



OGAPRESS

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

From the Presidents

Because we had made the decision to have our AGM at the beginning rather than the end of the year, we had a social gathering just before the Monday AGM. Titled 'Can't Come Monday', it was a happy, well-attended gathering which gave the Committee a chance to relax with Old Girl friends.

At the AGM itself, we were delighted to welcome two new members to our Committee – Eirys Jones and Lynne Smith – and report that all Executive positions were filled with no changes.

While there is a growing awareness that we can no longer undertake the major fundraising ventures of the past, there was a positive feeling that in other ways we were making a significant contribution to keeping our Old Girls Association viable.

The large gathering on 3 March at our Commemoration Day celebrations was another encouraging sign. We do hope that our Annual Luncheon and Dinner numbers will be very healthy this year and are delighted to know that we will be welcoming two reunion groups at the Luncheon.

Local Old Girls are urged to support the fundraising night at Ipswich Little Theatre on 10 May to see the slightly daring "Dirty Dusting". (Tickets at \$25 per head are available from Committee members.)



Helen Pullar (Birrell), Eleanor Beale (Pratt), Angela Geertsma (Haenke) Lynne Smith (Fitzgerald) and Noela Eddington (Elliot)



Delwyn Palmer (Black), Gwen Harding (Littleproud) and Naomi Manders (MrIlwenie)

We were delighted to be present on the first day of the 2018 academic year at the Scholars' Assembly to hear of the extremely pleasing achievements of the 2017 Senior cohort – the best for some time.



Kate Nicholson and Jill Cumming

A couple of weeks later we attended the Seniors Assembly. The 2018 group are very enthusiastic and determined to make an impact. They are led by delightful girls who, in turn, joined us on Commemoration Day and created a very favourable impression as they mingled with the guests.

Leah and Helen



Sue Wyatt (Wild), Jeanine Dwyer (Robson), Leah Bell (Sanger) and Kay Jones (Roach)

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

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Joan Meecham (Parsons)

Treasurer

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Secretary

Cheryl Wilson (Hine)

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Treasurer

Dell Huey (Brown)

Gold Coast Branch President

Denise Armstrong (Whitehead)

Secretary

Lurline Campbell (Bellingham)

Treasurer

Ruth Thompson (Penglis)

Editorial

For as long as anyone can remember the OGA Badge – and hence our logo – has read 'IGS OGA'. Many members have never noticed this as it is usually seen only in a very small image. However, every so often someone picks what they assume is an error which they point out to us.

At the recent AGM, it was decided that as we are now the IGGS OGA, and have been for many years, we would change the logo to include the additional 'G'.



The pocket of an OGA blazer: circa 1930s

While I was working with Samantha Kettlety (IGGS Digital Media and Design Officer) on the new design, she asked if I knew why it had originally been IGS OGA. I replied, "No, but I live in hope of shedding some light on it."

What I did know was that in 1925, the OGA had introduced its own badge and in June 1932 the Old Girls Association adopted a blazer with its badge on the pocket. I went back to the Archives Room and lifted down the frail blazer and there on the pocket was 'IGS OGA'.

Shortly after, I was assessing some of our particularly frail very early magazines and in the fifth issue that we have in the collection – December 1915 – I came across the following sketch.



'IGS Sports' Column'? Obviously, for some reason, the School was referred to at some stage as IGS.

So, I am now some way further down the track. Who knows? The explanation might yet be revealed.

Helen Pullar Editor

Around the Branches

The Darling Downs Branch recently had a successful fundraising night at Toowoomba Repertory Theatre.

The Gold Coast Branch welcomed new members to their latest meeting and are looking forward to their next get-together at Jenny William's home on 12 May.

By the time you are reading this, the Canberra Branch should have met on 7 April and we look forward to news of that gathering.

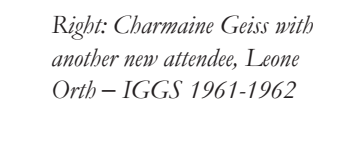
The Brisbane Branch have high hopes of attracting a large gathering on 12 May for a "Then and Now" afternoon tea and a panel discussion with 2017 IGGS Seniors and their own members as they consider the challenges of University life after IGGS.

Old Girls continue to meet formally and informally and I encourage you all to send through photos and details.

The next OGAPRESS will be published in October at the start of Term 4. Those wanting more up to date news are urged to become OGA Facebook friends and follow our activities on line.



Left: New Gold Coast members Judy Koshela (King) — IGGS 1954 - 1957; Helen Roach — IGGS 1969 - 1973 with Kerry Boulter



Right: Charmaine Geiss with another new attendee, Leone Orth — IGGS 1961-1962

Burying the Capsule

After twelve months of collecting appropriate items for the '125' capsule donated to the School by the OGA last year, the day finally came to bury it in the OGA Courtyard.

In the same week as Commemoration Day the School now traditionally holds what is known as Zamba Zu Day to celebrate the foundation of IGGS.

Unfortunately, the popular Daygirls v Boarders Tug of War, revived in 2017, had to be abandoned because of wet weather, but the sun came out in time to place the capsule in the hole dug for us by our maintenance men.

It has since been backfilled and a ground lever marker is in place to ensure that the spot can be found 25 years from now.

Helen Pullar Editor



Commemoration Day 2018



Ella Pearson

Our 2017 cohort produced six OP 1 students who were eligible for the Fanny Hunt Prize donated by the OGA. In addition there were two girls – Ella Pearson and Majella Cassidy – who were both Dux and received the Helen White Prize (Gift of the Brisbane Branch).

Most unusually, only one of these girls was able to be present at Commemoration Day, but we were delighted to welcome Ella whose achievement was all the more remarkable because she was also one of the co-Head Girls in 2017. Ella has embarked on a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at The University of Queensland as a first step towards a career in medicine.

On the same campus, fellow Dux, Majella Cassidy is studying a Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Mathematics, but was unable to be present because of a prior commitment to the Commonwealth Games.

Jasmine Stephens, 2017 Head Boarder, has undertaken a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne while Michiru Encinas has accepted a place in a dual degree at Sydney University enrolling in Bachelor of Veterinary Biology/Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Meg Notley has enrolled at the Queensland University of Technology in a Bachelor of Medical Imaging. Silka Lo, whose results are all the more amazing because English was her second language, has returned to Hong Kong.

These girls headed up an impressive 2017 cohort and we were pleased to acknowledge their success.



Bette Howard with Jocelyn Smith, Maria Stevenson, Vicki Doig, and Lynne Smith at the Commem Day Lunch with other active members of the OGA.



Mai Lien Olsson (piano), Ashleigh Richardson and Evangeline Sturges (Violins) who provided musical entertainment at Commem



Helen and Leah with student leaders, Deputy Head Boarder Frances Blackman, and Co-Head Girls Hannah Baden-Clay and Elizabeth Slatter

Our Archival Treasures



Top left: Queenie Jones' autograph book

Top right: the custom-made storage box

Bottom left: the acknowledgement of the donor

Bottom right: the actual 2014 and 2015 diaries rebound.

Note: the published copy of the diaries together with a contextual history is still available at a cost of \$15 from the OGA.

After Commemoration Day 2017, I reported on the generous bequest made by the Roach family in memory of their mother, Dorothy Roach, a loyal, long-time member of the OGA who attended IGGs from 1935 to 1938.

It was the wish of the family that the money be spent on the preservation of important archival materials. Initially, valuable letters written by former Heads were treated by a paper conservator, and this year the decision was made to have the original Queenie's diary preserved.

The books, which were falling apart, have been rebound, and in addition a beautiful little autograph book has also been restored. All three items are now able to be housed in a specially made box.

The archives have also benefited from memorabilia belonging to Dorothy which has been donated.

Once again we thank the family for their generosity, and Joan Meecham for her efforts in dealing with restorers.

Helen Pullar Editor

Joan Meecham (Parsons)
IGGS OGA Honour Board Recipient



In 1999 at a 30 Year reunion of her cohort Joan was reunited with former teachers – Misses Kennedy, Marsden, Goleby, Brown and Benson – and it was no coincidence that by 13 November of that year, Joan found herself at a Brisbane Branch meeting.

By 2004, at meetings held at St Ignatius Church Toowong, Joan took over the role of ‘tea lady’ from Nancy Kleinschmidt – a quite significant position in that branch. By 2007 Joan had replaced Del Hardke as Secretary/Treasurer and in 2009 she was elected Vice-President (a branch role now known as President).

For more than a decade Joan has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of the Brisbane Branch and make its meetings more meaningful and engaging. However, it has been her devotion to those former staff members and many other long-term members of the Branch that makes Joan stand out. She has driven miles across Brisbane visiting these past staff and Old Girls, ferrying them to meetings and many IGGS events, caring for their needs especially in times of ill health. Her efforts have been nothing less than extraordinary.

For the past two years Joan and I have undertaken another project which, we believe, directly benefits the School – that of honorary archivists. This has become an all-consuming task as we beaver away, usually upstairs in the Phyllis Foster Room (named after another dedicated Old Girl), mostly sight unseen.

Joan spoke of what IGGS had given her: *I was a boarder at IGGS in 1968 and 1969 – my sub senior and senior years. Pupil numbers were on the increase – roughly 400 of us then. My four-person dorm in sub-senior became a five-person dorm with an extra bed in senior. The already hectic and tight schedule for showers became even tighter and more hectic. I think we had three minutes to get in, get showered and get out!*

New buildings and facilities were also materialising. A pre-fabricated classroom block and a music block sprang up in the ‘out-of-bounds’ area below the dining room. A smart new tuck shop appeared where the fascinating old music block had been.

The winds of social, technological and political change were blowing in the 1960s, but they didn’t really hit IGGS until the 1970s. So, my year was amongst the last to experience the “old ways” at IGGS. We had a regimented life; no computers; only two TVs in the school; went to Church on Sundays; spent Sunday afternoons on a rug on the lawns; said grace at meals; wrote everything in our exercise books; worked mainly from text books; washed our hair once a week (that was the rule!); and studied hard for the external senior exam which would determine our future. Much of that changed in the 1970s with the abolition of external exams; new uniforms; closed-circuit TV; the expansion of library facilities and so on.

I received a top-class senior education. At IGGS, for the first time in my life, I was surrounded by a truly positive learning environment. I did have important mentors in my earlier schooling, but, to go from a school where the hero of my class was a boy who consistently scored less than 10% in every exam, to a school where you were expected to do absolutely as well as you could, was sort of like dying and finding yourself in heaven!

Suffice to say that my senior education at IGGS allowed me to enrol at UQ in 1970 as one of the 30% of women making up enrolments that year; and to be one of the 15% of women amongst the graduates awarded a higher degree in 1976.

So that leads me to the second thing that IGGS gave me – female role models!

In my time, Thalia Kennedy was Head; Marian Walker was the chair of the School Board, and the majority of my teachers were university-educated women. These women knew their subjects backwards and displayed a confidence and belief in their roles that was indisputable. Powerful stuff for a girl from the bush who had grown up in a male-dominated society. This told me that teaching was a serious profession and educating women was not some passing fancy.

The third gift I received from IGGS was learning to live as part of a community. Being able to negotiate your own space and needs while respecting others’ in such close quarters was a skill that has stood me in good stead in many situations.

So here I am fifty years after first walking into the school as a boarder, having my name placed on the OGA Honour Board. A bit scary really! Those years have certainly flown past!

I am proud of having been educated at IGGS, but I am even more proud of having known the wonderful women who were responsible for that education. My IGGS teachers also maintained an ongoing and committed dedication to the welfare of the school and to its old girls. All I can wish for IGGS is that the tradition of superb teaching and pastoral care, particularly in the secondary school, is maintained.

Bette Howard (Edwards)
IGGSOGA Community Honour Board
Recipient

Bette Edwards was born in Ipswich – the youngest in the family. Her parents were supporters of the Ipswich community and gave their time, and often their home, to support local organisations and causes. Bette was always aware of the important role volunteers play in our society and tried to follow her parents' example.

Right from her childhood, she believes she has the good fortune to lead a very busy, varied and exciting life and the love of music, speech, drama, art, study and sport certainly left her little time for getting up to mischief.

She represented Ipswich as a high springboard diver and swimmer, training in the Bremer River and her ability with a racquet led her to train at Milton alongside Roy Emerson, with whom she had also danced at the first Grammar dance she attended. Bette's early married life was spent in Charters Towers where two of her children – Jessica and Brent were born. Her other two – Peter and Debra – were born in Ipswich and 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren have been added to the family.

In 1947 Bette entered the IGGS gates where her life as a Grammar Girl was 'brilliant' and she loved all her academic subjects, especially science in the little old science hut. Mr Wearne began her interest in science, but the following year the new science teacher, Miss Deidre Brown, really inspired her and this led to her being a member of the science staff at Ipswich State High from 1983 to 2003.

Also at IGGS she enjoyed art classes with Melville Heysen, geography and history with Miss Carmody and French with Miss Marsden. Her Headmistresses were Miss Armitage and Miss Carter. After Junior in 1948 she won a teaching scholarship which she was unable to accept owing to her father's ill health which forced him to give up work. At 16 she opted to get a job to supplement the household expenses and began work at the Ipswich Telephone Exchange. In later years Bette was able to return to study and in 1993 gained her Bachelor of Arts degree.

Ten years ago Ipswich North Rotary awarded her the Paul Harris Fellowship, honoring her community work. She has judged their Youth Speaks Contest for over 20 years and also judges the Lions Youth of the Year Competition. Bette has adjudicated for Rostrum and also the Queensland CWA finals. Since the Ipswich Mayor's Speech Contest for Year 11 students began about 10 years ago, she has been on the organising-Committee and contacts all of the 18 Ipswich secondary schools, presents educationals and takes a personal role in helping all of those wonderful students become better speakers and leaders.

In January 1982, Bette joined Toastmasters, became an Area Governor and has judged the District 69 finals across Queensland and New South Wales. For all of her work with Toastmasters, she holds the title of Distinguished Toastmaster, awarded for her speaking, educating and for all the district offices that she has held. Over the years Bette has started and chartered six Toastmaster clubs, the latest being for government employees in the Icon Building in Ipswich.

As a JP (Qualified) Bette has volunteered at the Ipswich Court House on a weekly basis. For many years she was the honorary JP for Ipswich Hospice until a retired JP volunteered her time.



Bette is a life member of the Silkstone Eisteddfod, became a member of the Ipswich Orpheus Chorale in 1974, was a member of the Junior Cambrians, the Ipswich Intermediate Choir, Silkstone Methodist Choir, the Silkstone Booval Choral Union, as well as the Silkstone State School Choir when a student there.

Bette was humbled and proud of the nomination for her to go on the Honour Board and unbelievably, the letter from the Old Girls informing her of this was written on 2 January – her 85th birthday.

In her response Bette spoke of the joy that serving her community had brought to her life.



Bette Howard with Co-Presidents Helen Pullar and Leab Bell and Senior of 2018, Alexandra Bartetsko who is just one of the many students Bette has mentored and encouraged.

What's happening in the archives?

Despite an increase in the number of hours devoted to the archives this term, progress still seems slow – but, there is nevertheless progress.

Co-Honorary Archivist Joan Meecham has continued the almost overwhelming task of re-organisation of the collection's catalogue, while I have concentrated on making some of the major resources – Speech Night Reports, Magazines and photos in particular – more user-friendly.

To advance the latter and raise awareness of the value of the collection, this term I started a 'Student Friends of the Archives' group. Working with 11 students, I selected tasks which, I hope, are both of interest to the girls and of value to the Archives. Many of these involve creating digital versions of our most valued items: this not only preserves the originals but increases the research function enormously.

Past teachers – Barbara Cobbold, Jan Thompson and Anne Mullins (also an Old Girl) – have begun work on cataloguing our impressive collection of past prize books, and Alex Bartetzko is typing up their Accession Sheets. Anna Giles and Grace Eddington are adding to, and typing up, valuable information from IGGSPRESS, researched by these ladies, together with Rosalind Craig-Smith.

The last batch of pavers has been laid in the Old Girls' Courtyard and Chloe Moxly is recording all the names to make it much easier for Old Girls to find their signature brick.

Ashley Spry (who wants to study architecture) is revelling in transcribing Old Girl, past staff member and Trustee Angela Geertsma's study of the architecture of the original buildings.

Caitlin Braga, Maddie Henness and Laura Cameron are assisting with the enormous task of creating detailed electronic copies of the photo collection, while Katie Clydsdale, Elliza Douglas and Chelsea Rohde are commencing the digitalisation of our old magazines and speech night reports.

These tasks will be made much easier next term by the acquisition of a special scanner, recommended for the purpose by the Queensland State Archives. This gives our collection additional security and protection. The girls are full of enthusiasm and I am thoroughly enjoying contact with our current students.

Another major undertaking started by Ros Craig-Smith is the organisation of our newspaper cuttings. If you have any of these which you would like to donate, now is the time.

Helen Pullar Co-Honorary Archivist



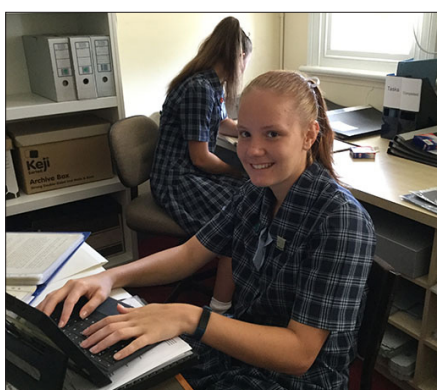
Alexandra Bartetzko



Anna Giles and Grace Eddington



Chloe Moxly



Ashley Spry



Chelsea Rohde, Elliza Douglas and Katie Clydsdale



Caitlin Braga



Ian Pullar completing the path through the OGA Courtyard



Madison Henness and Laura Cameron

A life-long friendship

It is 70 years since Joan Christie and Val Kerr left IGGS, but their enduring friendship and interest in their old school remains strong and steadfast.

In 1957 two young girls – Joan Gillespie and Valma Douglass – were enrolled as boarders, both coming



Val Kerr and Joan Christie

from Queensland country towns: Joan from Glamorganvale in the Lockyer Valley where her father was a teacher, and Val from a property at Yarraman in the South Burnett Region.

Joan now lives in NSW, but while she was on a visit to Val's home at Aspley, Leah and I were able to enjoy an afternoon of reminiscing.

We are always fascinated to hear the stories Old Girls such as they can relate, and they are equally interested in what is happening at IGGS today.

Both of these ladies loved their boarding years, citing the companionship of other girls as a significant reason. They were both sporty girls: Joan excelling in tennis (a game she continued to play for many years), while Val was part of the Senior Athletics squad. School dances were a highlight with the old time favourites: Gypsy Tap, Pride of Erin and the like. They remembered being taken from the Assembly Hall (today's Social Staff Room) to the Dining Room for supper with supervising teachers lining the drive, "Goodness knows why? We were all so innocent," they said.



1947 Senior Athletics Team

Back Row: Lovice Glazebrook, Margaret Hislop, M (Betty) Brown, Shirley Jones, Glenys Bruckner, Cheri Spenceley, Lorna Miller, Jean Bailey, Joyce Oakhill

2nd Row: Eunice Threlfell, Cecily Barnett, Dorothy Munt, Joyce Francis, Shirley Mehville, Joyce Long, Beryl Savage, Marlene Stewart

Front Row: Margaret Ross, Beth Woods, Margaret Cairns, Alexa (Nancy) Kleinschmidt, Val Douglass, Olive Carroll

We asked if any boarders ever went out of bounds and they named one girl they thought might have slipped out occasionally to see a boy, agreeing "She was much more sophisticated than us."

Joan remembered a planned midnight feast where they all crept down to the drying yards near the laundry at the back of the School. Someone thought she saw A MAN. They were back in their dorms in minutes.

They were always on the alert for "peeping toms" though, as Val said, "They were probably just cutting through the grounds, but one night one of the girls thought she would be very daring and put a leg up to the dorm window."

There were two outings a week: one to the corner store on Saturday to spend 6d (5 cents) on tuck, and off to Church in white frocks on Sundays. Food, they said, wasn't too bad. And they had fond memories of home made ice cream on Sundays. The matron had a dog – Paddy – and when they were served raspberry jam they called it 'Paddy's fleas'.

Meals were formal with a teacher sitting at the end of each table trying to instil manners. You did not eat a slice of bread, but cut it into dainty bite size pieces; oranges had their tops cut off and the fruit scooped

out with a spoon.



Joan and Val at Glamorganvale

When Miss Marsden was the table Mistress the girls had to converse in French, and Joan admits they were extremely silent meals for her.

Miss Carmody, our longest serving teacher of 43 years, and a legend in her lifetime at the School, admonished, "Girls who don't drink tea are a social nuisance."

Despite sport, and other recreational activities, Joan says they were there to work, remembering her father's admonition – Head down! Interestingly, however, it was he who felt that after two years Joan's education was sufficient and with a good Junior pass behind her it was time to join the work force. This she did, moving to Brisbane at the young age of 15 to work in the Bank of New South Wales (Westpac). Val's family, on the other hand, would have been happy for her to stay on at School but the 'big city lights' beckoned and, a few months later, she followed Joan to Brisbane. She recalls telling her mother that she didn't care where she worked as long as it was in Queen Street! She quickly found work in the National Bank.

Both ladies were fascinated to hear of the changes in modern boarding at IGGS. "Life was much simpler in our day," they concluded.

Joan and Val's memories, while familiar to their generation, are a vital part of the fabric of our School.

There must be many others who have stories to share and I would love to hear from you.

Helen Pullar Editor

OGA

23 April	General Meeting	7.00pm	Meeting Room IGGS
10 May	Theatre Night	7.15pm	Ipswich Little Theatre
9 June	Annual Luncheon	12.30pm	Phoenix Room IGGS
23 July	General Meeting	7.00pm	Meeting Room IGGS
4 August	Annual Dinner	6.30pm	Phoenix Room IGGS
15 October	General Meeting	7.00pm	Meeting Room IGGS
6 November	Melbourne Cup Luncheon	10.30am	Phoenix Room IGGS

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE of TIMING for the 2018 ANNUAL DINNER

Brisbane

12 May	Meeting & Social Gathering	2.00pm	Toowong Library
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Gold Coast

12 May	General Meeting	11.00am	32 Mallowa Drive, Palm Beach
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“Old Girl” Celebrant Discount

Long serving IGGS Staff member, Natalie Twine, is an experienced Marriage Celebrant willing to extend a generous \$100 discount to all IGGS brides booking her for a wedding ceremony. This offer extends to mothers of the brides or grooms who are Old Girls and is redeemable upon verification by the OGA.

Visit Natalie's website at www.idocelebrancy.com

Annual Luncheon**9 June Phoenix Room IGGS****50 Year Reunion**

A reunion of the 1964 to 1968 girls' cohort is to be held at the annual lunch. We look forward to seeing you there. Please try to come along or at the very least send us a recent photo. **Meg Clements and Laurie Slaughter (Chandler)** have made contact with many of the members via phone, email or Facebook. We have published two lists of 'missing' girls on the IGGSOGA Facebook site – boarders (4 March) and daygirls (22 February). For further information or to provide contact details, please call or email Meg (0415 439 380; margaret@recolour.net) or Laurie (0417 773 942; laurie9@ozemail.com.au).

70 Year Reunion

A reunion of the girls who commenced in Sub-Junior in 1948 is also planned and arrangements are in the hands of **Naomi Manders (McIlvenie) and Jenny Bogle (Taylor)**. Please contact Naomi on 07 3280 0199 or Jenny on 07 4615 4017.

Both reunion groups (and any other guests) will have the option of a Virtual Tour in the KCC Auditorium at 11.00am.

We hope that some reunions are being planned for our Annual Dinner.

Annie Greer – Senior 2001

Walter Harry Herbert, son of Matthew and Annie (Greer), was born in Adelaide on Thursday 8 March 2018, brother to Scarlett Victoria, and a second grandchild for Mary Killeen, also an Old Girl.

Vale Betty Tomkins

Members were saddened to learn of the death of Betty Tomkins (Mooney). Bet attended IGGS as a boarder from 1946 to 1949 and described those years as amongst the happiest of her life. She joined the OGA in 1950 and supported her School and the OGA till recent ill health prevented her involvement.

In acknowledgement of this life-long support, Bet's name was placed on the OGA Honour Board in 2014.

A fine crafter, Bet contributed extensively to fêtes and the Brisbane Branch Bring and Buy stall and in more recent years her beautiful hand-made quilts were raffled to raise funds for the OGA. Bet will be missed by family and friends and we offer our condolences, in particular, to her daughter Elizabeth who is also an Old Girl.