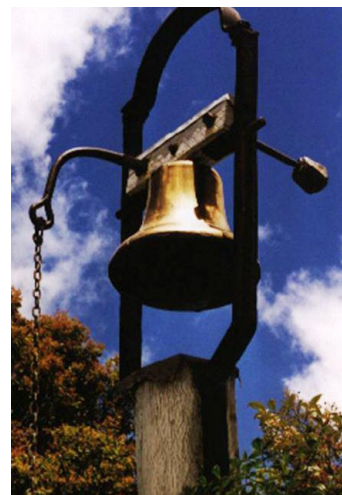




# OGAPRESS

Edition 26

October 2016



The Newsletter of the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School Old Girls Association

## From your Co-Presidents

You may remember our telling you that at the last Annual General meeting, Principal Dr Britton expressed a wish for the Old Girls to be seen as more of a presence in the School as he felt it was very important that the current students are constantly aware that they are part of a long tradition. In the following pages you will read of several activities this year which have allowed us to follow up on that request.

Despite the fact that we had anticipated a much quieter year, fate seems to have determined otherwise. Our involvement with the students, our fundraising activities and our well attended Old Girls Luncheon and Dinner with reunion groups from 10 years to 55 years and everything in between, have resulted in our being extremely busy.

And the year is not over yet!

In addition our role as the 'keepers of tradition and preservers of history' is being thoroughly maintained through our work in the Archives so we are feeling very proud of the value-added contribution we are making to IGGS.

That said, it is still just the smallest percentage of past students who are actively involved in the Association. While every old girl is welcomed with delight to our functions, it would be really fabulous to have a few more actively involved in the organisation itself at any level.

With IGGS 125 year celebrations and our OGA 120th just ahead, maybe you can think of a way to be involved and show support. There will be many opportunities in 2017.

*Leah and Helen*

## Fillies at Phoenix

IGGS Old Girls Association  
MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON

Tickets: \$40

Bring your partner, husband or friends along.

Everyone is welcome.

- Two Course Lunch
- Raffles, Sweeps and Prizes
- Bar service Available (Complimentary drink on Arrival)
- Fashions on the Field
- Fashion Parade (Saba's on Grange)
- Live Racing - Main Race at 2 pm

**Tuesday, 1 November 2016**  
10.30am - Phoenix Room, IGGS



- Booking essential.
- Tickets available

For more information, please contact us on  
**ogaiggs@gmail.com** or phone Leah (3282 1163)  
or Melissa (3288 8537)

Parking available on the Oval (off Torch Street)

**RSVP: Friday 28 October**

Method of payment:

- Cheque payable to IGGSOGA
- Cash direct to Treasurer
- Internet Direct Deposit IGGS

Queenslanders Credit Union

BSB 804 059 Account 1000 85266



## From the Editor – Helen Pullar

### Better late than never

This edition of OGAPRESS should have been making its way to you in Term 3.

However, various things have transpired to make that difficult.

The first, if I am totally honest, is that with our functions, my involvement in the Archives, as the member of the 125 Committee who has committed to major responsibility for the cook book, and one of the very few OGA Committee members who didn't have an overseas holiday in Term 3, there just weren't enough days in any week!

### Membership Register

Secondly, we have not just welcomed Melissa Blacksell on board as our new Treasurer, but she has also undertaken the responsibility for our Membership Register. For the first time ever, we now have ready access to data held by the School and with the help of staff members Kristie Welsh and Fleur Brooks, we now have the ability to really make inroads into our files which we know in many instances are not up to date. Reaching this point has been time consuming but essential

### New website

The other exciting progress is that the School is about to launch a new – and we are certain – much more user-friendly web site. OGA information should be able to be more readily accessed and the facility will be available for forms to be filled out online.

Our Information Update form is one such – so no excuses for out of date details. But, helping set this up has again taken time.

### Printing and distributing

While the task of editing and much of the writing of OGAPRESS is mine, I am also dependent on others for material and this has been slow in coming – for all the best reasons.

The actual printing and posting process has been quite cumbersome – time wise – which has always caused frustrating delays, but we believe a new streamlined procedure will greatly speed up that process.

### New email address

Also, we have made the decision to have an independent email address as the complexities of working through the School have always been difficult and personal emails are not ideal.

### Hard copy versus email

In the last edition I asked again if those who are happy to receive OGAPRESS online would indicate this. There was a very pleasing response and I do hope we have noted all the changes. If you are still receiving a hard copy and would be happy to have an online version please respond to our new generic email address below. And, if possible look at it on line too if you receive a hard copy – colour is so much better!

[ogaiggs@gmail.com](mailto:ogaiggs@gmail.com)

### Postage

A significant number of you also indicated that you would be happy to pay for postage. This was discussed by Committee who made two observations. Firstly, that some people do not have the facility to receive an online version and, secondly, the vast majority of those offering to pay are members who regularly support us in other ways. So, at this stage we do not intend to impose a levy but we thank those who responded.

### Trustee Elections

As most of you know our governing body – the Board of Trustees – is appointed for four year terms. The next cycle commences in September 2017. Three of the seven Trustees are elected by IGGS subscribers. The latter are people who have made a financial contribution to the School.

For years this was a once-off donation. However, a Government by-law in 2004 ruled that now the donation has to be within the current cycle.

If you wish to be a Subscriber – and therefore able to stand for board representation yourself, nominate a candidate or vote – you must have made a financial contribution in the term of office of our current board.

We are advised that the first letters will be circulated in November so act quickly if you want to exercise your right to have a say.

## 125 celebrations

A special committee has been set up to oversee the functions that will be held in 2017 for our 125th birthday.

Leading this Committee is Old Girl Lisa Hooper and the OGA is well represented. It is an interestingly diverse committee with several people wearing more than one hat.

One major fundraiser is an IGGS Cookbook. Please read the Cookbook information on Page 3 and respond with your delectable delights!

In addition to the book there are several other significant plans on the table. Old Girls and current mothers, Holly Berry and Leisa Harrys, (the McLean girls) are organising a Long Lunch. This is a major fundraiser and they are hoping for massive support. The date is still to be decided, but it will be late winter or early spring.

Other events that are definite in terms of dates are the 125 Birthday for current students and special guests which will be held on 1 March – exactly 125 years to the day from the official opening of the School.

That will be followed closely by the OGA commemoration Day on 4 March and the annual Open Day on 11 March.

So, already lots of dates for diaries for locals and those with a yen to revisit Ipswich.







## 125 Celebratory Cookbook

### Your contribution URGENTLY wanted

One of the big fundraisers for 125 is a cook book and this is really an area in which Old Girl support is critically important. Cook books in general have come a long way, as you all know, from the simple and quaint volumes used by our grandmothers and great-grandmothers. This will be a professionally printed volume of recipes and pictures submitted by all areas of the School family.

And, it will be much more than a cookbook as it will include aspects of the School's history that have connections with the recipes.

Our current categories are

*Leisurely Weekend Brunches*

*Lunch Box Fillers*

*Treats from Grandma's Kitchen*

*Easy Meals for Busy Families*

*Special Occasions*

### It is very easy to submit a recipe (and photo) on line

Go to <http://createacookbook.com.au>

Then to Submit recipe.

Scroll to Ipswich Girls & Junior Grammar School

Click to access recipe form.

PLEASE include a little story/inspiration if possible and a high resolution (ie full size) photo.

(Think about what the photo will look like on the page. Be creative!!)

Alternatively, email your recipe to [recipessiggs@gmail.com](mailto:recipessiggs@gmail.com)

Or post to IGGS Recipes

Att: Helen Pullar PO Box 16 Ipswich 4305

**Final date:  
5 November**

I expect to be overwhelmed with entries!

Helen



*Jan Wright, Lynne McLaren, Dell Huey and Ellen de Chastel*

Our Sunshine Coast members held a very successful Luncheon once again at the Headlands Golf Club. It was well supported by local OGA members and very much enjoyed by the Ipswich contingent who travelled up to Buderim on Sunday 14 August.

On Saturday 15 October we were delighted to be included in the Gold Coast AGM Luncheon held also in a beautiful part of Queensland – Ruth Thompson's lovely farm at Tambourine.



**IGGSOGA Brisbane  
Branch High Tea  
Saturday 5 November 2016**  
commencing at 2pm in the Toowong Library Meeting Room



Our various branches are making a real effort to acquire recipes and support the 125 Cookbook.

If individual Old Girls can do likewise, we will have a great product.

Please support the  
Brisbane OGA Branch  
High Tea.  
Bring favourite goodies  
&  
the recipes please.



In 2017 IGGS is turning 125! To celebrate a cookbook is being produced.

To contribute to the cookbook members and guests are asked to bring along their favourite afternoon-tea recipe with proof that it works on your prettiest plate.

A photographer will be present on the day and a selection of photos will go into the cookbook along with your recipes.

## From the Archives

In the six months since we acquired the second archive room as a 'back' room, almost 500 voluntary hours have been devoted to our great collection. Spearheaded by OGA Co-President Helen Pullar and Brisbane Branch President Joan Meecham, a group of Friends of the Archives has worked very hard to clear the backlog and re-organise our collection.

The wonderful system put in place by State Archivist and former parent Paul Wilson, and maintained and added to by Archivist Margaret Cook until her resignation in 2012, not only required material from the last four years to be accessioned but it was ready for a lot of re-organisation and cataloguing. With Margaret's expert advice, we have now taken brave steps and although there is still an enormous amount to do, real progress has been made.

Archives have to be organised hand in hand with the accessioning process. As a result, the general catalogue which has had become quite extensive, in a sense, was not user-friendly because like material was not necessarily in any logical sequence, having not been acquired in any logical order. To re-organise the entire collection is a daunting – and dangerous – task as the integrity of the collection has to be maintained. But, with it all now being electronically catalogued, we are managing to cross-reference and keep track of all items as we progress.

Our first aim was to accession three sets of all our important series: Speech Night reports, magazines etc. Now we have a Series from S1 to S10 boxed in lovely new manage-

able light archive boxes sitting on our new shelves in the actual archive room.

Our rationale for three sets was that one (in best condition) is Non-Public. The second best will be available for display purposes and the third for research.

In some cases, particularly with very early records, we do not have three of everything but Friends will gradually make copies to rectify this.



*Friends of the Archives – Barbara Cobbold, Anne Mullins and Jan Thompson working with Helen Pullar in the 'back' room.*

The use of photography to do this, rather than the potentially damaging photocopying, makes this an archive-friendly process. All our collection is stored in recommended material and afforded every possible protection from the ravages of time and the environment.

As well as this enormous task, we have embarked on a restoration programme. A portion of the collection is in critical need of stabilising and preservation. This will run away with our hard-earned dollars at an alarming rate.

Both the Ipswich and Brisbane branches of the OGA have committed some funding, but if this is a project which resonates with you we would be grateful for any additional donations.

We are grateful that Dr Britton and the Trustees have entrusted this responsibility to the Old Girls. It is dear to our hearts and we are totally committed to seeing it through to a point where the entire collection is correctly housed, recorded and stored.

But we would love more days in every week as it is an enormously time-consuming and painfully slow process.

## A great archival moment

The main fundraising project for 2017 will be directed towards a critically needed refurbishment of the original building.

This is much more than cosmetic as much of the building is in need of urgent repair.

To enable decisions to be made, a comprehensive Conservation Plan was written.

During this process Margaret Cook and I spent time documenting the various stages of development of the original buildings.

As I have written many times before, 'original' is a misnomer as even the front building was built in two stages.



*The original 1892 building without the 1901 northern extension*

Working out the various configurations of the extensions is rarely easy as there have been lots of changes over the years, though rooms such as sculleries and kitchens for example, tend to have clear identifying features.

But, it is still a frustrating task.

The second of the 'original' buildings was also built in two stages. This is a lesser known fact as, unlike the front building, there are no clear identifying dates. However, there are indicators.

Logically, however, one would assume that any addition would have just extended immediately behind the front building.

But in our research Margaret and I became convinced that this was not the case and that in fact the rear of the second building had been erected as Stage 1 and then extended from west to east, rather than east to west.



This explained the somewhat tricky little connecting ramp between the two buildings. It had always been hard to understand how the levels could have been so wrong.



However, finding proof positive in the Trustees' Minutes was impossible as buildings are always referred to as 'the new building'!

So, back to the archives. Joan was quietly working away trying to sort chronologically Prospectuses of varying types. (Prospectuses usually do not have dates and, in fact, the most recent 2016 version is the first in our history to actually be dated.)

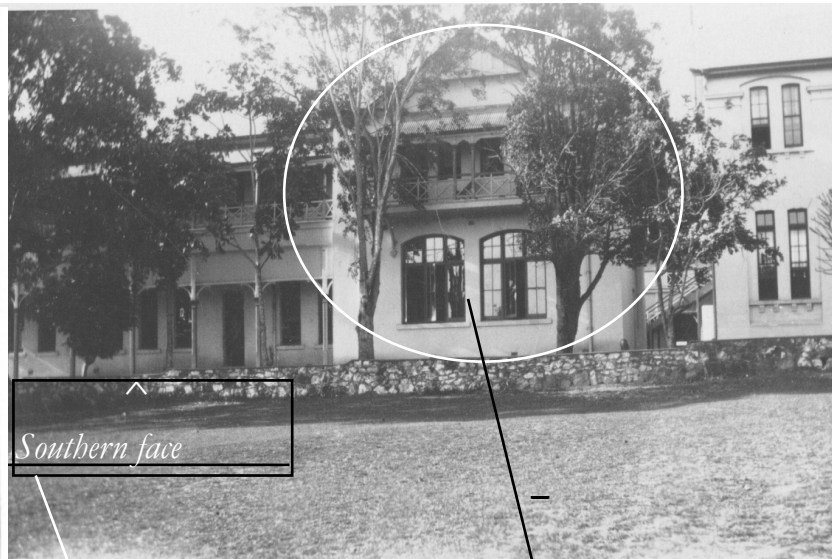
Working through those from Miss White's era, Joan exclaimed, "Here's an interesting photo! But, it makes no sense."

She was totally unprepared for my reaction. It made sense to me. It was proof positive that the second building had been constructed as Margaret and I had determined.

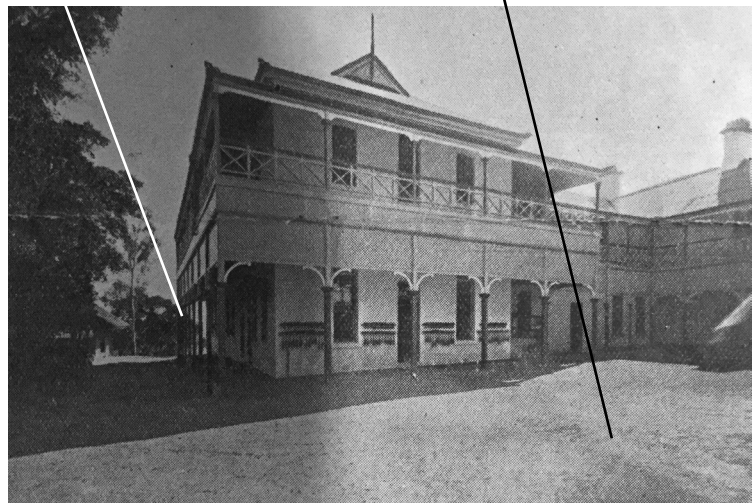
And even with the poor quality of a photo in an old printed document, the attractiveness of the Stage 1 building is obvious.

So originally, our inner courtyard was surrounded on three sides only with lovely balconies and other charming architectural features.

Joan coped very well with my elation and was equally happy to temporarily abandon the tedium of sorting to go on a walk with the picture as a guide to identify what remaining components of the building exist.



*The southern face in the above picture is taken from a different angle. The circled building was butted up against the eastern face a year later in the area that looks like a courtyard on the 1910 photo below.*



*This building is described as a new dining room and dormitories etc. It remained as such till the existing dining room was built in 1961.*

So, girls who used those classrooms, or the staff who occupy the so-called second original building now, can understand those odd little steps from one room to another in some places and various other features which now make sense.

For Margaret and me, our initial reaction was that we could have saved a lot of time had we known of that photo. But, that was swiftly followed by elation that we had worked it out ourselves.

Miss White talks of overcrowding and the need for expansion in 2011. While it must have been pleasing that the School – and, in particular, the Boarding House – was expanding so quickly, how sad it must have been for architect Brockwell Gill to have to make that rather ordinary addition to this beautiful building with its elegant verandahs and balconies.

**Helen Pullar**



## Decade reunions take off

Thanks to the efforts of some very faithful Old Girls, 2016 has been a wonderful year for reunions.

We were delighted to have a group of Seniors of 1996 at a 20 year Reunion at our Luncheon in June. The Luncheon numbers have greatly increased over the years and this year we had a very large gathering in the Phoenix Room. When I was first contacted by Michelle Johnson (Kermond) who organised the reunion, I commented that it was more usual for the 'younger' girls to come to the Dinner and she replied that her group had decided that it was easier to organise baby-sitters and families in the daytime. So, they did! They had wonderfully relaxing afternoon with a great deal of reminiscing.

Numbers were augmented by small groups who had started at IGGS in 1955 and 1958. The Luncheon has developed into a really successful function which gives some of our faithful attendees, who also prefer daytime functions, the opportunity to join us.

The decision to change the date of the Dinner from October to September did not appear to adversely affect numbers though the weather is colder and we will have to take that into account.

We had the pleasure of hosting reunions for Seniors of 1961,1966, 1976, 1986 and 2006.

So, decade-wise that meant we had 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 year reunions. This was a great thrill as we seem – at last – to really be cementing the idea of holding reunions as part of the OGA functions.

We received such enthusiastic endorsement from the attendees with regard to how easy it had been as all the organisers really have to do is drum up numbers.

Thanks especially to Eleanor Beale, Leanne Godfrey, Dell Huey and Deb Camden, Sandra Nowland, Michelle Johnson and Lucy Howarth for initiating these reunions. Now we just have to convince everyone that any past student of IGGS can attend a Luncheon or Dinner and furthermore it doesn't have to be at a Reunion!

**Helen Pullar**



*30 Year Reunionees*



*40 Year Reunionees*



*50 Year Reunionees*



*10 Year Reunionees*



*55 Year Reunionees*



## Margaret (Peg) Harvey: 1926 – 2016

From a eulogy delivered by her nephew

Peg Harvey was born at St Andrew's Hospital Ipswich on July 9, 1926 and was the only child of Agnes and Robert Harvey. She was educated at Ipswich Girls' Grammar School from 1941 where she was a diligent student who probably continued at high school until her Senior years.

Peg's began nursing sometime around 1944 undertaking her formal nursing training at Gympie Hospital before returning to Ipswich to continue nursing at St Andrew's Hospital where she was to acquire legendary status.

Peg was part of the generation severely affected by the sacrifices of the Second World War and this resulted in a shortage of eligible men, but even more so resulted in a need for dedicated, unselfish service to the returned servicemen who were in need of ongoing care.

Peg often used to joke that she had helped in the delivery of most of the children in Ipswich as a result of the many years she spent in Maternity.

It is very uncommon to have as telling and lasting career in the one field of endeavour, even in Peg's working lifetime and certainly in today's fluid employment market. She started as a junior nurse, rising through the various ranks of nursing, to becoming a Sister and ultimately achieving the pinnacle of nursing: the position of Matron of St Andrew's Hospital. Not too many can lay claim to achieving the heights of Matron of a hospital, and then ultimately being named 'Employee of the Year' as she was at St Andrew's and then the highest accolade of all – having a ward named after you – an acknowledgement of the many years of self-sacrificing service she put in in the service of others which will ensure the name of Margaret Harvey will remain as long as St Andrew's Hospital does.

Throughout her busy life Peg was faithful to her old School and for many years attended meetings of the OGA regularly.

## Shona Kenny (nee McIntyre) 1930 - 2016

From a eulogy delivered by her daughter Catherine

An only child, Shona was born and lived in Hong Kong and China. Her father was a Ship's Engineer/Dockyard Administrator. He moved his small family around the two countries and back to Australia for short holidays till Shona was nine. Fortunately, they moved back to Australia, due to her father's ill health, prior to the full effects of the Sino Japanese War and WW2.

She was shocked at the lack of basic amenities, electricity and refrigerators in her new hometown of Hervey Bay. Primary schooling in Australia was a chore as it revealed her deficit in maths. She did, however, love English and History...and later French. The move to IGGS began a wonderful association. Friendships from Shona's boarding days were an important part of her rich life of family and friendships. She also met her teacher and lifelong friend, Miss Marsden. Miss Marsden recalls that things would have been very dull without Shona. With her height, vivacity and wicked humour she was quite a personality. She refused to exercise, despite the Headmistress being sure she must be able to run as she had such long legs! Miss Marsden recalled that all the girls had to iron their uniforms during the war – but not Shona. "I don't iron, Miss Marsden!"

Shona chose nursing as a career firstly at Maryborough General (so she could be closer to her parents) and then moved to the General in Brisbane for her Midwifery training. She loved the babies but found some of the mothers very hard work!

After all this training, Shona decided to see the world so she joined ANA as an Air Hostess, but shortly after met Max Kenny a young Brisbane dentist and was married a year or so later. Children Ian and the Catherine were born and she was busy on the home front while also being very active in Max's practice and in the community fighting to retain parkland, preserving our history through her membership of the National Trust and her interest in children with her involvement in Montrose Children's Home.

Max's unexpected death left Shona a widow at 53. She never remarried but threw herself into turning their hobby farm, near Fernvale in the Brisbane Valley, into a Droughtmaster cattle stud. She was an active member of the Droughtmaster Association winning several prizes including at the RNA for her beasts. This was a great interest and lifestyle for many years. It was a sad day when the family farm was sold many years later. By that time Shona had six grandchildren and was a major help driving them to cricket and other activities. She loved watching them grow and devoured their report cards every year.

Shona was honoured by the OGA for her services to the organisation when her name was placed on the Honour Board on Commemoration Day 2004. Her great contribution was as Convener of the famous Brisbane Branch 'Bring and Buy' stall which was that branch's main fundraiser for many years. She kept in contact with many of her school friends, including Dulice Uren (Armstrong) who was Head Girl in 1948 when Shona was in Senior. Margaret McDougall who was also in their class, and likewise had a lifelong friendship, remembers "Shona was such fun!"

She will be remembered for her thoughtfulness, her love of the school community and her wicked wit. A great friend: she will be missed by many.



## OGA supporting students

Early this year the English Department asked the OGA Committee to judge a Year 9 writing assignment and award a prize for the best entry from those who gained the highest marks. The topic was based on dystopian literature – and certainly was an eye-opener for those of us involved. We were very impressed with the quality of the student work and very pleased to be involved.



*Maria Stevenson, Jill Cumming, Leah Bell, Helen Pullar and Kay Jones with the high achieving students*

More recently we were asked to adjudicate a Junior Library Competition in which students had to create an Australian icon. This was great fun – lots of harbour bridges, a massive Uluru, thongs galore and many native animals. Fortunately, this time we weren't as limited and were able to award several prizes. We did like the originality of the Hills Hoist.



*Miss Eirys Jones with a Year 2 prize winner.*

The History of the School unit (which I now take with the Middle School Year 7s) was again a success. As I arrived for one of the sessions, I encountered the Chairman of the Board, who – on hearing why I was there – commented, “Go easy on them!” This, of course, is because by its title the unit does not sound gripping.

Our School has a wonderfully rich history of real people, of great anecdotes, of fabulous photos. So, I do not confound the girls with dates and facts.

As always, the unit culminated with a walk around the ‘original’ school, the highlight of which is being allowed upstairs in what is now an administration area only. That building is steeped in history and as excitement mounts so too does the noise level.

Once again we managed to draw Dr Britton from his office to investigate and his alarm as always turned to pleasure as he realised it was not a protest march but the annual ‘History of the School’ stamped.

We have been very pleased to be able to donate the funding for the refurbishment of display boards in the Art Department. We are always supported by both the Music and Art Departments when we request assistance and it is pleasing to be able to give something in return.

Our major fundraising venture this year to date was our ‘Tea and Symphony’ afternoon. Entertainment was courtesy of our top music students and the Sessional teachers who give so much time to training our budding musicians. As a result we have been able to set aside \$4000 for the School's Rare Instrument programme.

Contrary to opinion, this will not be for the purchase of sitars or balalaikas. Many school's have similar programmes for the acquisition of instruments which add great depth to orchestras and other ensembles but which parents are reluctant to purchase on the offchance that a child may display talent. Such instruments could include a double bass, a French horn, a tuba, a base clarinet or alto flute.

With additional funding of \$2000 from the Gold Coast Branch, it is hoped that two such instruments will be purchased and 12 months tuition provided for two talented girls from the Emerging Music programme.

The Department is also happy to accept donations of good quality instruments, but cautions that if they have not been used for some time the cost of restoration might be too great.

So, we feel we are fulfilling Dr Britton's request for interaction with our current students.

**Helen Pullar**

## OGA Calendar

### Ipswich

AGM 21 November

7.00pm in the Library IGGS

Melbourne Cup Lunch 1 November

Theatre Night 1 December

### Brisbane

AGM 5 November with High Tea

2.00pm Reading Room Toowong Library

### Darling Downs

Christmas Luncheon 11 December

Danish Flower Art, Highfields

AGM 2017 19 February

(venue to be decided)

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Commemoration Day 4 March 2017

Annual Lunch 10 June 2017

Annual Dinner 9 September 2017

### Reunions

Seniors of 1950 & Cohort (Mary Elms)

Seniors of 1967 & Cohort (Julie Lee)