



OGAPRESS

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



This has certainly been a year to remember and, while it has been one of high achievement and success, most of the School community – including the OGA Committee – will breathe a sigh of relief when December brings 2017 to a close and life becomes a little more normal.

Since the last OGAPRESS was published, the OGA Committee has held their Annual Luncheon and Dinner, 'Tea and Symphony' Musical afternoon, and their Melbourne Cup Luncheon and attended several IGGS/IJGS 125 functions, including the 'Feast Beneath the Figs' Long Lunch. Our most recent event was the Bell Ringing Ceremony which welcomed the 2017 Seniors into the ranks of the OGA.

As well as all of these IGGS-based functions, we have attended a number of Branch gatherings which as always provided fellowship and enjoyment. Many of these events will be outlined in more detail in the

following pages.

Now as the year draws to a close we have to turn our thoughts to what 2018 might bring. The Long Lunch was a clear demonstration that our younger Old Girls still have a deep love for their School as they attended in very strong numbers, but their busy life styles don't allow them time to be actively involved in the workings of the OGA. This is reflected in the attendance at Branch meetings too. While the most important thing is that they do enjoy meeting at social functions – and we know that this happens not infrequently in significant numbers – it is critical that, as the oldest of the past pupils' associations in Queensland, we remain functional as an official organisation.

The dilemma of how this can be achieved requires critical thought and is essential to any forward planning. Our Branches function at a much more social level and, while they don't always find it easy to fill their Executive positions, they do seem to attract higher attendance at their gatherings. Lots of food for thought and your input and suggestions would be appreciated.

We are now in semi-recess till 2018, but plan to kick-start the year with a social gathering for everyone – our long-term faithful members who may find night time meetings harder now and our younger old girls who tell us week nights are too hectic. If you are able, we encourage you to join us for a 'Can't Come Monday' afternoon tea at 3.00pm in the Social Staff Room on Sunday 11 February. Helen will share some archival stories for your enjoyment. (RSVP ogaiggs@gmail.com or Secretary Mae Frame 3281 6187).

Leah and Helen

OGA Office Bearers

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

Ann Wong (Brooks)

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)



A record luncheon turn out

Attendance at our Luncheon set an all time record. This event has become increasingly popular with our general attendees and this year's numbers were significantly increased by three reunions - the 1947 Sub-Juniors, the 1957 Seniors and the 1967 Seniors and their respective cohorts. Not only did these ladies swell our numbers, but their delight in being together at their old school, their reminiscing and the speeches delivered by their chosen representatives added a real dimension to the whole gathering.

The first of the speakers was Miss Mary Elms who was the organiser of the Sub-Junior group from 1947 and I have included her address below at the special request of many who heard it on the day.



The 70 Year Reunion group

1933! That was a long time ago. In that year the population of Australia was 6,629,839 and the Australian Women's Weekly and the Australian Antarctic Territory were both established. Windscreen wipers became compulsory on cars and the first traffic lights became operational in Sydney. Sir Charles Kingford-Smith made his first flight to New Zealand, Monopoly was invented and polythene was discovered. Bradman scored 103 against the new bodyline attack from the English and the first voice amplification was used. 'King Kong' premiered as did Walt Disney's 'Three Little Pigs' and Shostakovich's 'Preludes in Moscow' and Errol Flynn made his first film here in Australia directed by Charles Chauval. To mention but a few events. It was a good year. Things were happening. What's more it was the time when in 21st century speak a particular bunch of babies was born. Those girls grew to become the IGGS Sub-Junior class of 1947.

These were the days pre TV, pre mobile phones (wind up telephones existed, but were rare) pre computer, pre microwave. In my case it took one and a half hours to get to town because we had to catch the horse first then harness him to the sulky and jog to the corner of Limestone and East Streets to tie him up while we shopped!

In the year 1947 the School was only 55 years old, but it had already had some very successful girls pass through its doors and was very highly regarded. Some girls came to school by steam train and, if you have read the OGA publication of 'Queenie's Diary', you will have captured the atmosphere of the early days. No air-con or heating resulted in very hot or very cold classrooms and the Commercial students were housed in the shed – an open-air building.

But things have changed and they've changed enormously for the better which is wonderful to see. However, nothing stays exactly the same in our lives except perhaps those intangible elements – our values, our standards, and those elements we hold dear and must defend to maintain. As students here we knew we were being guided extremely efficiently with our education but we also felt that there was a caring coming from those who were guiding us and it meant a great deal to us. We forged friendships which were wonderfully refreshed whenever we met and have given us today, after three score years and ten, a thoroughly enjoyable reunion.

There have been great physical changes to the school, and indeed to the whole world, and vast changes and attitudes in our society with technology demanding more of our attention and time. But the same basic principles imbued in the earliest eras have been maintained for which we are grateful, and we wish the school of the future continued success and much happiness. Whatever the era we are all part of history in the making, and our individual contribution, however miniscule, does count.



The 60 Year reunion group



Back Row: Erica Dugoid (Jowitt), Margaret Hassell (Davidson), Claire McDonald (Tannock), Sally Walker, Lydia Jordane (Andonov), Julie Lee (Otago), Heather Jorgensen, Annette Shuker (Johnson), Blair Nancarrow (Fraser), Kay Cooper, Margaret Parnell (Henderson), Avis Ann Ballard (Hall).

Front Row: Stella Carnall (Cassimatis), Gaye Anderson (Meehan), Anna Gilfoyle (Kaye), Joan Stott (Batterby), Narelle Betts (Whitaker), Barbara Meyer (Calvert), Glenys Tickle (Philbey), Jan Walker (Bowles), Lorraine Jones (Loweke), Janenne Brown, Marilyn Woodcock (McPhail), Vicki Doig, Christine Mackenzie (Stewart).



Back row: Diane McKendrick (Saunderson), Tammy Johnson (Portas), Chantel Collie (Rogers), Caroline Rowe, Kate Cairns (Humphreys), Angie Bruggemann (McPherson), Jacky Oman (Chay)

Front row: Rebecca Nardi, Kate Keenan (Hoepner), Katie Dower (Grennan), Lisa Ma

One excellent outcome from the reunions was the addition of photos for the IGGS Archives. Two members from the 70 Year Reunion had with them photos from their years at school – Joan Christie (Gillespie) and Bette Howard (Edwards). Not only was I able to scan photos which we did not previously have, but I also could add lots of names to some already in the collection. Invaluable!

The ladies (top left) who assembled to celebrate 60 years since leaving IGGS had an additional treat because Joyce Phillips (Williams) had compiled a beautiful photo book which was a fabulous record of their years at IGGS and another great asset to our Archives.

The third group of ladies (centre left), organised by Julie Lee, have a 'special' place in our history. In 1964, Year 8 became part of high school with the abolition of the State Scholarship Examination. IGGS pre-empted this move and enrolled some students in advance in 1963 as our first Year 8s – several of these 'girls' were at the reunion.

Disappointingly, our Dinner was not nearly as well attended which may have been because of the confusion with the Long Lunch – a school function held the previous weekend. However, those who did attend enjoyed themselves and we were delighted to welcome a group of 20 year reunion girls (bottom left).

Please note: we are changing the timing of our 2018 Dinner in the hope that it suits more attendees.

Planning a Reunion???

Annual Luncheon
Saturday 9 June

Annual Dinner
Saturday 4 August

Please contact us for help and advice.
ogaiggs@gmail.com



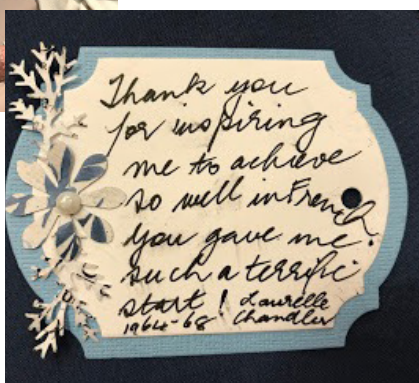
News from the Branches

The Brisbane Branch, under the direction of President Joan Meecham, has held two very successful gatherings this year – one in May and the other in September.

The early function had been advertised as a tribute to much-loved teacher Miss Dorothy Marsden – a master stroke which brought people out of the woodwork.



While Miss Marsden was just a little overwhelmed – and characteristically humble – with all the attention, she was delighted to meet up with so many well-wishers.



Attendees had the opportunity to write a message on little cards made by Glenda Burke (Fullelove) and enjoy the sumptuous afternoon tea.

Inspired by this success, the Branch then held a short AGM in November accompanied by an IGGS Trivia Quiz. Again numbers were strong and Joan was delighted to welcome a new and enthusiastic Committee to the ranks.

The Branch plans to hold more social activities and limit the formalities as much as possible. Next year's meetings will be on 12 May and 3 November.



Joan Meecham (President/Secretary), 2nd on left with new Committee members L - R Jenny Brownlie-Smith, Ann Wong (Brooks), who has taken on the task of Treasurer, and Gwenneth Roberts (Collins).

Following another successful Fashion Parade in conjunction with fashion outlet 'Blue Illusion', the Gold Coast Branch celebrated their 20th birthday at their AGM at the home of Secretary, Lurline Campbell.

This was a well attended function and we all enjoyed a beautiful lunch supplied by members and set out by champion 'chefs', Don and Miles.



Model: Barbara Tanner



Guests watch as Mary Elms, Lurline Campbell (Secretary), Denise Armstrong (President) and Ruth Thompson (Treasurer) cut the 20th Birthday cake.

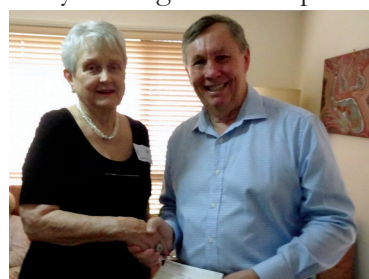


Left: Jenny Williams (Roach) and Carolyn Hunter (Hearnden)

Below: Don Campbell and Miles Murrell



President Denise Armstrong was delighted to present to Principal Dr Peter Britton, a cheque for \$2000 – the financial result of the fashion parade to which her extended family made generous input.



The money raised will again go towards the IGGS/IJGS Rare Instruments Project.

Left: Denise Armstrong and Dr Peter Britton



Happy 125th Birthday IGGS!

Members of the Canberra Branch of the IGGS OGA welcomed Dr Peter Britton to Canberra on 5 August. He joined us for a celebratory lunch for the 125th birthday of the school. We appreciated his visit very much as it added to the occasion, and linked us in a tangible way to the school in this significant year of its history.

Everyone enjoyed meeting together and catching up on news. We were delighted to welcome Kathryn Jones and Kyla Burch to the group.

Dr Britton had the opportunity to bring us up to date with news and events at the school. His overview of IGGS in 2017 contrasted in varying degrees to the experiences and stories shared over lunch by our members who span seven decades of student life at IGGS, both as boarders and daygirls. Regardless of when we were students, the school spirit still brings us together.



Left to right around the table: Kyla Burch (Palmer); Jan Hyde (Truscott); Andra Briggs (Howe); Rosanne Walker; Glenys Fredericksen (Edmondson); Lindell Emerton (Frost) – standing; Faye Noonan (Edmondson) – standing; Lynne Rudnev (Lewis); Brigid Horneman-Wren; Dr Peter Britton; Kathryn Jones; Jill Iro (North)

Our Canberra Branch has a long history of welcoming the youngest of our Old Girls who are studying in the ACT including Brigid Horneman-Wren, pictured above, a Senior of 2014.

Lauren Booth, Senior of 2013, was also part of the group and recently sent this update to the Branch.

From Lauren

I am really enjoying my time in Singapore. I am living here this year for an internship and university exchange semester. I am a recipient of an Australian Government New Colombo Plan Scholarship to support me to live, work and study in Asia during 2017. Dr Britton will be glad to hear that I have taken up the opportunity to include Mandarin language study as part of my program. When I first arrived in Singapore I took a two-week fulltime Mandarin course, and I have continued my study with weekly lessons which I plan to continue throughout my year here.

*In April I started a four-month internship at the Bioinformatics Institute at A*STAR (Singapore's CSIRO) where I am working on a project to develop a computational model for predicting allosteric sites in proteins which has important implications for drug discovery and design.*

In August, I will begin my exchange semester at the National University of Singapore. I am currently interested in securing an internship in Taiwan for December/January to gain further research experience and to challenge my Mandarin skills! I have also enjoyed the opportunity to travel in the region having already visited various parts of Malaysia (5 trips!) and Cambodia in my first few months.

Two of our stalwart members and very special Old Girls for many years, have passed away in recent months. Una Brough and June North, both in their nineties, attended gatherings until only a year or two ago. We were very fortunate to have them in the group. We enjoyed their company and they gave an insight into life as a student at IGGS in the 1930s.

New members are very welcome. For more information, please contact Faye Noonan on 02 6231 3200 or at faye.noonan@grapevine.com.au

Another grand old lady



Early this year, through a connection with Old Girl Eirys Jones, we made contact with the family of former student Thelma Wilson. As Thelma Writen she commenced IGGS in 1930, and was about to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Eirys and I were privileged to visit her on this occasion taking a number of gifts from the School and the OGA, including the 125th scarf she is wearing. Thelma was amazingly alert and looked happily at the photos in the books we took.

Sadly, a few weeks later she slipped quietly away but we were very pleased to have been part of her wonderful milestone.

Helen Pullar



Carrying on the tradition

Mrs Leanne Johnson (Year 4 teacher – IJGS) and Mrs Lisa Hooper (Old Girl and “Events & Special Projects Coordinator” at IGGS) are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful grand-daughters. These two much loved little girls are the first grandchildren for both families and have already had their first birthdays. Miss Greer Asher Dot Bennett was born on 19 June 2016 to Courtney Bennett (nee Johnson) and husband Aaron. Miss Jemima Dawn Jorgensen was born 2 August 2016 to Alexandra (Alex) Jorgensen (nee Hooper) and husband Brett. Their mothers, Courtney and Alexandra, are IGGS Old Girls (Seniors of 2004) and have remained best friends since having met at IGGS on the first day of Year 8 in 2000. We hope this close bond continues to this next generation of little girls. Courtney and Alexandra are two weeks apart in age and now their girls are only six weeks apart and weighed exactly the same as each other (9lb 110z) at birth. Congratulations and very best of luck to the new Mums and their precious daughters. (Their Senior year will be 2033!)



Greer, Courtney, Alexandra and Jemima

Mrs Lisa Hooper (Wilton) – doting grandmother

Tea and Symphony



Committee members Mae Frame, Naomi Manders and Jocelyn Smith sell tickets in our Tea and Symphony raffle

Guests were certainly treated to a feast of music at this year's 'Tea and Symphony' with a varied programme from instrumental and vocal staff and students.

As in 2016, the funds raised from this event will be donated to the Music Department's Rare Instruments programme so that instruments such as Double Bass, Baritone Horn, Tuba, Euphonium – together with student tuition – can expand.



Teachers Helen Carvolth (Blakely) & Zoe Brecht with Mai-Lin Olsen

The Long Lunch

The Long Lunch was a 125 fundraising event not an OGA one, but one could be forgiven for not realising this, given the number of Old Girls in attendance and the effort made by a group of young old girls, in particular Leisa Harrys (McLean), Hollie Berry (McLean), Carly Gregory (Keene) and Andrea Ferrando (Rees), to bring it to fruition. Financially it was a tremendously successful venture and all involved are to be congratulated. The location – the tree-lined front drive – was ideal, the weather glorious and the organisation superb.



OGA Vice President Kay Jones with daughters Rebecca and Kathryn

Let's make 2018 a year of connecting.

**Can't Come Monday
Afternoon Tea
Sunday 11 February at 3.00pm,
or attend your local branch meeting
OR
start your own branch!**

Amy Chalmers – A life too short



Amy Chalmers (right)

1992 was a very special year at IGGS – our centenary year – and we seemed to have the Midas touch; everything we did turned to gold. One of the great highlights was the winning of QGSSSA Athletics – and one of our golden girls was Co-Captain Amy Chalmers. Amy had a stellar sporting career at IGGS.

After leaving school she worked for some time in fitness, tourism and hospitality before locating to Shenyang City in China where she became involved in teaching English to Early Childhood students. She eventually worked in International TESOL teacher recruitment, placement and support.

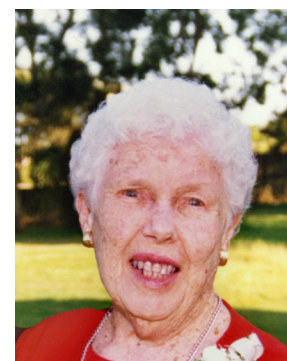
However, fate dealt Amy a cruel blow and she developed cancer at an early age. She and her family left no stone unturned in their fight to beat the disease but her death, just 25 years after leaving IGGS, left friends and family grief-stricken. The following tribute was penned on behalf of those young IGGS women closest to her.

She was fierce, determined, sassy, bold, independent, courageous, loud, bossy ... she lit up every room she walked into and touched every person she met. She lived hard - worked hard, played hard, partied hard. Amy was an all or nothing girl - it's what we loved about her. And right to the end she was a fighter - she stayed positive and always believed she would beat the cancer. Always.

She was always true to who she was too - a free spirit, a risk taker, a deal doer. She made no apologies for who she was ... and was so very honest - whether we liked it or not. Ha! She was also incredibly spiritual and took us all on a journey of spirituality with her. She called us her soul saving sisters - Paula Wood, Fiona Campbell (Donaldson), Allison Grant, Larissa Cross (Holt), Caet Young (Simes), Josie Kelkhoven and Jean Chalmers (her adoring little sister). The truth is that she saved us ... being on this journey with her was an absolute honour. It brought us all back together and showed us what real friendship is. We will forever be bonded now ... and we'll always be Amy's soul saving sisters.

Valma Ida Bowles (Bell): 1919 – 2017

On 2 September a number of Old Girls attended the funeral of Val Bowles an IGGS Old Girl and mother of Committee member, Jocelyn Smith and her sister Jan Walker. Both daughters delivered part of the eulogy. We heard from Jan of Val's childhood years at Woodend where she attended Blair State School before going to IGGS. In her Scholarship year she was the only girl to



pass this exam. One of the other six to pass was Mervyn Bowles whom she married in 1943 – a union which lasted 62 years. They moved to East Ipswich where they became stalwarts of the Glebe Road Uniting Church, but together their contribution to the community was wide-reaching. When Mervyn's health deteriorated, they moved to Brassall Village where Valma was to become a great favourite.

Jan painted a lovely picture of a life well lived. Jocelyn's descriptions of her mother's lifestyle brought back vivid memories for many.

Saturday morning was baking day. The same ritual occurred every week. Five items had to be produced: Beetroot boiled, peeled and placed in vinegar; a jar of mayonnaise and always a batch of biscuits, a slice and a cake.

Sunday morning the icecream had to be made before we went to church. How many of you remember Carnation Icecream? The tin of carnation milk was placed in the freezer one hour before starting, then came the whipping - whipping - whipping all by hand for many years. Imagine mum's delight when dad bought her a mix master.

Each day of the week was designated for certain chores. Monday was wash day. The clothes had to be hung on the line in a certain way – undies were hung behind sheets so as they could not be seen by the neighbours. Dad played lawn bowls every Saturday so on Monday his bowling clothes were on the line. When we heard mum announce "Pa is hanging on the line" we knew the washing was finished.

Nothing was out of place in her home. The newspaper was read at breakfast and was in the paper drawer by morning tea to wrap the kitchen scraps in. I always said, "if I stood still long enough I would go in the rubbish". Her cupboards were so neat and tidy - not a thing out of place.

Valma helped Jocelyn in her flower business for many years, wiring endless arrangements, and was a wonderful seamstress who also excelled at many handicrafts.

She was very proud of her old school and maintained an interest in it all her life.

A much-loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, she will be sorely missed.



Ipswich

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|-------------|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 11 February | Can't Come Monday Afternoon Tea | 3.00pm | Social Staff Room |
| 19 February | IGGSOGA AGM | 7.00pm | IGGS Library |
| 3 March | Commemoration Day | 2.00pm | Peforming Arts Centre |
| 23 April | General Meeting | 7.00pm | IGGS Library |
| 10 May | Theatre Night | 7.15pm | Ipswich Little Theatre |
| 9 June | Annual Luncheon | 12.30pm | Phoenix Room IGGS |
| 23 July | General Meeting | 7.00pm | IGGS Library |
| 4 August | Annual Dinner | 6.30pm | Phoenix Room IGGS |
| 15 October | General Meeting | 7.00pm | IGGS Library |
| 6 November | Melbourne Cup Luncheon | 10.30am | Phoenix Room IGGS |

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE of DATE for the ANNUAL DINNER

Brisbane

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 10 May | Short Meeting & Social Gathering | 2.00pm | Toowong Library |
|--------|----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|

Enquiries: Joan Meecham – 0437 560 436

Darling Downs

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|-------------|---------------|--|---------------------|
| 27 February | Theatre Night | | Toowoomba Repertory |
|-------------|---------------|--|---------------------|

Enquiries: Cheryl Wilson – 4635 6275

Gold Coast

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|------------|-----------------|--|---|
| 2 February | General Meeting | | 93 'Spinnaker' Cnr Main Beach Pde & Woodroffe St Main Beach |
|------------|-----------------|--|---|



The 125 Cookbook Project for the IGGS 125 Celebrations was substantially supported by Old Girls who sent in wonderful recipes.

Now that the book has been published, they have supported it again by purchasing the 190 page book which is full of anecdotes, IGGS history and photos as well as culinary delights.

It was a School project, but the OGA is prepared to process sales for members for their convenience. Profits go to the restoration of the original building.

125 recipes for 125 years

Name

Address

.....

.....

email.....

I would like to purchasecopies at \$40 per copy plus \$10 each postage. (It is a very dense book.)

I enclose a cheque for \$.....

I have made a Direct Deposit to

IGGS Old Girls Association
Bendigo Bank BSB: 633000 Account: 159198647

If you live nearby, we can arrange for it to be collected or delivered.

Phone Helen 3281 4437