



OGAPRESS

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

What a great start to 2017 and our 120th Year

First term is just behind us and already there seems to have been so much happening. The combination of the OGA's 120th and the School's 125th was always destined to make it a 'bumper' year, but already it has been successful beyond our hopes.

In the following pages you will read of the activities we have already undertaken and hear of what else the year has in store. While everyone cannot be involved in every event – and nor are the functions designed with that expectation – it is certainly a year in which a lot of you should find something which may appeal to you: from attending functions to Gift Giving or ordering merchandise.

The 125 fundraising is directed towards repairs and refurbishment of our original front building. This much-loved focal area of the School is desperately in need of some TLC. Work has already been undertaken on the exterior with roofing and guttering now repaired, but there is a great deal still to be done.

The OGA will be directing its funds towards this 125 project and we encourage any Old Girl able to make even a small donation to do so. The Gift Giving appeal commences in May.

We look forward to a great OGA year and hope to see or hear from many of you in the coming months,

Leah and Helen

Our Commemoration Day Luncheon



Former staff members Mrs Jan Thompson, Mrs Barbara Cobbold and Mrs Maria Stevenson



Vice President Kay Jones, Secretary Mae Frame and Darling Downs President, Heather Jorgensen

The Luncheon prior to Commemoration Day was started in Principal Mrs Carolyn Anderson's time in the late 1990s as a 'thank you' gesture to the OGA. It is a gathering we all look forward to.

Mostly our small Committees are busily taking care of the organisation of our various functions and the opportunities just to relax are few and far between. But, thanks to the generosity of the School and the catering by Lorie Robinson and the kitchen staff, all the members of Committees – the working

body of the OGA – have the chance to catch up at the Commem Day Luncheon.

It was a pleasure as always to welcome the big contingent from the Gold Coast, and Brisbane and the Darling Downs Branches were also well represented.

We were disappointed that a health problem prevented Miss Marsden from being with us and she was equally sorry to miss our activities.

It was a happy start to a very successful day.

Following the Luncheon we moved, together with additional guests, to the Old Girls' Courtyard for a very special event: the official 'unveiling' of the school bell in its new housing.



While this project took a little while to bring to fruition, the end result is worth the wait and we sincerely thank Maintenance Manager Shayne Dargusch for his efforts in making it happen. It is a fitting gift to the School from the OGA in this significant year.

This Old Girls' Courtyard acknowledges the support given to their School by many generations of loyal members of the IGGS Old Girls Association established in 1897.

Its special features include the signature pathway and the Roselation sculpture.



The adjacent bell turret is a gift from the OGA to commemorate the School's first 125 years. It houses the original school bell which has stood in several locations since 1892.

As a long standing tradition the bell is rung annually by Senior students to mark the end of their school days.

Situated between the Peter Phillips Senior School and the entrance to the OGA Courtyard, the bell turret serves as a symbol to mark the progression from IGGS student to IGGS Old Girl.

The Old Girls Committee members are all great traditionalists and the decision to move the bell was only taken in the knowledge that it had already been moved several times. Its new housing is certainly an improvement on the covered way it replaced.

The concept of its marking the transition from Senior to Old Girl certainly appealed to the 2016 Year 12s who last year were allowed a 'dummy run'. They rang the bell, received their badges and enjoyed morning tea in the courtyard.



After the bell ceremony we then moved on to the Old Girls' Commemorative Performing Arts Centre for the more traditional Commemoration Day activities.

We were delighted to present the Helen White Memorial Prize for Dux of the School to Savinika Wijeyewickrema and the Fanny Hunt Prize to the three OP1 students: Savinika and Hannah Beamish and Nicola Harris.

We were entertained by the Flute Cadenza under the baton of Katherine Rixon as well as piano soloist, Mae-Lin Olssen.



Helen Pullar (L) and Joan Meecham (3rd L), Friends of the Archives Team Leaders, with benefactors Kay Jones and Gwen Roberts.

Following the death of Dorothy Roach (Johnston), her family – including Old Girls Kay Jones, Jenny Williams and Helen Roach – wanted to make a bequest of \$5000 in her memory and made the decision to direct it to the Archives for conservation purposes. This is a very generous bequest for which we thank them sincerely. There are many very significant documents urgently in need of stabilisation and it is a very costly business.

Another welcome donation came from Dr Gweneth Roberts who spoke of the value of our archives. She hoped her donation would help our work and make our efforts easier. We plan to purchase a high resolution scanner so that we can have photo and electronic copies of our earliest records – where scanning is an option.



Trustee and Old Girl Carly Gregory (Keane) with 2016 Co-Head Girl, Lillian Horneman-Wren.

A special presentation on Commem Day was the historical play which had been performed on 1 March as part of the School's Birthday Party. While it wasn't the full version and there was only a minimal staging and several students doubled up on parts to replace girls with weekend sporting and family commitments, it nevertheless gave the audience an idea of the historical costumed and 'uniformed' play which had been so capably enacted by our Year 11 and 12 girls. It was certainly enjoyed by the audience.



Assembled guests enjoying the performance

The afternoon concluded with a glass of bubbly to toast our 120 years and a great afternoon tea spread including our birthday cake. It was very satisfying to see one of the biggest Commem turnouts in recent years and we hope this is a good omen for the remaining functions.



Bette Howard and Marilyn Hicks

An event for everyone OGA Luncheon & Dinner

Because this is our 120th year we are really hoping that people will make an effort to attend either our **Luncheon (10 June)** or **Dinner (9 September)**.

If you have been thinking about meeting up with former School friends, now is the opportunity.

The reunions planned are advertised on Page 4. Please remember all past students and staff (and carers) are welcome at these functions.

Reunionees & General attendees

Please be aware that you must send an Acceptance form and make payment to the OGA, as well as confirming attendance with your reunion organisers.

All acceptances for the Annual Dinner and Luncheon can be filled in on line or downloaded. We can also email or post them to you on request.

Payments (\$55 for the Dinner, \$40 for the Luncheon + \$6.00 if your reunion group is having morning or afternoon tea) must be made by Cash, Cheque or Electronic Transfer.

Please note: our banking details have changed so if you are used to paying online as a Funds Transfer the new details will have to be entered.

As we plan to receipt your payment, please avoid late bookings if possible.

Fund raising

In addition we have two major fundraising events which are open to the **general public**.

The first of these is our **Tea and Symphony** afternoon (**30 July**). This was an outstanding success last year and we are delighted to be able to host the function again. There will be specific seating for advanced bookings (Cost: \$25 per person). So, book now to secure a good vantage point.

Our second function is the **Melbourne Cup Luncheon** (7 November) and already people are booking whole tables. We are giving a discount – \$50 per person or a table of 10 for \$450. Get your group together. Last year's punters told us they would be back this year with all their friends.

Booking

Details of all events will be advertised online and on Facebook from the start of Term 2 or contact ogaiggs@gmail.com

125 Long Lunch

One 125 Function we ask you to circulate information about and support is the **Long Lunch (2 September)**.

In the capable hands of Old Girls Leisa Harrys and Hollie Berry, this really will be a function with a difference. It will be combined with the release of our **125 Cookbook** and other great merchandise.



OGA Office Bearers 2017

OGA Co-Presidents

Leah Bell (Sanger)[07 3282 1163]
Helen Pullar (Birrell)[07 3281 4437]

Vice President

Kay Jones (Roach)

Secretary

Mae Frame (Mathieson)

Treasurer

Melissa Blacksell (Hicks)

OGAPRESS Editor

Helen Pullar

Brisbane Branch President/Secretary

Joan Meecham (Parsons)

Treasurer

Jocelyn Green (Hutchison)

Darling Downs Branch President

Heather Jorgensen

Secretary

Cheryl Wilson (Hine)

Treasurer

Brenda Parry (Scotney)

Canberra Branch Contact

Faye Noonan (Edmondson)

Sunshine Coast Branch President

Jan Wright (Swan)

Secretary

Lynne McLaren (Black)

Treasurer

Dell Huey (Brown)

Gold Coast Branch President

Denise Armstrong (Whitehead)

Secretary

Lurline Campbell (Bellingham)

Treasurer

Ruth Thompson (Penglis)

OGA Calendar 2017

Ipswich

General Meetings (7.00pm IGGs Library)

15 May, 11 July, 16 October

AGM TBA

Annual Lunch 10 June

Tea & Symphony 30 July

Annual Dinner 9 September

Melbourne Cup Luncheon 7 November

Brisbane Branch News

General Meeting: Saturday 6 May at 2.00pm in Toowong Library Meeting Room located on the top floor of Toowong Village. (NB There is now a two hour limit on free parking.)

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea.

Enquiries: Joan Meecham – 0437 560 436

meechamjoan@gmail.com

Darling Downs News

AGM: Sun 28th May at 10am at Downs Steam, Drayton

Christmas Gathering: 10 December (Details TBA)

Gold Coast News

General Meeting: Thursday 18 May at 1.30pm at Spinaker, Main Beach Parade Main Beach (home of Denise Armstrong)

Fashion Parade: Blue Illusion, Saturday 24 June at 2.30pm, with entertainment from BBC singers

General Meeting: Saturday 12 August at 11 am at 398 Cavendish Road, Coorparoo (home of Jill Blakely)

Correct contact information

The enormously time-consuming task of updating our data base has been undertaken by Treasurer Melissa Blacksell. Our currently held information has been revamped but we know a lot of it is incorrect, out of date or incomplete.

Please take time to fill in the interactive form on line or contact us for a form if you think your information may be incorrect on our register.

2017 Luncheon Reunions

70 Year Reunion

For any students who were part of the cohort who commenced in Sub-Junior 1947 and completed Senior in 1950.

Organiser: Miss Mary Elms

Email: maryelms@bigpond.com

Telephone: (07) 38436929

60 Year Reunion

For any students who were part of the 1954 to 1957 cohort.

Organisers: Mrs Wendy Gardiner (Rudder)

Email: wendy.burra15@gmail.com

Telephone: 0402 156 636

or Mrs Denise Armstrong (Whitehead)

Email: dennya@bigpond.com

Telephone: 0418 765 807

50 Year Reunion

For students who were in the first Year 8 in 1963 and in years 1964 to 1967.

Organiser: Mrs Julie Lee (Otago)

Email: JohnandJulieLee@hotmail.com

Telephone: 0417 735 670 or (07) 3285 5619

2017 Annual Dinner Reunions

20 Year Reunion

Seniors of 1997 and their cohort from 1993.

Organiser: Ms Rebecca Nardi

Email: rebeccanardi@bigpond.com

Telephone: (07) 3282 1201

Other decade reunions

We are hoping to hear from past students willing to organise 10, 30 and 40 year reunions.

Please contact ogaiggs@gmail.com for advice.



Gathering of Old Girls in Canberra

At a get-together of the Old Girls' Association in Canberra in November 2016, we noted that we had our own small reunion.



Lindell Emerton, Glenys Fredericksen and Lynne Rudnev

Three of the Old Girls who attended, graduated together in 1963. They were Lindell Emerton (Frost), Glenys Fredericksen (Edmondson) and Lynne Rudnev (Lewis). In fact, it was at an earlier reunion at IGGS in the 1980s that we discovered we all lived in Canberra. As a result of that meeting, the OGA Canberra Branch came into being.

We were also pleased to welcome Brigid Horneman-Wren – a much more recent graduate of IGGS, who is studying at the Australian National University.

Considering the different decades represented, from the 1950s to 2015, you can imagine the variety of experiences and anecdotes of IGGS that emerged. Regardless of the differences, we all realise the impact the school had in our lives – attested by the memories that stay with us, and the fact that we still enjoy meeting when we can.

Faye Noonan



Back row: Jill Iro (North), Andra Briggs (Howe), Brigid Horneman-Wren, Coral Fleming (McKean), Coral's sister (visiting)
Front row: Faye Noonan (Edmondson); Del Moyle (Bromley); Lindell Emerton, Glenys Fredericksen, Lynne Rudnev

The IGGS Web Site

There has been a lot of reference in recent OGA-PRESS editions of the difficulties of negotiating the web site.

At the end of 2016, a new IGGS web site was launched, but what we quickly realised was that while it had enormous potential, it was at that stage not user-friendly.

Unfortunately, 2017 has already been a massive year with our Marketing Department dealing with huge 125 functions, a new Prospectus, an Open Day and a trip to China as well as significant staff changes.

Time was not been available for us to work through the various problems and challenges until the end of Term 1.

The frustration you felt was nothing to our frustration, or that of our Marketing team. Can we assure you that we are only too aware of the problems – and venture to suggest if they have made the life of some difficult, they have made the workload of the Committee enormous. There is a great deal being done for a great many by a very few.

As of the start of Term 2, we are cautiously confident that all the observed problems will be solved. The membership and update of details forms will be interactive, while the Luncheon & Dinner will be able to be dealt with on line in another format. This is partly because we have been advised that we should not have our banking details on interactive forms.

We will welcome constructive critical comment but the process of going to

girlsgrammar.com.au/oga

is a now very simple one.

Date Claimers

Annual Lunch	10 June
Annual Dinner	9 September
Tea & Symphony	30 July
Melbourne Cup Lunch	7 November

All enquiries:

ogaiggs@gmail.com

Karen Leigh Masnata (Gillingham)
14 April 1969 – 15 January 2016
IGGS 1982 – 1986



It's not hard to find people willing to sing the praises of Karen Masnata. She was smart, funny, strong, dedicated and kind. She was also fiercely determined to win her battle against cancer, after having been first diagnosed in 2013. But even someone as tenacious and brave as Karen was no match and she passed away on 15 January 2016, aged 46.

Karen attended IGGS from 1982 to 1986, then graduated from QUT with a law degree and completed her solicitor qualifications through the College of Law in Sydney.

When Karen joined the Department of Energy and Water Supply (DEWS), as Deputy Director-General, in June 2012, she had already held economic advisory roles with Price Waterhouse Coopers and Deloitte, and senior financial advisory roles with Queensland Treasury and Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC). Jo Koch from Energy Regulation was fortunate to work under Karen for a number of years – first at QTC, then at Queensland Treasury and DEWS – and believes the influence on those Karen mentored will be long lasting. Karen was invited back to IGGS to inspire the next generation of women leaders at the Women in Leadership Workshop.

Whilst managing a demanding career, she found time to give back to the community – she was a director of The Sisters of Charity and Chair of the Expressions Dance. This gave her the opportunity to combine her commercial acumen and love of the Arts.

Karen was a keen runner and ran the Gold Coast Marathon on a number of occasions. The Karen Masnata Legacy has since been established and held a Marathon Challenge (7 marathons run back-to-back) at Easter 2017, with all funds raised going to Bowel Cancer Australia.

Karen leaves behind her husband, Roberto, son Giordi and daughter Luca.

For additional information about Karen and her charity please go to the OGA Facebook page. Thank you to Deanne Hudson for this article.

Alexa Isobelle Sellars (Halley)
7 July 1930 – 21 November 2016
IGGS 1945 – 1946

It was with great sadness that members of the OGA Committee heard of the death of loyal member Lex Halley.

Lex was an active member of the Brisbane Branch for many years and played an important part in their fundraising Bring and Buy Stall.

After she and her husband Bob moved to the Sunshine Coast, Lex together with Berne Sadler (Tooth) was instrumental in establishing a local Branch of the OGA with Lex the first Vice President (today we refer to this position as President). She held the position for many years.

As always Lex was at the Annual Luncheon at the Headlands Golf Club Buderim last year bringing her baskets of amazing camellias which have won prizes for many years.

Lex recently sent through a recipe for the Christmas cake produced by the family business – Halley's Bakery – a well-known and respected Ipswich firm.

I well remember lining up in the yard behind the bakery waiting to buy hot cross buns. And they were oven fresh and hot, and, yes, it was Easter!!

And I first learned about the bakers' dozen when there were 13 rolls in the brown paper bag.

Many Daygirls would have known Halley's Bakery (on the site of what became the Steakhouse Bakehouse) but Boarders may not know that Halley's supplied their bread until they closed in 1964.

Lex's recipe will be in the 125 Cookbook. I baked it to her instructions just the day before she died. I am so pleased she knew that I had been soaking all that fruit for a week as directed!!

Thanks for your loyalty, Lex. You will be missed.

Helen Pullar



Alexa Halley (R) with Ellen de Chastel, Lynne McLaren, Jan Wright and Dell Huey of the Sunshine Coast Branch.



Senior of 2017 – Grace Egstorf



Grace Ergstorf married Ash Weier at St Mary's Church Ipswich – the same church in which her parents, grandparents and great-grandparents were married – on 10 September 2016. The reception was held at the Pumpyard Bar & Brewery.

Grace is a Graduate Architect at Macksey Rush Architects while Ash is a teacher at Indooroopilly State High School.

With Grace is her grandmother – Pam McAnany (Marsden) who attended IGGS as a boarder in 1957 and 1958. Pam is Great Aunt to Melissa Blacksell-Hicks (IGGS 1986 – 1990) and Great-great Aunt to Ellery Blacksell (IJGS ECC 2011 –).

Long-serving teachers depart Eirys Jones & Maria Brownhall

At the end of 2016, IGGS and IJGS farewelled two highly respected teachers: Miss Jones and Frau Brownhall. For many years these two ladies worked side by side in the Language Department. Eirys taught mainly Japanese, but also German alongside Maria. More recently Eirys has also worked in the Junior School Library.

They were dedicated teachers who constantly went above and beyond.

Eirys is also an Old Girl so she is still involved at that level. She has many hobbies and interests and will continue to travel and enjoy life to the full, I am sure.

We hope Maria will return from time to time to tell us what she is doing in retirement. One little Year 5 student, indignant that Frau dared leave, asked what use was planned for all Maria's skirts and blouses. {These had been an earlier topic of discussion when said child had suggested shorts or something more "with it" might be suitable for Maria's school wardrobe!!} When Maria replied that she would wear them to Indooroopilly Shoppingtown, this seemed to placate her. As a former colleague, I believe Maria has much more significant plans than shopping!

Many Old Girls will remember them both with affection.

Helen Pullar

Vale Glenys McKenna (Smallwood)

Many Old Girls, music students in particular, will remember Glenys McKenna, a former IGGS Sessional Music teacher. Glenys passed away in November 2016. Glenys attended IGGS as a student in 1952 and 1953.

She was a very gentle, gracious and talented lady: one of a group of Old Girl Music staff who gave devoted service to their students. Many will recall her accompanying Mrs Margaret Evan's choirs.

Vale Cecile Fitzgerald (Heiner)

Cecile attended IGGS from 1947 to 1950.

Cecile is the younger sister of former Chairman of the Board, Keith Heiner. Her mother - Mrs May Hancock - donated the grand piano in the Assembly Hall in 1964 when that building was opened.

We can claim a Lion!

Congratulations to Kate Lutkins who recently played in the inaugural AFLW finals for the Brisbane Lions against the Adelaide Crows.

Kate attended IGGS from 1998 to 2004 and the list of her achievements and awards in those years across many different sports is about the length of a football field! Well done, Kate.

Well Seated

Old Girls living in the Springfield area might be interested to know that their new local electorate of Jordan is named in honour of Ellen Violet Jordan OAM.

Born in Ipswich in 1913 as Vi Perrett she attended IGGS in the 1920s and won a teaching scholarship which she did not take up. She was a talented musician but forthright and single minded. She married at 18 but was soon to champion many causes. In 1961 she was the first woman elected to the Ipswich City Council, and in 1966 she became the second woman in the state (and the first female Labor member) to be elected into the Queensland Parliament.

A Dramatic Success

Maimuna Memon, Senior of 2010, was cast in the London premiere of David Bowie's final musical *Lazarus* which had a run at the King's Cross Theatre from 25 October 2016 to 22 January 2017 with an official opening on 8 November 2016.

Congratulations to Maimuna.

Another honour for Deidre Brown

Recently the Executive of the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland has approved a donation of \$50000 for a new teaching space in the Fryer Library. In addition to this, a further donation of \$5000 has been given to purchase a lectern for this teaching space in honour of Deidre Brown to acknowledge the work she did for Alumni Friends.

Please send any snippets of Old Girl news to
hpullar@bigpond.net.au

IGGS - 125 Years

1892 - 2017



125 years of IGGS was marked on 1 March when the School partied all day commencing with a breakfast sponsored by Llewellyn Motors. Girls lined the drive to witness the arrival of Miss Fanny Hunt and her sister Maggie. This was followed by an historical presentation written and directed by Mrs Helen Pullar and enacted by upper school students during which an Old Girls choir sang our School Songs. A whole of School lunch with IJGS followed a great former tradition: a Daygirls v Boarders tug-of-war won by triumphant Daygirls coached by Mrs Roxanne Unwin (Russell), a former participant.

Our Swimming team departed for QGSSSA swimming, we filled a time capsule donated by the OGA to be opened in 25 years and finished with a final warcry and a Jive-on-the-Drive. It was a day to remember!

