



## OGAPRESS

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

At our AGM at the beginning of last year, we were so full of hope for a really good 2020. Some of our younger members, in particular, Melissa Blacksell (Hicks) and Claire Hindle (Trevorrow), were enthusiastically planning a Cocktail and Canapés fundraiser which was well in hand: Eirys Jones had assumed responsibility for reunion organisation and had received a record number of enquiries for reunions at our Annual Luncheon and we were considering other proposed fundraising ventures. As our funds were very depleted after donating as much as possible to the main building refurbishment, we were anxious to boost our income. However, our only function in 2020, as it turned out, was Commemoration Day.

Just a week after this, the School's Open Day was cancelled – and lockdown procedures began to be implemented. From then on, we were not able to meet on School premises or in our homes and so Management Committee meetings were put on hold with phone calls being our only means of keeping in touch and checking on each other. However, with the easing of restrictions, we were able to get together for Commemoration Day 2021 on 6 March and what a joy that was – even though we had to meet in the Assembly Hall (socially distancing), rather than the Old Girls Commemorative Performing Arts Centre. We were delighted to welcome back last year's top five Scholars. The Helen White Memorial Prize, gift of the Brisbane Branch was presented to the 2020 Dux,



*Back: Jan Myerscough, Berilyn Morrison*

*Front: Mary Elms and Bette Howard*



Lily Anderson received the Fanny Hunt Memorial Prize for Academic Excellence, Gift of the OGA. As always it was good to hear of the plans these amazing girls have for their futures and we wish them and the rest of their cohort every success.



*Deeni, Charlotte-Lily, Monique, Ashleigh and Sophie*



In keeping with a more recent tradition, the audience also heard from this year's School leaders of their hopes and aspirations for 2021 — their year of the Phoenix.

Right: Head Boarders, Natalie Stevenson and Michelle Wu with Head Girls Amandi Jayawardina and Quinn Venz



A highlight of the afternoon was an address by Dean of Studies Mrs Ruth Lang (right) who spoke of the many changes which have occurred over the years to the Senior exit procedures and explained (in layman's terms) the current ATAR system. It was both informative and entertaining and certainly a revelation for some older Old Girls.

As always musical entertainment was provided by current girls — this year the Sorella Choir conducted by Miss Zoe Penman.

A special feature, however, was provided by President of the Gold Coast Branch and Senior of 1961, Glenda Murrell (Lilley) who played two beautiful piano pieces, demonstrating to all that she has not lost any of that early talent fostered in her school days.



The end of this Semester marks the retirement of Dean of Studies Mrs Jayne Acutt. In recent years — and with earlier Deputies — the OGA has been able to work with a designated staff member — the OGA Liaison Officer. However, since the cessation of that role we have been very dependent on the assistance, advice and support of Mrs Acutt. This was duly acknowledged on Commemoration Day.



*Discussing their plans for gathering on 5 June, were friends who this year will celebrate their 60th Reunion at the OGA Luncheon: Noela Eddington (Elliot), Angela Geertsma (Haenke), Eleanor Beale (Pratt), Glenda Murrell (Lilley) and Helen Pullar (Birrell)*

The OGA Committee thanks all those who attended our Commemoration Day function: Trustees, the Principal, current staff, current students and Old Girls and those who contributed to the success of the function in any way.

We hope it is a true sign that 2021 will be a better year.



*Treasurer Melissa Blacksell presents a token of our appreciation to Deputy Head, Mrs Jayne Acutt*

### *From the Editor*

It is now two years since I last put together an edition of OGAPRESS—April 2019. I really felt that perhaps it was time for it to be put to bed. Social media has had a huge impact on how news is circulated. Many of you are in frequent contact with each other and news can be distributed very quickly and very easily. By contrast, publishing the newsletter is a very long drawn out process.

Admittedly, lots of members have chosen – or been persuaded – to receive an online version, which they may chose to read. On the other hand, I do know that there are a number of our members who do not use Facebook. How can they get OGA news?

As I was coming to terms with this dilemma nine months ago, the death of Miss Dorothy Marsden, made its impact. I was conscious of the fact that when our other long-serving teachers died, their contribution to IGGS and the OGA had been well chronicled in OGAPRESS.

There was the same need to pay tribute to our much-loved Miss Marsden. Added to this the words, “end of an era” were on everyone’s lips and I felt that this too deserved recognition. But, alas, Covid just made things all too difficult and my good intentions were abandoned. I will, however, include much of the copy which was generated at the time in this edition.

I hope that it will sum up, albeit briefly, why this beautiful lady meant so much to us and convey to younger readers a sense of times past when IGGS was quite a different school.

*Helen Pullar*

### *From the Presidents*

Slowly but surely, the OGA and its branches are resuming activities post COVID restrictions and we have enjoyed meeting up with many of the branch members in recent months.

The Brisbane Branch held their AGM on 6 February at the Toowong Library. This resulted in Ruth Thompson being elected President/Secretary, Marie Lynagh Treasurer, Jan Hagerty Social Secretary and Jan Myerscough Committee member.

The Gold Coast members started to meet once it became possible and again a very successful Christmas gathering was hosted by Secretary Lurline Campbell and her husband Don for which we thank them and the remaining Gold Coast Executive: Glenda Murrell (President) and Helen Roach (Treasurer).

The above Executive was re-elected at the Gold Coast AGM on 13 February and the next day at the Darling Downs Meeting, Marilyn Woodcock was re-elected as President and Cheryl Wilson as Secretary (a position she has held for probably 20 years). Former President Heather Jorgensen accepted the Treasurer’s position. We are very confident that these groups will work harmoniously within their branches and with the parent body.

For the first time in some years, the OGA AGM resulted in a full complement of Executive and Committee members.

This is very encouraging in a world where there is an increasing reluctance to commit to the structure of committees and to take on these responsibilities.

Thank you to all who have put your hands up. We wish you well in your endeavours. Enjoy the friendship and fellowship of other Old Girls,

*Leah and Helen*

### **Generous Donations**

At the time of Miss Marsden’s death a number of donations were made to the IGGSOGA for the purchase of a memorial gift for Miss Marsden. We are still receiving donations and the funds will be spent on cabinetry for the Museum area. Miss Marsden was passionate about IGGS and its history and made a number of significant contributions to the Archives so this was deemed an appropriate area in which to have a permanent memory.

This display box (right) contains Miss Marsden’s mortar board which was donated to the Archives by her family. Its lovely display case is the generous gift of Glenda Bourke (Fullelove).





Below are some of the articles from 2020 included as a record in memory of Miss Dorothy Marsden and for those who may yet be unaware of her death.

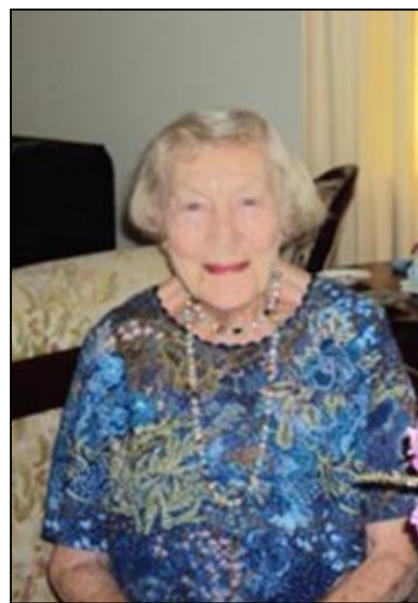
## Dorothy Marsden 1919 — 2020



1956



1978



2019

In the early hours of Friday 19 June 2020, at the age of 101, Miss Dorothy Marsden passed away at Seaton Place, Cleveland, a care facility in which she lived for the last couple of years of her life.

Dorothy Marsden was a remarkable lady. She was the oldest of three children, and outlived both her younger brothers, Fred and Arthur.

Childhood was a happy time for Dorothy growing up in central Queensland town and attending Maryborough Girls' Grammar School.

After studying at the University of Queensland, Dorothy taught for a short time at St Catherine's School, Warwick, before commencing her career at IGGS in 1944. She initially taught English and French, but, eventually French only and it is for the latter that she is best remembered. Her ability to pass on to her students her love of the French language and culture was extraordinary.

Countless girls followed in her footsteps, themselves becoming French teachers, and as one of them said, on hearing news of her death, "I greeted my class every morning with the words, 'Bonjour, mes élèves' - just as Marsie greeted us."

In 1965, as the School's needs had grown, a Deputy Head position was created and Dorothy was the first appointee, serving under her friend and colleague, newly-appointed Head Miss Thalia Kennedy.

She held the position until 1980 when her concern for the health of her elderly mother led her to relinquish it to Miss Joan Benson. For the next two years, until her retirement in 1982, she travelled back and forth every school day from the home she shared with her mother in Wynnum.

Following her mother's death, Dorothy moved with Alison Goleby, (her close friend and fellow IGGS teacher from 1961 till 1982), to two adjacent duplexes in Chelmer. She continued to live there even after Alison moved to a care facility. However, her own health declined, following a fall, and she was no longer able to live alone.

She will be fondly remembered by hundreds of IGGS staff and students.

Valé, Dorothy, Miss Marsden, Marsie.

## The end of an era

Miss Marsden's death marked the end of an era - an era which really can only be understood by those of us who lived part of it too. It is so different from today at so many levels that the current school girl would find it almost unbelievable.

For many years, the names of Misses Kennedy, Marsden, Brown and Benson were synonymous with Ipswich Girls' Grammar. What set these four apart was their commitment as live-in boarding mistresses. In addition to this, were the extraordinary friendships they formed, which eventually included Miss Goleby as well.

Kenny, Marsie, Dabby and Benny (as they were known to their students) joined the IGGS staff within 8 years of each other: Thalia in 1942, Dorothy in 1944, Deidre in 1948 and Joan in 1950.

In 2004, Old Girl and historian Margaret Cook conducted a series of interviews which are part of the IGGS Archives oral history records.

They are quite lengthy interviews, but I have chosen to share these little excerpts. Both Thalia and Dorothy commenced teaching during the war years under Miss Armitage. They were difficult years, socially and economically. But this wasn't helped by Miss Armitage's strict discipline which extended to staff.

**Miss Marsden:** *...she was very stern and she ruled a tight ship there. For example the staff were allotted duties if they were resident and we were nearly all resident. There were only six of us anyway and two were non-resident. The rest lived there. We did this duty, but we were never allowed to change the duty night. If we had something amazing to go to, sometimes your friends would come back from the war ..... you couldn't change your duty night. It was absolutely fixed. Also when you were on duty you had to keep on the move. Every day the girls at five o'clock had to be out on the front sports field with books on their head walking up and down. We had to be there to view the spectacle all the time in case someone was a bit slack about it.*



*Miss Deirdre Brown, Miss Joan Benson, Miss Alison Goleby, Miss Thalia Kennedy and Miss Dorothy Marsden with Mrs Maria Stevenson.*

*When you were on weekend duty you also had to be outside. I used to take up my position very often on the front porch of the school as I felt I couldn't waste all my life as I had my books to correct.*

She notes that life became easier under Miss Carter.

**Miss Brown:** *We did weekend duty, roughly one in five. If you were lucky it was one in six. We rebelled when it became one in four.*

**Miss Benson:** *You and I split ours, because it was pretty tough really. We taught all the week, worked all the weekend and then taught all the next week.*

**Miss Brown:** *So I might do the Saturday and Joan the Sunday and the next time*

*we swapped.*

**Miss Benson:** *I remember Mrs Marsh, the cook. The menu was the same every week.*

**Miss Brown:** *Tuesday night she used to burn the steak she gave the staff. She cooked it on a gas ring.*

**Miss Benson:** *She used to go home after lunch and it was just left sitting till dinner time.*

**Miss Brown:** *It was served with egg sauce. Can you believe it?*

**Miss Benson:** *The main meal was served in the middle of the day. Wednesday was corned beef with onion sauce. We had rissoles another day. On weekends we had ice cream and jelly. It was home made - not nice and smooth.*

*Kids used to have competitions, such as how many slices of bread they could eat. At night they just had bread and jam. No wonder they had competitions!*

Margaret asked them about teaching under various Heads.

**Miss Benson:** *Miss Carter was 'a dear sweet person who should never have been a Headmistress. Thalia was a bit moody at times. I don't know why. Dorothy Marsden had to placate her'*

Miss Marsden's words were: *Miss Kennedy was very kind and sympathetic and warm, yet she was a lady of principles and if you offended those principles, you knew it!*

**Miss Marsden:** *We had beautiful grounds. I think*



*the grounds at the school are remarkable. Partly because of this, as time wore on and I got a bit braver, probably after 1948 when Miss Carter was there, I used to take the girls for rambles on a Sunday or Saturday when I was weekend duty because I felt at least then the girls could feel they could go out – that it wasn't a prison.*

**Miss Brown:** *Joan, Dorothy, Thalia and I all had bicycles. This was pre 1954 as I got my car then. School finished and we prepared our lessons for the next day, but if you weren't on duty you had no responsibilities. We used to cycle off to College's Crossing and have a picnic.*



*Left: Miss Benson, Miss Brown and Miss Kennedy*

*Below: Miss Brown, Miss Marsden and Miss Benson.....*

*.....on a picnic at College's Crossing.*



They told stories of their initial appointments: no long interview proceedings etc. In Deidre's case, she was the only applicant, female science teachers being very scarce.

**Miss Benson:** *I taught in the Education Department until I finished my Phys Ed Diploma. Then I had a year at Glennie Prep and I saw the ad for Ipswich, so I applied and I got the job without even an interview!*

**Miss Goleby** tells an equally amazing story : *I had become friendly with Dorothy, Thalia, Deidre and Joan. They used to come to my place for tea. After mother died and I came back from a year in England, I didn't know what I was going to do. I had no plans. I thought I might go back to teaching. In 1960 Dorothy and Thalia asked me up for the Christmas Carols night.*

*As we walked along the hallway from Miss Carter's office to the Assembly Hall Miss Carter said to me, "Alison would you like to come and teach here?"*

*"Oh my goodness, I couldn't!"*

*She said, "Of course you could." And Dorothy and Thalia said, "Of course you could." So I said that I supposed I could and then Miss Carter said, "We will take you on." There was no interview. She took me on entirely on the say so of two staff.*

There are many who know the standard of excellence these teachers achieved! These ladies maintained that they knew of no other staff as close knit as they, and those of us who walked with them or followed in their footsteps have certainly benefitted from their ethos that schools are not just about classrooms, staffrooms, dining rooms and dormitories – the caring, nurturing and friendships extend well beyond.

Many IGGS students owe these ladies a great depth of gratitude, others cherish the friendships formed in post-IGGS years, while those fortunate enough to be their professional colleagues, value them in another capacity.

## OGA Luncheon Reunions

### 60th Reunion

Those girls who were in the cohort which commenced in 1958 and finished in 1961 (inclusive) are invited to join a 60th Reunion which will be held at the OGA Luncheon (see Page 7) on

**5 June**

For additional information please contact  
Lynne Smith (lynnesmith4@gmail.com)

### Other Reunions

We hope that those for whom either 2020 or 2021 is a significant year will also join us on this occasion together with our general body of faithful Old Girls.

For details and assistance please make urgent contact with Eirys Jones

[ogareunions@gmail.com](mailto:ogareunions@gmail.com); Phone: 32821312

# **Ipswich Girls' Grammar School Old Girls Association**

## **Annual Luncheon**

Phoenix Room, Ipswich Girls' Grammar School

**Saturday 5 June 2021**

12 noon for 12.30 pm

**ALL IGGS PAST STUDENTS and STAFF WELCOME.** (Carers may also attend.)

**Luncheon Reunion enquiries including the Acceptance Form:**

Eirys Jones –OGA Reunions Liaison Officer

EMAIL: [ogareunions@gmail.com](mailto:ogareunions@gmail.com); Phone: 32821312

PO Box 16, IPSWICH QLD 4305

**RSVP no later than 29 May 2021**

**Cost: \$45.00 per person**

**ALL WELCOME**

**Year levels who missed their 2020 reunions are urged to join us in 2021**



### **Loss of Contact Details**

While checking lists of reunion contact lists, I was dismayed to see how many names have “No known address” beside them. Unfortunately, there is a limit as to how much we can do to about this. However, if you have any Old Girls with whom you are in contact, can you please check with them and encourage them to rectify this situation?

#### **OGA Committee**

##### **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

##### **Committee**

Gaye Anderson

Vicki Doig

Claire Hindle

Eirys Jones

Annette Shuker

Jocelyn Smith

Lynne Smith

#### **OGA Meeting Dates**

**10 May**

**19 July**

**18 October**

**The Brisbane Branch are meeting at IGGS at 11.00am prior to the OGA Luncheon.**

**The Gold Coast Branch will hold their next meeting at 11.00am at 41 Rix Drive and have an outing planned for 10.30am Wednesday 16 June to the Art Gallery at HOTA, Blundall Road, Blundall.**

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**We have had a request from a recent resident of the Sunshine Coast area. Is anyone interested in re-establishing a group?**

### Young Old Girls shine on the field

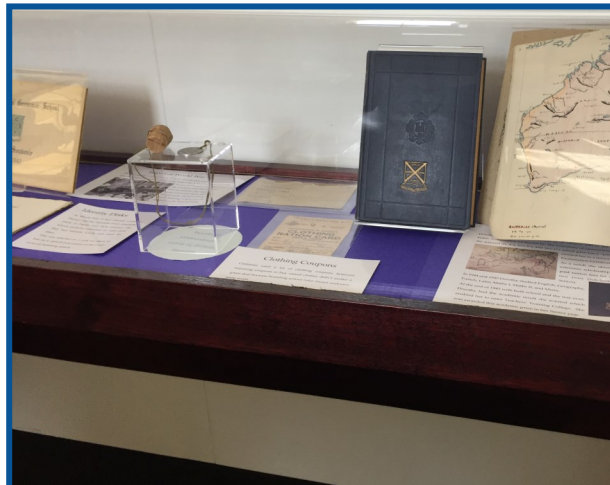
Those who follow such things may be interested to know we had two Old Girls in the Brisbane Lions team who won the AFLW Grand Final: Kate Lutkins and Dakota Davidson. Kate also won Best on Ground for the match. Well done, girls!!

### IGGS ARCHIVES

In the course of this year, the museum — attached to the IGGS Archives has begun to take shape. This is, in no small way, the result of very generous OGA donations. Last year the Archive area itself was completed with shelving donated by Kay Jones and Vicki Doig. To set up the museum, there was wonderful financial support from the Brisbane Branch, followed by a further donation from the Darling Downs Branch.

As Honorary Archivist, I spend three lunch hours each week with a significant number of the girls (Student Friends of the Archives) and they now love bringing friends up to see the displays. I even have one of our Chinese students working remotely from China!! On other days, Old Girls (Vicki Doig, Eirys Jones, Melissa Hicks, Eleanor Beale and Angela Geertsma) lend a hand and former staff (Barbara Cobbold and Jan Thompson) have given tremendous support. Darling Downs President, Marilyn Woodcock, also works remotely. It is so gratifying to see things really taking shape.

**Helen Pullar (Honorary Archivist)**



### Valé Pam and Naomi



*Pam Schubel (Foote)*

IGGS: 1956—1959

In many ways the last twelve months have been quite sad. We lost past President, Pam Schubel and Committee Member Naomi Manders.

Pam's death was not unexpected and the OGA was well represented at her funeral service, which was a joyous reflection of her life, full of music and singing. By contrast, Naomi had requested a strictly private funeral, but we were able to send flowers to be placed on the coffin. They were white roses tipped with pink – her favourites. We will miss both of these ladies and thank them for their dedication and years of service to the IGGS OGA.



*Naomi Manders (McIlvenie)*

IGGS: 1948—1949