



# OGAPRESS

The Newsletter of the Ipswich Girls' Grammar Old Girls Association



This year is a significant one in the annals of IGGS. It marks the 130<sup>th</sup> year since it was founded as the youngest of the nine Grammar Schools established under the *Grammar Schools Act of 1864*.

However, equally significant for the IGGSOGA is that it is also 125 years since our organisation was established in 1897 by our first Headmistress, Miss Fanny Hunt, making Ipswich Girls' Grammar School Old Girls Association the oldest past students association in Queensland.



The first pupils were aware that they were very privileged to have had the opportunity of a secondary education—a privilege not generally afforded girls at the time. They were a small close-knit group, loyal to each other and to their school and Miss Hunt felt that an Old Girls Union, as it was first called, would provide a means for girls to remain in contact with each other beyond their school years.

During Miss Helen White's time the oldest of our branches was formed in Brisbane in 1936 and some years later when Mrs Judith Hill was Principal, other branches were formed — in the South Burnett region

in 1983 and in Canberra and the Sunshine Coast in 1986. Later in 1992, the Darling Downs Branch was formed. During Mrs Carolyn Anderson's time our youngest and very active branch was started on the Gold Coast and branches were formed in Melbourne and Sydney. Times have changed and today only the Brisbane, Darling Downs, Gold Coast and Canberra Branches meet regularly.

Today, however, past students are more in contact with each other than ever before. Social media now keeps them as closely knit as those very early students.

However, the existence of our organisation is dependent on the continued support of Old Girls.

Help us celebrate our 125 years by keeping in touch, letting us know what you are doing, updating your details, encouraging your friends to pay the \$30 Life Membership and, most importantly this year, by joining us at one of the three functions planned for our major celebratory weekend on 10, 11 and 12 June.

*We look forward to seeing many of you at these events.*



### *From the Co-Presidents*



Many of you responded to the last OGAPRESS and the articles about our former teachers — Misses Kennedy, Marsden, Benson, Brown and Goleby. The relevant generations were very aware that the death of Miss Marsden marked the end of an era.

Another era which will not come again is a high attendance of volunteers at OGA Meetings, both in Ipswich and in our Branch regions.

During their life times the ladies mentioned campaigned constantly to encourage younger past students to join the Association and there are many who can tell of meeting one or more of them in other forums and, before they knew, agreeing to attend an OGA meeting or event.

Times have changed. However, there are many ways in which all Old Girls can show their loyalty. Almost 100% of current students join the OGA on leaving School and accept their badges with pride, but there are many, many students who have not ever joined or maintained contact with us.

We are very conscious that the difficulties imposed on us by the pandemic have not helped the cause. For two years we did not hold meetings within the School and our ability to hold functions was severely curtailed.

Our 2021 Reunion Luncheon was well attended and we appreciated the support in difficult times.



It is through the efforts of a few that reunions can be organised to bring more of us together. They are also a good way to keep our membership data up to date. All that has to happen is for one or two from any year level (and especially decade or significant years) to start the ball rolling and persuade friends to join them. We feel that by holding three functions on our Reunion Weekend in 2022, we have catered for all age groups and there should be something for everyone to enjoy.

Our fundraising is still focusing on raising money to assist in the renovation of the original building. The outside verandas, in particular, are in desperate need of replacement. Our wonderful heritage buildings have always been at the heart of our School and they are our point of difference with other schools in the area. Their preservation is critical. Our contribution will be very small in the scheme of things as this is a huge financial undertaking, but we urge any of you who are in a position to do so to offer financial support. We are very grateful that so many of you supported our last appeal and the most recent Paver Drive which has been much more successful than anticipated with over 100 pavers at this point waiting to be laid.



Unfortunately, just when we anticipated that this would happen, the complexity of the work needed on the verandas adjacent to the Old Girls Courtyard was identified. Much of the area is still cordoned off and the problems have been compounded by the recent floods and the difficulty in acquiring timber. Please be assured that the pavers will be laid as soon as the area is available.

*Leah and Helen*



## Commemoration Day



Originally planned for Saturday 5 March, our 2022 Commemoration Day fell victim to the floods—a variation from COVID cancellations. This was an enormous disappointment as we had received by far the largest number of acceptances for some time in recognition of the year's 125th significance.

We were pleased to welcome approximately 75% of the guests at the postponed function two weeks later and in the end an enjoyable time was had.

Our afternoon commenced with one of the Head Girls for 2022, Eliza Carniel, telling the assembled group of the plans School leaders have for the year. This was followed by Dr Britton outlining the extraordinary successes in all fields which the School had experienced in the previous year, culminating in 16 of last year's Seniors attaining an ATAR result in the top 1% in Queensland.

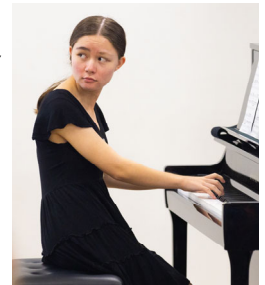
Ruth Thompson (Penglis) President of the Brisbane Branch presented the Helen White Prize for Dux of School to Tharani Murugananthan while Amandi Jayawardena, Meenal Sharma and Ellena Cochrane were present on the day to receive the Fanny Hunt Prize for Excellence.



Ellena, Amandi, Menal and Tharani

As always, it was wonderful to hear the girls speak of what their education at IGGS meant to them and to hear of their amazing plans for the future. Two of them are pursuing advanced medical studies, one planning a career in finances and economics and the fourth a Bachelor of Advanced Humanities which she hopes will lead to Egyptology and the study of Ancient Languages in the US or the UK.

We were entertained by young Old Girl, pianist Mai-Lin Olssen, whose piano virtuosity was well known from previous occasions. Mai-Lin also accompanied talented singer Alexandra Clayton, a current student.



The very special item on the agenda was the honouring of Old Girl, Mrs Julie Lee (Otago) whose name was placed on the OGA Honour Board. (See p4)

The Guest Speaker on this occasion was Dean of Students, Ms Rebecca Sullivan who spoke of how the School has coped over the period of the COVID pandemic.



Rebecca not only outlined the great lengths the staff went to to provide effective on-line learning but also how, remotely, they endeavoured to include some of the lighter aspects of school life.

Some of our boarders are still in China studying remotely, but others have not returned to their homes and family throughout the entire pandemic. Staff, parents, fellow students and members of the community have shown great compassion for these girls, not only in term time but through the school holidays as well.

The formalities concluded with a PowerPoint presentation of the time line compiled by Helen Pullar for Museum 1 of 130 years of building at IGGS.



## Julie Lee

The following tribute to Julie was written by her IGGS classmate, friend and long-time co-worker for the Brisbane Branch, Jocelyn Green.

On the morning of Commem Day Jocelyn tested positive to COVID and her address was read by another classmate and OGA Committee member, Annette Shuker. A group of her school friends was present on the day to celebrate her honour.



Judy Harrison (Wade), Narelle Betts (Whitaker), Julie Lee (Otago), Annette Shuker (Johnson), Margaret Hassall (Davidson), Vicki Doig and Heather Jorgensen

*Julie was one of the fortunate girls born in 1950. I say fortunate because we were spared the worries of depression and war which our parents' generation had faced and higher education was becoming more readily available for girls.*

*I know Julie believes she was exceptionally fortunate to have spent her years of secondary education at IGGS. Julie Otago, as she was then, was in my class through our four years at IGGS from 1964 to 1967. Julie was a conscientious student who always strove to do her best. She was quiet and well behaved. She was also good at sport and was part of the school tennis team. Julie was a day girl and I was a boarder. Boarders were allowed to post only one letter home each week. Most of us wrote far more frequently and had to rely on the good will of the day girls to post our letters. Julie was usually the one who very kindly posted my letters home.*

*After completing her senior, Julie went to the Teachers Training College at Kelvin Grove. She was one of several IGGS girls from Ipswich to do so and they would travel to and from college by train together. This experience further strengthened friendships formed at school.*

*After graduation Julie's first posting was to her old primary school at Leichhardt and she re-established her connection with IGGS by taking up residence at the school as a resident mistress.*

*After a day with the primary school students, Julie would return to IGGS where she, and the other resident mistresses, would take over the supervision of the boarders. Her responsibilities included supervising the boarders at prep and meals – and a school trip to the Snowy!! While Julie says she found the interaction with the girls a bit stressful she loved the social aspects of being with the boarding mistresses, who included Joan Benson, Dorothy Marsden and Deirdre Brown, as well as her friendship with the other resident mistresses.*

*She remembers the Matron, Miss Lambert, who was generally feared by the boarders, as being very kind to her. However, the accommodation, in the maids' quarters which was an annexe to the main building, was not very salubrious and she later found it was condemned. Julie's next posting was to a school at Wowan. That is where she met John Lee. They married and went on to have three daughters.*

*Once they retired they began some serious cruising and have enjoyed some amazing trips, an activity they hope to continue in the near future.*

*Julie became active in the OGA after attending Joan Benson's retirement dinner. Carolyn Stocker, another from our cohort, was there and persuaded Julie to join her in attending a meeting of the Brisbane Branch. Carolyn had been similarly 'persuaded' by Joan Benson and Deirdre Brown when she ran into them at the theatre.*

*Julie has been a stalwart of the Brisbane Branch ever since. She took over responsibility for the famous "Bring and Buy" stall from Shona Kenny and for years she faithfully transported goods and set up the stall. When we did fundraising and ran events Julie was always the first to volunteer. She was always willing to help with transporting the very old, old girls to meetings and events. Julie is one of the most loyal people I know. She has been instrumental in bringing our group together for reunions and regular lunches. She keeps in contact with those of us who are far away in other states and remoter areas of Queensland.*

*Julie has been unfailingly loyal to her friends, her school and the OGA. This award is a very fitting recognition of her contribution.*

Jocelyn and Annette's comments were endorsed by another school friend Vicki Doig who spoke of having experienced Julie's friendship and kindness first hand. Thank you, Julie.



## Helen Pullar OAM

In the 2022 Australia Day Honours, (Elizabeth) Helen Pullar was awarded an OAM for "Services to the Arts, particularly theatre".

Helen joined **Ipswich Little Theatre** in 1967. Since then it has grown from a small group of adults into a complex organisation with 200 members. Apart from the adult group, there are sub-groups for 5-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds, high school students, a Daytime Theatre Troupe and a group that host tours to ILT's unique home, the Burley Griffin Incinerator Theatre. This building was saved from demolition by ILT, and converted into a theatre by Helen's husband Ian. ILT also hosts the longest running Drama Festival in the southern hemisphere and Helen has had involvement in this annually, and was Festival Director for a number of years.

Helen has acted in, directed and written plays. She is a Past President and has been a Life Member since 1985. She is currently Secretary (since 2004), Chair of Building Committee, Convener of the tour group and Archivist. She is an organiser of special functions and has written histories and compiled visual presentations.

In 2001, Helen and her husband Ian devised, wrote and directed a multi-cast presentation at the Ipswich Railways Museum as the city's principal contribution to Australia's Centenary of Federation. In 2009 she received the Senior Citizen of the Year Australia Day Award from Ipswich City Council for her contribution to culture.

Helen was formerly Head of Drama at **Ipswich Girls' Grammar School** - her dream job. Apart from teaching, she directed nine school musicals and a number of plays for competition in student Drama Festivals, and entries in Rock Eisteddfods many of which won top awards.

As you know, Helen is Co-President of the Old Girls Association a position she has held with me over 12 years, having previously been President in her own right for three years. I have valued both her support and friendship over the many years we have worked together.

She is also the School's Honorary Archivist and knows more of the history of the school than anyone else. Helen has also written or co-edited a number of books concerning the history of the school. Over the past few years, she has been establishing a Museum—a very time-consuming labour of love.

The OGA Committee and the School are delighted that Helen's contribution to the culture of Ipswich and her voluntary work for both Ipswich Little Theatre and Ipswich Girls' Grammar have been recognised by this honour.

**Leah Bell IGGSOGA Co-President**

## Generous benefactors



*Gold Coast members Kerry Boulter, Lurline Campbell, Glenda Murrell and Wendy Gardiner were delighted on Commemoration Day to see the acknowledgement of the Branches and the individual Old Girls who had contributed to the OGA Dorothy Marsden Memorial Fund and the displays made possible by these funds.*

An enormous amount of progress has been made in the past year by Archivist Helen and her band of workers, especially former staff and Old Girls Barbara Cobbold, Jan Thompson, Anne Mullins, Eirys Jones and Vicki Doig, together with a significant group of students.

Much of what has been achieved would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of benefactors, in particular Kay, Jones, Vicki Doig and Eirys Jones.

The large Archive shelving system was paid for by Kay and Vicki and more recently Kay, Vicki and Eirys paid for the restoration and painting of a second museum room.

Donations from our branches allowed the purchase of a significant number of display cases and the framing of wonderful pictures.

The new room is an even bigger space and will take some time and money to complete.

The verandas adjacent to the archive/museum are in a parlous condition and all current fundraising is being directed towards their restoration.

Hundreds of voluntary hours have been given to the archive/museum project by local Old Girls, but others may be able to contribute financially to this lasting legacy.



**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**

Amity Anderson

Vicki Doig

Claire Hindle (Trevorrow)

Eirys Jones

Annette Shuker (Johnson)

Jocelyn Smith (Bowles)

Lynne Smith (Fitzgerald)

Charne Quinn (Anderson)

**Brisbane Branch****President/Secretary**

Ruth Thompson (Penglis)

**Treasurer**

Marie Lynagh (Johnson)

**Social Secretary**

Jan Hagerty (Keating)

**Committee**

Jan Myerscough (Wain)

**Darling Downs Branch****President**

Marilyn Woodcock (McPhail)

**Secretary**

Cheryl Wilson (Hine)

**Treasurer**

Heather Jorgensen

**Gold Coast Branch****President**

Glenda Murrell (Lilley)

**Secretary**

Lurline Campbell (Bellingham)

**Treasurer**

Helen Roach

**Gaye Anderson (née Meehan) — IGGS 1964-1966**

It was with great sadness that members of the OGA and wider School community learned of the death of Gaye Anderson on 12 May 2022, aged 71.

Gaye was a long-serving member of the IGGSOGA and President in 1995 and 1996. Gaye made a huge voluntary contribution to the Ipswich community and there would be few people unaware of Gaye's Hair Fashions and her incredible business acumen. St Paul's Anglican Church had standing room only at her funeral.

A larger-than-life personality, Gaye will be sorely missed by her family to whom we extend our deep sympathy, her husband Vern, son Dax and OGA Committee members Charne and Amity, and her grandchildren – including her granddaughters who are current IGGS students. Valé Gaye. You fought a brave fight.

**Margaret Kippen (née Pye) — IGGS 1963-1966**

We regret to inform you of the passing of another Old Girl and member of the OGA, Margaret Kippen who passed away on 7 April. Margaret is survived by her husband John Kippen and her daughters Kristine Willems and Rebecca Craig-Kippen, both Old Girls. Margaret, together with her sister Beverley Chappell, was a regular attendee at OGA functions for many years. Our condolences to her family.

**Anne Allen (née Bognuda)— IGGS 1973-1977**

We were informed last year of the death of Anne—the oldest of the three Bognuda girls to attend IGGS. Anne loved her time at School, especially her hockey playing days.

Anne became a highly professional, deeply caring nurse—a profession which brought her great joy. Unfortunately, after a severe bout of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome as a young woman, Anne was never again to enjoy complete good health.

She is mourned by her husband Ken, brother Matthew, a large group of friends including her IGGS cohort and her sisters, Lisa and Nina.

**Anna Katherine Goddard — IGGS 1990-1992**

Friends of Anna, especially boarders, will be sorry to learn of her premature death. After IGGS, Anna attended UQ and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Organic Chemistry.

She is survived by her three children aged 16, 12 and 7.

**MEETINGS**

**Ipswich AGM** Tuesday 31 May 7.00pm IGGS Library (tbc)

**Brisbane AGM** Saturday 4 June 11.30 Toowong Library

**Darling Downs Lunch** 14 July. Additional information will be advised.

**Gold Coast Meeting** Saturday 14 May 41 Rix Drive, Upper Coomera, at 10.45

If you have missed out  
on a Paver, contact  
ogaiggs@gmail.com  
immediately.



# IGGS Old Girls Association 125th Birthday Gala Weekend

*Cocktail Party*  
Friday 10 June 2022  
7pm-11pm

*OGA Reunion Luncheon*  
Saturday 11 June 2022  
12:30pm

*Seniors of 2017-2021 Brunch*  
Sunday 12 June 2022  
10am

Please note that there are three separate functions designed to cater for any demographic.

An acceptance to any of these functions is critical for catering purposes.

Please respond as quickly as possible & definitely not later than 3 June.

Payment is possible via Try Booking (a different code for each function) or our preferred option Direct Deposit

## *Cocktail Party*

**Friday 10 June 7pm to 11pm**

IGGS Phoenix Room  
\$60 per person

*Gather your Grammar sisters for an evening of bubbles, bonding, and beautiful memories.*

*Old Girls – this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate a significant school reunion, or to simply reconnect with old friends.*

*Tickets include a glass of champagne on arrival, canapes, and live entertainment with a Brisbane-based Indie rock act consisting of Taleena Peck and Guitarist Luke Martin.*

**RSVP: 3 June 2022**

Please notify any dietary requirements

## **Payment Options**

*Bookings essential for catering purposes by preferred payment option below.*

### **Direct Debit**

IGGSOGA | BSB: 633 000 | Account: 159198647 | Reference: Your surname.

**Try Booking** <https://www.trybooking.com/BZBGD>

**For further details about the Cocktail Party specifically, please contact Amy Cruice (Flashman), Nadine Cruice (Anderson) or Claire Hindle (Trevorrow).**

[amyandtony5@bigpond.com](mailto:amyandtony5@bigpond.com); [colonialmo@optusnet.com.au](mailto:colonialmo@optusnet.com.au) or [claire.hindle@outlook.com](mailto:claire.hindle@outlook.com)

**If you are organising a Reunion at this function please advise [ogaiggs@gmail.com](mailto:ogaiggs@gmail.com)**



## ***Traditional OGA Reunion Luncheon***



**Saturday 11 June 2022 at 12:30pm**

**IGGS Phoenix Room, \$50 per person**

It is asked that, unless you are a regular attendee with no special dietary requirements, you download an acceptance form from the OGA web site or by a request direct to the OGA:

[ogaiggs@gmail.com](mailto:ogaiggs@gmail.com)

***Bookings essential for catering purposes by any payment option below.***

### **Direct Deposit**

IGGSOGA | BSB: 633 000 | Account: 159198647 | Reference: Your surname

### **Try Booking**

<https://www.trybooking.com/BZBHK>

### **Cheque**

IGGSOGA PO BOX 16 Ipswich QLD 4305

## **Reunions welcome**

**Reunion enquiries:** Eirys Jones, OGA Reunion Luncheon Officer

Email: [ogaiggs@gmail.com](mailto:ogaiggs@gmail.com) | Phone: 3282 1312 | PO Box 16, Ipswich Q 4305

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## ***Casual Sunday Brunch Reunion***



**12 June at 10am**

**IGGS Phoenix Room  
\$20 per person**



### ***(Seniors of 2017 to 2021)***

*All Old Girls from the past five years are invited to a brunch as part of the OGA 125th birthday celebration weekend.*

*We look forward to seeing you at what might become the start of a new tradition. This is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends.*

***Gather a group of friends and send your acceptance to: [ogaiggs@gmail.com](mailto:ogaiggs@gmail.com).***

### ***Bookings essential***

*Direct Deposit details as per other functions*

**Try Booking** <https://www.trybooking.com/BZBHQ>

For more information, please contact [ogaiggs@gmail.com](mailto:ogaiggs@gmail.com) or Helen Pullar on 07 3281 4437 or 0400 801 443.

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