



OGAPRESS

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



This year we have held two very happy functions at both of which there have been reunions. At the Annual Lunch in June a 70 year reunion was organised by Naomi Manders (McIlvenie) and Jenny Bogle (Taylor) while Laurie Slaughter (Chandler) and Meg Clements managed

to gather a large group for their 50th reunion. Both reunions were well attended and the general attendance was a record so numbers were very high.

By contrast the 40 year reunion at the Dinner, organised by Cheryl Thompson, was quite small, as was the general attendance. As this has been the growing trend – especially since the introduction of the Long Lunch – the Committee has decided to hold only the Luncheon in 2019.



It was wonderful to see how popular the Long Lunch was again this year – and while the reunions at these are not necessarily formalised, it has become a great opportunity for Old Girls of all levels to come together. We applaud the young Old Girls and their friends who have taken on this highly successful function.

Our Melbourne Cup Luncheon is almost upon us and we anticipate it will again be successful – it is a fabulous day – and we are pleased that our Theatre night is already sold out.

A number of you responded to our request for assistance with our fundraising for the refurbishment of our lovely original building for which we thank you. We hope restoration will begin in 2019.

Already the end-of-school year events are starting – Where did those twelve months go? – and we are excited at the prospect of holding a 100th birthday party for Miss Dorothy Marsden to kick off 2019 and hope to see many of you there.

Leah and Helen



70th Reunion



50th Reunion



40th Reunion

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

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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

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Treasurer

Dell Huey (Brown)

Gold Coast Branch President

Denise Armstrong (Whitehead)

Secretary

Lurline Campbell (Bellingham)

Treasurer

Ruth Thompson (Penglis)

Editorial

Edition 30 — how the years fly. It doesn't seem all that long since the final Edition of IGGSPRESS — but that is over 10 years ago!

As I work away in the Archives (wearing another hat), I am increasingly aware of the value of the recorded material in both of these publications.

They are a real source of information; a great medium for reminiscing as seen at Reunions and — dare I say it — a source of amusement at times for our current students. For example, finding a picture of a very young Dr Britton in very short shorts from the years when he was on staff can cause some hilarious responses!

It is amazing that, despite the fact that we do much the same things from year to year, there is still, it seems, enjoyment for readers in hearing about our activities, Branch news and Reunions.

I am grateful to those who so readily supply information and photos for publication.

I would, of course, like more articles about our younger members but their means of communication far exceed the old-style paper editions (even if they get them online).

Still, OGAPRESS hasn't yet gone the way of 'Cosmopolitan' and its like.

So, happy "30th Edition" birthday!

Helen Pullar
Editor

Melbourne Cup LUNCHEON

**NOT JUST A
FUNCTION FOR
OLD GIRLS**

Tuesday, 6 November 2018
10.30am - Phoenix Room, IGGS
Tickets: \$50

Everyone is welcome.

- 2 Course Lunch
- Bar Service Available
(Complimentary Drink on Arrival)
- Raffles, Sweeps and Prizes
- Fashions on the Field
- Fashion Parade (Saba's on Grange)
- 4 Screens of Live Racing –
Main Race at 2pm

Tickets can be purchased by contacting
ogaiggs@gmail.com or online
<https://iggs.qld.edu.au/our-school/events/>

RSVP: 31 October 2018



A Very Special Event

In January next year a very much loved former IGGS Staff and Boarding Mistress, Miss Dorothy Marsden, will be celebrating her 100th birthday.

On and around that day we know that there will be many celebrations with family, friends, neighbours and Old Girls.

However, as IGGS was such a major part of Dorothy's life, a special event is being planned for Sunday 17 February. This will be hosted by the Ipswich OGA members supported by the current IGGS Administration.

The celebration will take the form of a High Tea in the Phoenix Room starting at 2.30pm.

Dorothy Marsden started teaching at IGGS in 1944 and retired, after 39 years, in 1982, having been Deputy Head Mistress from 1965 to 1980.

Her special area of teaching was French and she was widely recognised for the excellence of her teaching. Many of her past pupils will attest to the fact that she raised such an awareness of France, its history and geography as well as its culture and language, that they felt quite at home in Paris when they themselves were able to visit that beautiful city.

Miss Marsden was a devoted Residential Mistress and gave great support to the Boarders. She has been a faithful attendee at Brisbane Branch meetings and OGA and School functions.

We are aware that a number of people will want to be part of these celebrations. Preference will be given to past students, boarders and teaching colleagues whose time at IGGS was contemporary with Dorothy's.

At this stage we invite you (and others whom you may know would be interested) to submit an expression of interest together with some details of your involvement with Miss Marsden to iggsoga@gmail.com

or phone: Leah 3282 1163/0407 596 160

Helen 3281 4437/0400 801 443



Miss Dorothy Marsden 1960

You will then be sent an invitation with further details (including cost), providing our numbers aren't already fully subscribed. So please spread the word and act as quickly as possible to secure an invitation.

This is a great opportunity to share a special milestone with a wonderful lady.
IGGS OGA Committee

Around the Branches

Brisbane Branch

Passing of loyal members.

We were saddened this year by the deaths of two very long-serving members – Betty Tomkins who died on 18 February 2018 and Del Hardke who died on 27 April 2018. A brief summary of Bet's contribution to IGGS was presented in the April 2018 OGAPRESS.

Del was a pupil at IGGS from 1950 to 1952 and subsequently became a teacher. She was a member of the Brisbane Branch of the OGA for many years and served as Secretary for ten years until 2017. In her later years she did not enjoy good health but always remained interested in and supported the Branch. She would always ring me after meetings to find out what had happened and sent in her subscriptions and donations faithfully.

We honour the contributions both Bet and Del made to the success of the Branch.

In 2018 the Brisbane Branch has focused on engaging with current and immediate-past students of IGGS. At our May meeting, members were charmed by the 2017 IGGS Head Girls, Ella Pearson and Sam Walsh, who came along and engaged in a question and answer session about the transition from school to work or study. Sam and Ella presented a most positive outlook on their experiences and there was plenty of input from Brisbane Branch members about their own experiences.

The Branch also took the initiative in August this year of sponsoring 2017 seniors to attend the OGA Annual Dinner. We were very pleased to be able to support six of these most impressive young ladies to attend with us. It was a very lively and fascinating evening of discussion with our younger guests.



Five of the 2017 IGGS Seniors who attended the OGA Dinner as guests of the Brisbane Branch: Maddi Arnold; Jessica Smith; Emily Jones; Ella Pearson; Tiabla Moore (missing Sam Walsh)

Feast beneath the Figs

A table of Brisbane Branch members had a fabulous afternoon at the 2018 Long Lunch. It was a splendidly organised occasion that allowed the culinary skills of members to be displayed – a special mention here of Anne Dickson whose terrine and scotch eggs are second to none.



The happy group of Brisbane ladies who attended the Feast beneath the Figs. From left: Jan Myerscough, Anne Dickson, Glenda Burke, Jean Fornasier, Joan Meecham, Lorraine Tooth, Erica Clarke, Mary Lambert and Jenny Brownlie-Smith.

International Women's Day

Continuing our theme of functions that support and encourage younger IGGS Old Girls, the Brisbane Branch will be hosting an International Women's Day breakfast on Friday 8 March 2019 at the "Hope on Boundary" cafe in West End. This is definitely one for the early risers and we hope will allow IGGS Women – whether students, working women or retired – to attend. We are proud to be supporting the "Hope on Boundary" cafe which is run by Micah Projects (a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing services and opportunities in the community to create justice and respond to injustice). Kate Fanton, the team leader of the "Young Mothers for Young Women" activity of Micah Projects will be our guest speaker. For further details of this activity please contact Joan Meecham on meechamjoan@gmail.com or 0437 560 436.

Please Note:

*There **will not** be an Annual Dinner OGA Dinner in 2019.*

The Annual Lunch will be held on Saturday, 9 June.

ALL REUNION GROUPS WELCOME

Canberra Branch



Rosanne Walker, Audra Briggs (Howe), Jill Iro (North), Glenys Fredericksen (Edmondson), Jan Hyde (Truscott), Lauren Booth, Dr Peter Britton, Kirstyn Millar, Coral Fleming (McKean), Del Moyle (Bromley), Faye Noonan (Edmondson), Lindell Emerton (Frost)

In August, eleven members of the Canberra Branch enjoyed morning tea with Dr Britton. Mrs Madonna Britton was also able to join us for a short time. It was an opportunity for sharing news and some lively discussion. We were delighted to welcome Kirstyn Millar to her first meeting and Lauren Booth who has recently returned from her studies overseas.

Dr Britton's visits to Canberra are much appreciated. Living away from Ipswich, we value his support and efforts to keep us connected to the School. Over the years many former students have come to study or work in Canberra, and have been members of the branch for varying periods. As most of us are students from earlier decades, we are constantly amazed by the opportunities now offered to the students at IGGS. We are also impressed by the young women graduating from the School.

In memory of June North (Grimley)



June (Back left) with friends ready for Church

June North, a long-time member of the OGA Branch in Canberra, sadly passed away last year at the age of 93 years. Even in her latter years, when June was living in an aged care home, she would still come to meetings when she was well enough. Sometimes a group of Old Girls would visit June for morning tea which she enjoyed very much. The last visit was only a few months before her death. She leaves us with very fond memories of a gracious lady, and stories of earlier times at IGGS.

A full life, well lived

June North (Grimley) was born in Blackstone Road, Ipswich on 15 November 1923. She attended IGGS as both a day girl and boarder. Her name is recorded on the IGGS Wall of History: "June Grimley 1938-1939". After leaving school, June moved to Brisbane where she furthered her education at a Secretarial Business College which equipped her to work in both the private and public sectors.

In 1948, she married Alan North from an early Ipswich family. They had four children: Jill, Pamela, Bruce and Philip. June was very involved with the Women's Guild of the Presbyterian Church and its social activities. She became a Director of a Kindergarten at Chermshire before moving to Canberra in 1972.

In Canberra, June worked in schools as a School Secretary and Teacher Assistant, often assisting in the libraries. She became a lover of books and enjoyed writing short stories and poems. In 2004 she published a small book 'Help Yourself Recover from a Stroke', after recovering from a stroke herself. June's creativity extended to the arts, giving her a passion for sewing, tapestry, silk painting, spinning and weaving. Her life came to a close on 27 April 2017.

A message from Brigid Horneman-Wren

I have commenced an exchange semester at Trinity College Dublin. The exchange is for six months, and I am completing my Arts degree over here. I will study politics, history and Irish studies, and then will be in Canberra for at least one more year to finish my Law degree!

I worked at a law firm in Brisbane over the winter holidays and then, on my way to Dublin, travelled for four weeks through Switzerland, Germany, Estonia and Finland where I stayed for a few days with Dr Nick Cook.

My lovely IGGS 125 scarf is serving me well in my travels.



Brigid, a regular attendee at Canberra Branch Meetings while studying at ANU sent this photo from Helsinki

Gold Coast Branch

At the Gold Coast Branch's Morning Tea held at Denise Armstrong's home on Tuesday 25 September, members had a morning of catching up and great conversation over a range of topics.



*Back Row: Desley Sands, Jeanne Kuenstner, Joan Turner
Front Row: Lurline Campbell, Leone Orth, Jan Nind, Susan Kelckhoven,
Kerry Boulter, Wendy Gardiner, Denise Armstrong*

The Branch is hoping for the usual good turnout for its end of year Christmas Party Fundraiser Lunch (\$25) on Saturday 3 November at 11.30am. This will be held at the home of Secretary Lurline Campbell at 41 Rix Drive, Upper Coomera.

On Saturday, 9th February 2019 at 11.00am their General and Annual General Meeting is to be held at Denise's home at Unit 93, Spinnaker, Cnr Main Beach Parade and Woodroffe Street, Main Beach.

Darling Downs Branch



*Darling Downs President Heather Jorgensen
handing a cheque from the Branch to OGA
Co-President, Leah.*

Leah and Helen attended the AGM of the Darling Downs Branch held at Picnic Point Restaurant. It was a very pleasant gathering with members talking enthusiastically of their earlier successful fund raiser to see "The Ladies Foursome" at Toowoomba Repertory Theatre.

A cheque was handed over to be put towards the OGA fundraising for the refurbishment of the original building.

The Branch will hold its Christmas get together on Sunday 9 December at 10.00am at the Danish Flower Art Complex, Highfields.

Ms Roslyn Shirley Scotney OAM



The Darling Downs members were particularly delighted that one of their stalwarts – and previous long-term President – Ros Scotney had been honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for service to local government, and to the communities of Toowoomba and Pittsworth.

Ros's service includes:

Toowoomba Regional Council: Councillor, 2008-2016. Former Portfolio, Facilities, Library and Cultural Services.

Pittsworth Shire Council (merged to become Toowoomba Regional Council): Mayor, 1998-2008. Councillor, 1993-2008.

Patron, **Pittsworth Art Gallery**, current.

Vice-President, Pittsworth Branch, **Leukaemia Foundation**, since 1994.

Chair, **Beauaraba Living Foundation Committee**, Beauaraba Living (aged care facility), since 2011.

Chair, **DownsStream Tourist Railway and Museum**, since 2005.

Chair, **Gardens of the Downs**, since 2016.

Member, **Rotary Club of Pittsworth**, since 2005 and Paul Harris Fellow, 2013.

Committee Member, **Pittsworth Sprints**, since 1997.

Former Chair, **Queensland Day Committee**, Pittsworth.

Chair, **Anzac Day Committee**, Pittsworth, current.

Patron and Founder, **Pittsworth Men's Shed**, 2013.

Ros has been given a number of Life Memberships and was the recipient of the Professor Ian Frazer Humanitarian Award, Lions Medical Research Foundation 2016.



What an amazing contribution to her community and a well-deserved honour.

Ros attended IGGS as a boarder, completing Senior in 1966. Her sister, Lyndell (Madden), mother Shirley and cousin Brenda (Parry) all attended IGGS and have all been loyal members of the Darling Downs Branch of the OGA.

Congratulation, Ros.

What's been happening in the archives?

As I work with our records, I vacillate between bemoaning the fact that documentation is not more complete and amazement that we have as much as we do.

Our Prize Books Collection

Over the years many early prize books have been donated back to the School by families of recipients and others. Most of them are beautifully bound, gold embossed and marbled – some with beautiful illustrations and colour plates.

As previously mentioned throughout much of the year, former staff members – Mrs Jan Thompson, Mrs Anne Mullins (also an Old Girl) and Mrs Barbara Cobbold – have undertaken the initial cataloguing of these books of which there are almost two hundred.

Anne and Jan's work with UQ Alumni Rare Books has made them ideally suited to the task they have undertaken with our own prize books and they have been good teachers so that Barbara has learned on the job.

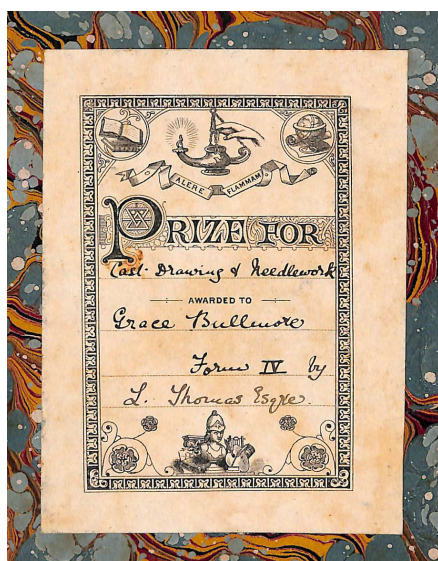
Their work has turned up some fascinating things.

Their first observation is that some of our early Heads had almost indecipherable handwriting: that many of the girls were called by nicknames even in Speech Night prizes; that there was no consistency between age and grade as students were placed in classes in accordance with their ability, and many prizes are for subjects quite unfamiliar to us.

All these factors lead to an amount of research in our original handwritten and semi-decipherable rolls; the books of handwritten tests and the Headmistress' reports (though many early ones are unfortunately missing).

Almost without exception – though not necessarily quickly – we have been able to track down all the necessary information to fill in the missing or unreadable details so that we feel we are becoming quite good friends with some students from decades past.

Until very recently we had not identified any prize from 1892. In the "Headmistress Report for the Year 1892" Miss Hunt states that: *Mr. Thomas gave a special prize for Drawing and Needlework in the Upper Forms, which has been won by G. Bullmore.*



We were able, despite the lack of date, to identify which prize had been given by the above.

We know a lot about Grace Bullmore and could readily identify with her, but that's a story for another time.

However, our records show that she attended IGGS for two years only – 1892 and 1893. There is no such prize for Grace recorded in 1893, so it seems absolutely justifiable to assume that the year for this prize would have been 1892.

Most local Ipswich residents know the story of Lewis Thomas, the coal baron, who in 1890, built 'Brynhfryd' at Blackstone. It was an elaborate home, three stories high and containing 49 rooms including a basement and a tower. It was built on top of a rich coal seam, and while Thomas was alive, he refused to mine the coal as it would mean having to demolish his home. The story of 'Brynhfryd' and its subsequent demise is well documented.

Lewis Thomas, a very generous benefactor, was one of our original Trustees and his daughter, Mary, a First Day pupil. [It is irrelevant but interesting to note that his wife did not follow him from Wales till 1877: 18 years after their marriage and Mary (born in Ipswich) was, not surprisingly, an only child. She was to marry Thomas Bridson Cribb, another Trustee.] So, we knew a deal about the Thomas family.

So, to the book. Unlike most others given as prizes, it was not a recent publication, having been published in 1871. Entitled "The Art of Sketching from Nature" it is quite beautiful with splendid watercolour plates.



The frontispiece sketch above is of particular interest. In the Foreword, the author thanks Lewis Thomas for the sketch by his late brother and towards the back of the book we found another acknowledgment: *I am indebted to Lewis Thomas, Esq, for the use of this sketch*

So, what do we surmise? Did Lewis Thomas acquire the book as a gift from the grateful author, did he purchase it on a return trip to Wales to visit his wife; did his wife bring it with her when she finally joined him? We will never know. But, obviously a generous decision was made to donate it as a prize on our very first Speech Day – and we have it in our Archives.

How good is that?

The Fanny Hunt Collection

Some years ago, 2002 to be precise, I had the good fortune to meet with Miss Hunt's great-niece Nancy Gibb. Nancy is descended from Fanny Hunt's younger sister, Lily, who is also a First Day Pupil (having come from Sydney with her sisters Fanny and Maggie – the first matron.) At that time we exchanged information which was acknowledged in an online article which Nancy subsequently wrote. (The Circumferaneous Gibbs).

Recently, Nancy contacted Dr Britton to ask if the School



would like things she had which belonged to her great-aunt.

I made contact again and Nancy (who is now quite elderly and lives in New Zealand) volunteered to send them.



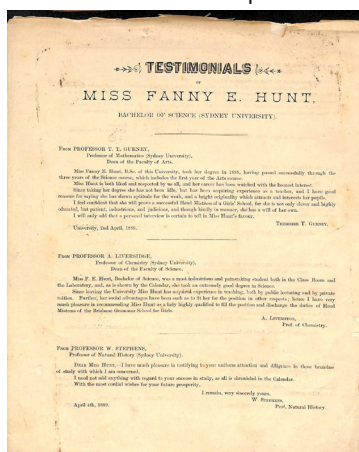
I don't think there are words to describe my feelings when the parcel arrived.

The first article to emerge was Miss Hunt's academic hood – the

one she is wearing in the iconic photo we all know so well.

It is in amazing condition and the satin is a vibrant yellow. It must be 130 years old.

Among other things there was a volume of Thackeray's novel "Pendennis", signed by Miss Hunt in 1900 and a music book with her name embossed on the front. We know she was very musical and that she frequently played for the girls. How lovely to think that she may have played from these dance scores on the piano in the old Assembly Hall. There



was a printed testimonial (the equivalent of today's CV) which gives us an idea of what Fanny did prior to October 1891. Four pages in length and contains both academic and character references. eg

From Professor TT Gurney, Professor of Mathematics, University of Sydney:

"Miss Hunt is both liked and respected by us all and her career has been watched with interest."

From Professor A Liversidge, Professor of Chemistry, University of Sydney:

"Since leaving the University Miss Hunt has acquired experience in teaching, both by public lecturing and by private teaching."

From Helen P Phillips, Principal of the Clergy Daughter's School, Waverley.

I have pleasure in stating that Miss Hunt (B.Sc) has been giving Botany lessons in this school since last October, 1888. Her class has much enjoyed the lessons, and I consider her to be very thorough in her teaching. I feel sure she will have success in teaching pupils.

But, the most wonderful thing was a testimonial presented to her by Old Girls once they knew of her resignation.

Transcript:

Dear Miss Hunt,

We the "Old Girls" of the Ipswich Girls Grammar School learn with deep regret that through ill health you are leaving us.
We wish we could adequately express how very highly we have always esteemed you and how great is our affection for you.

Dear Miss Hunt

We the "Old Girls" of the Ipswich Girls Grammar School learn with deep regret that through ill health you are leaving us.

We wish that we could adequately express how very highly we have always esteemed you and how great is our affection for you.

While we were your pupils we always felt that the welfare of each one of us was your constant care and when we left "the Old Girls Association" was formed at your suggestion with the object of always keeping us in touch with the School and with each other. As our President you have spared yourself no trouble to attain that object and make the Association a success.

We hope that the blessing of health may soon be restored to you and we ask you to accept this small token of our love and esteem and the little gift which accompanies it with the assurance that wherever you may be the affection and good wishes of all your old pupils will always be with you.

We are

Dear Miss Hunt

Yours affectionately,

There followed 52 signatures, eighteen of them by First Day Pupils (Left) who attended the farewell function:

Attendees

Eleanor Greenham

Edith Harvard

Estelle Cribb

Lily Hunt

Gertrude Deacon

Grace Armstrong

Edith Bullmore

Florence Haigh

Marie Field

Edith Stafford

Gertrude Bullmore

Vera Cribb

Jessie Tatham

Marie McGill

Susie McLeod

Mathilda Frank

Irene Cameron

Charlotte McGregor

Eleanor C Greenham

Edith Harvard

Estelle M.B. Cribb

Lily Hunt

G. Gertrude Deacon

Grace W. Armstrong

How good to have all these signatures of distinguished Old Girls.

At the time the OGA was formed in 1897, some of the First Day Pupils were still at the School, and when Miss Hunt resigned in 1901, the 108th pupil had just completed her schooling. This makes us realise how small the School and the OGA were at this time.

Helen Pullar

Honorary Archivist

Valé to Old Girls

We have been greatly saddened by the loss of some valued Old Girls in the past months.

Wendy Walker attended IGGS in 1949 and 1950. She was a proud IGGS girl all her life and a great supporter of the Old Girls faithfully attending functions until, in recent years, her health made this difficult at times. Wendy was one of those lovely people who just brought joy to the world.

After leaving School, Wendy worked for a short time at 4IP (the local Ipswich radio station), then travelled overseas before returning to her native Ipswich to spend the rest of her working life in the Commonwealth Bank.

A faithful attendee of the Central Methodist Church, Wendy conducted their choir for a number of years.

Wendy was devoted to her family and followed the IGGS path taken by her three nieces: Louise, Sue and Fiona with pride. Her family, friends and the OGA will miss her greatly.

Elizabeth (Libby) Schick attended IGGS from 1964 to 1968. The daughter of a much-loved music teacher Margaret Evans, Libby well and truly made her mark while at School. Following her graduation from the University of Queensland, Libby joined the Department of Trade and Industry in Canberra. Following its amalgamation with the Department of Foreign Affairs she held a wide range of positions in both Canberra and overseas till her retirement in 2013.

These included Ambassador to Santiago de Chile (2001 – 2005) and Consul General in Chicago USA (2008 – 2011). Libby was inducted into the IGGS Hall of Fame at Speech Night 2013.

On retirement, Libby moved to the Sunshine Coast with her husband Barry, possibly because of all the happy family holidays she had enjoyed there and they both involved themselves with local organisations. However, Libby developed cancer to which she eventually succumbed leaving behind a family and a community (which included IGGS Old Girls) mourning her loss.

Janice Jones (McIvor)

The girls who started at IGGS in 1955 were very sorry to learn this week of the death of Jan Jones who has suffered very poor health for a number of years. When her health had permitted Jan had joined her classmates at reunions and functions. Jan was always kept in touch with School activities by her older sister Margaret Beuttel – a very faithful attendee of the Brisbane Branch.

The Old Girls extend their sympathies to the families and friends of these three ladies.

Address details

Are you out there?

Our Treasurer, Melissa Hicks, has been spending a great deal of time on our mailing labels. If you receive snail mail and your **title, name or address** is incorrect could you please email us at iggsoga@gmail.com.

A number of Old Girls still receive mail to their parents' address and as we know many of you now yourselves have children about to leave home, perhaps the time has come to give us your own place of residence.

If you would be happy to receive notification of the publication on line please give us your email address.

If you are reading this and would be prepared to send confirmation that your address is correct we would be more than grateful as we are trying to remove 'dead' mail from the very large mail out.

If you receive OGAPRESS on line, confirmation details would still be appreciated.

Important dates to remember

Monday 11 February OGA Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm

Sunday 17 February 100th Birthday Party for Miss Dorothy Marsden at 2.30pm

Saturday 3 March Commemoration Day at 2.00pm