



## OGAPRESS

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

*From the Co-Presidents — Leah Bell and Helen Pullar*



First Term 2023 was very busy with one important event after another. Once again, we were delighted to represent the OGA at the Scholars Assembly on the second Monday of the term. The incredible results of the Senior cohort were celebrated with special emphasis on those whose results saw them placed in the top 1% of the state in ATAR rankings. As always, we marvelled not only at what these girls achieved academically, but also their involvement in all facets of school life.



The next Monday was another early start to attend the Prefect and Senior Induction. Head Girls, Luca Pole and Bridie Ward-Landy, spoke of their hopes and aspirations for the year with their theme "Fly Free in 23" – sentiments they again shared with us on Commemoration Day.



On 24 February, we took time out for the inaugural IGGS v IGGS Old Girls Football match. Held on a somewhat wet afternoon, it was the brain-child of a Senior of 2014, Stephanie Thomas, who is now a Leading Teacher at IGGS, together with Senior of 1994, Romy Wolf, who was then the Director of Sport. Steph captained the Old Girls' team which was coached by super-star, Bryony Duus, also a Senior of 1994. It was a ton of fun and we hope it will become another of our great traditions. We have, however, promised to organise an Old Girls' Cheer Squad for 2024, as this year the barracking was somewhat unbalanced!



March was busy month as Commemoration Day on the first Saturday coincided with the opening of the School Museum. Helen, wearing her Archivist hat, had worked frenetically to finish as many displays as possible in the preceding weeks and months.

March also saw the Commissioning of the 12<sup>th</sup> Principal of IGGS, Dr Marie Perry. The latter was a meaningful occasion, led largely by the students with a significant contribution from the IGGS Captains who were impressively competent presenters.

The weekend after Commemoration Day saw some of us again at School for Open Day which was a great success.



In addition, Old Girls supported the first IGGS/IJGS International Women's Day Dinner and were honoured guests at our annual Anzac Service on 24 April—again featuring students whose performances, as usual, were nothing short of extraordinary.

We are relieved to be able to tell you that 123 pavers—the result of a successful appeal—are now laid. A sincere thank you to all the donors for your generosity.

*Leah and Helen*

## Significant Changes to the distribution of IGGSPRESS

*You will observe that this edition is simply dated 2023. Initially Edition 34 was ready for circulation in April.*

*Distribution is courtesy of the School, but because of the extraordinary amount of Returned Mail and bounced emails after the distribution of the previous edition, it was decided to look more closely at the distribution list which is used.*

*This revealed an alarming number of incorrect entries. As has often been said, the data is only as correct as the information supplied to us. We frequently request that people go on line and update details, but that has a small success rate.*

*Eventually, a decision was reached that it is unsustainable to continue to print and post a costly newsletter which reaches only a small number of members. Some are returned, but goodness knows how many more end up in a waste paper baskets, tossed there by people who have no connection to IGGS.*

*This edition is being emailed to those who have supplied us with an accurate email address, together with a request to update information.*

*The OGA, in conjunction with IGGS, is determined to work on the present data, taking every avenue possible to get it accurate. Distribution will then be only to those members for whom we are certain we have correct details. This decision has not been taken lightly, but together we can at least improve the situation.*

### Action required

**Update your own information. Contact your own friends and ask them to do likewise.**

**A great reason to touch base.**

## IGGS/IJGS Inaugural International Women's Day Dinner



Wendy & Anna Caldwell



Eleanor Beale, Lisa Hooper, Lynne Smith & Angela Geertsma



Old Girls Amy Cruice & Kerryn White (middle) with Natalee Cuthbert-Lang & Mandy Campbell, current parents, (L & R).

The School held an inaugural dinner on 7 March to celebrate International Women's Day. It was well-attended by Old Girls, some of whom were there to show support for key note speaker, Anna Caldwell (Senior of 2001), who had recently been appointed Weekend Editor of *The Courier Mail* and *The Sunday Mail*. Others of us were delighted to see her mother, Wendy, a former OGA Committee member.

Anna's address was absolutely inspirational as she told of her determination to make it in the male-dominated world of journalism.

As a student—including Student Editor of IGGSPRESS—Anna had displayed all the necessary attributes, so her success comes as no surprise to her teachers or peers.



Anna, Dr Perry and Dr Rachel Green

The evening was hosted by Deputy Principal, Mrs Lynda Wall, and the delicious meal was provided by Old Girl catering firm, Sorella & Co, whom some will remember from the Long Lunch.

Anna joined Principal Dr Perry and IGGS parent Dr Rachel Green, (the first female to be elected as President of the Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy and Surgery Society) for a Q & A session with very impressive interviewers, Luca and Bridie—the Head Girls.

The evening was a great success and is certainly an event we hope will become a fixture on the School calendar. **Ed.**



## Commemoration Day



In recent years it has been the custom to invite a recently appointed member of the School Executive to be the keynote speaker at our Commemoration Day event and this year the obvious choice was new Principal, Dr Perry.

When I approached Dr Perry regarding this, she asked when and where the function is usually held. "The first Saturday in March in the Performing Arts Building," I replied confidently. Further queries about what form the event took led me to offer to provide the previous two programmes, only to realise that the previous year Commem had been held on 26 March and in 2021 it was in the School Assembly Hall. This was an instant reminder of the impact COVID and weather had wrought on our OGA activities for some time.

Fortunately, there were no such problems this year. A very pleasant well-attended afternoon saw us introducing the Head Girls and Head Boarders and hearing of their aspirations.



Many of those present had not had the opportunity to meet Dr Perry prior to Commem and, therefore, listened with interest as she spoke not only of her impressive academic career, but also of her family background and her much-loved grandparents who had arrived with nothing from war-torn Europe after WW II. Her grandfather always told the family that the one thing no one can take from you is your education.

Dr Perry stressed the importance of the OGA to the School and her desire to meet as many Old Girls as possible as opportunities arose.

A presentation was made to Mrs Mae Mathieson-Frame, who has resigned from the Committee after many years of service, seven of them as Secretary. The formalities were followed by afternoon tea and the opportunity for guests



to speak with Dr Perry, each other and the students. **Ed.**



*Cheryl Wilson (Secretary of the Darling Downs Branch), Sue Wyatt and Jeanine Dwyer (far right), former Presidents of the OGA, with Nicola Acworth (Wyatt) and Suzanne Loft (Williams) Seniors of 1985.*

*On the morning of Commem, I realised that I was introducing Dr Perry — a matter to which I had given no thought in my frantic efforts to have the Museum ready for opening at 11.00 am. I conceived an easy solution provided, in the time allowed, I could come up with eleven descriptors for our previous Heads! The result was virtually impromptu from dot points. To my amazement several people asked for a copy. I have simply turned the dot points into sentences (See Page 4). I am not sure how well it translates from spoken to written. It was really just a bit of fun and, obviously not a comprehensive list of achievements, but a deliberate selection to justify the adjectives I generated. **Helen***

Useful information: Dr Perry's given name - Marie - is pronounced as the spelling "Maree".

We awarded the Helen White Memorial Prize for Dux of the School and the Fanny Hunt Prize for Academic Excellence in 2022 —this year to Lauren Stacey and Jasmine May respectively.

Unfortunately, the other

two Fanny Hunt Prize recipients, Jessie Iacoune and Eliza Carniel, were unable to join us.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees, James Sturges spoke of the implementation of the Board's new Five Year Plan and, as is the tradition, we were entertained by some of our talented music students.



### Introduction to Dr Marie Perry on Commemoration Day (See explanation Page 3)

As we welcome our 12th Principal, the first in 131 years who has previously held that role at another School, we can reflect on those who have come before—their style and achievements — as we look forward to yet another chapter in the annals of IGGS.

Miss Fanny Hunt 1892—1901	THE GROUND- BREAKING HEAD	Miss Hunt was the first woman to graduate from Sydney University with a Science degree. Selected from 30 applicants, she took on the daunting task of establishing a new school at age 28 with virtually no teaching experience. Her responsibilities were almost overwhelming, but she placed great value in education and worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the new venture.
Miss Maud Connell 1902—1905	THE RELUCTANT HEAD	Miss Connell had been appointed as First Assistant Mistress in 1892. She was a brilliant teacher and an academic scholar who did not want the administrative responsibility and resigned after four years of acting in the position
Miss Helen White 1906—1927	THE KINDLY HEAD	Miss White, our longest serving Head, was greatly loved by her pupils. While still maintaining high academic standards, she showed great concern for their welfare, organising outings and activities beyond the classroom. She believed strongly that the School was part of the Ipswich community which, in turn, held her in high regard.
Miss Lilian Armitage 1928—1947	THE STRICT HEAD	Miss Armitage was not universally loved as she was very strict. She demanded high academic standards, but really supported girls with aptitude. She was Head in what were very difficult years—the Depression followed by WWII and had to guide a struggling School through both financial and emotional issues.
Miss Katherine Carter 1948—1964	THE GENTLE HEAD	Miss Carter has been described as the Head we needed to have after the previous difficult years. She was a gentle, but vague soul who loved “her girls”. She introduced the House system and encouraged an interest in the Arts’. Numbers increased with the post-war boom, leading to huge expansion: the dining room, pool, oval, hall and Block 9. No wonder she penned the School Song, “Builders are We”.
Miss Thalia Kennedy 1965 —1982	THE CHALLENGED HEAD	Miss Kennedy had served as a teacher since 1942 so she was very familiar with the School and its ethos. In the course of her teaching life comparatively little had changed, but that ended when the Radford Report of 1971 led to the end of external examinations and the implementation of internal assessment. Teaching methods were changing too with the introduction of closed circuit television and computers. As ROSBA threatened Miss Kennedy felt she had spearheaded enough change.
Mrs Judith Hill 1982—1993	THE INNOVATIVE HEAD	Mrs Hill introduced great changes to the School’s Administrative structure with the appointment of Level Coordinators and Heads of Department. ROSBA facilitated new class subjects such as Music and Drama and there was a great increase in co-curricular activities and the outdoor education programme flourished. Student welfare benefitted from Pastoral Care and the boarders’ lives changed dramatically with the opening of Cribb house—their own home.
Mrs Carolyn Anderson 1994—mid-2000	THE FORWARD - PLANNING HEAD	Very early in her tenure Mrs Anderson rationalised and –repurposed the use of the existing facilities and then helped oversee the Five Year Plan for new buildings: the Gymnasium (1994); Performing Arts (1998); Foundation Centre (1998) Her lasting contribution was the introduction of primary (Year 7) in 1995 which saw the start of an enormous expansion into primary school education.
Miss Susan Just 2000—2004	THE HANDS-ON HEAD	Miss Just was the third Head appointed from the teaching ranks. She was always visible, mingling with the students and taking a great interest in their activities.
Mrs Florence Kearney 2005—2010	THE UNFORTUNATE HEAD	Mrs Kearney’s tenure was defined by the disastrous fire of 2005 which destroyed Block 9. While the immediate recovery was amazing, for much of her time the School resembled a building site until the joyful opening of two wonderful buildings in 2009.
Dr Peter Britton 2011—2022	THE FIRST MALE HEAD	Having previously taught at IGGS for a number of years, Dr Britton returned in 2011 as Principal, bringing with him his statistical skills which then drove the individualised learning programmes which saw excellent academic outcomes. He encouraged holistic involvement in all aspects of school life, loved Honour Boards and will be remembered for his Strategic Plans.
Dr Marie Perry 2012	THE UNKNOWN HEAD	So, what will define our new Head. Will Dr Perry be groundbreaking, kind and gentle, but strict when required; innovative, forward thinking and hands-on? She, by her own admission, is not reluctant to take on the challenge, and we trust there will be no disasters as we wait to see what changes the ‘feminine touch’ will bring.

**Helen**



## The IGGS Museum is Opened



The morning of Commemoration Day saw the culmination of many years of work when the IGGS Museum was officially opened.

As has previously been documented, throughout most of the School's existence there was no official archive collection.

The significance of archival material—or the lack of it—surfaced in the mid 1980s when the Trustees commissioned Miss Thalia Kennedy to write a history of the School. The appeal which went out to Old Girls and past staff for donations was amazingly successful and parent, Paul Wilson, the then State Archivist, volunteered his time to organise the growing collection.

Following this, two archivists were employed very part time – Margaret Cook having the position for many years.

After that period, it worried me to see the Archive Room becoming a storage space and, even worse, I knew items were disappearing.

In 2015, I suggested to the OGA Committee that the Old Girls make the offer to curate the collection in a voluntary capacity. Brisbane Branch member, Joan Meecham, joined me for a very brief period during which we realised that the collection had outgrown its initial cataloguing system.

Thus began the enormous task of re-organising boxes and boxes into a more-user friendly system.

I have continued to refine this with the help of Friends of the Archives, former teachers Jan Thompson and Barbara



Cobbold, Old Girls and former teachers, Anne Mullins and Eirys Jones, and Old Girl, Vicki Doig. Every year students also give valuable help with scanning, typing, and many other time-consuming tasks.

Over the years I had become aware that only a few others were able to share with me the amazing collection that is in the IGGS Archives and, despite the work involved, the establishment of a Museum became an imperative. From a financial perspective, the result is almost entirely due to the generosity of Old Girls, either individually or through Branches.

It was a joy that almost all of those benefactors were able to attend the opening of, what for me, is a dream come true.

It has been an enormous amount of work and I freely acknowledge that I could not have done it without my husband Ian's support with furniture making, picture framing and hanging, painting, fetching and carrying – an endless list.

### Footnote:

Since the original article was written the Museum has been boxed up because of the work required on the Heritage Building.

It is hoped that both the Archives and Museum can be rehoused elsewhere in the School and the latter will again be available for public access.

It has been quite a year!!

Helen Pullar— Honorary Archivist





## OGA Annual Lunch

A very successful Reunion Lunch was held on 10 June. In excess of 120 old girls were in attendance which was very pleasing. There were three decade reunions as well as significant gatherings of other year groups and a number of other loyal attendees.



30 Year Reunion Group



Some members of the 50 Year Reunion group



60 Year Reunion Group



Some of the happy gathering

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### Congratulations Amity and Ben



It was with great delight that we learned of the arrival on 17 March of Banks and Forbes Dobbin, twin sons of Committee member Amity Anderson and grandsons of late President, Gaye.



## Around the Branches

The Gold Coast continues to be the most active and social of our Branches — we think it's that beach vibe! Secretary Lurline Campbell does a tremendous job keeping everyone in touch and supports President Glenda Murrell who has endless enthusiasm for outings and gatherings.

The most recent was an enjoyable Christmas gathering at the home of Lurline and her husband Don.



*The Roach girls—Kay Jones (nee Roach), and twins Jenny Williams (nee Roach) and Helen Roach about to enjoy the sumptuous lunch provided by Don and Lurline.*



*Faithful Honorary IGGS Old Boy Don displays his splendid Christmas ham.*

On 1 August, we again joined the Darling Downs ladies for their AGM and a very enjoyable lunch at Downs Steam Tourist Railway and Museum.

The development of this project has been greatly supported by former Darling Downs President, Roslyn Scotney. We were amazed to see how it has developed since we last met there. The Dreamtime carriage was inspirational and the whole project all very well worth visiting.

Frustrated by the quality of some of my photos, early this year I purchased a new iPhone to remedy the problem. Unfortunately, good though it is, it didn't come with an attachment to remind me to actually take photos. Apologies to the DD members!



On 6 May, a very enjoyable gathering was held in the Meeting Room at the Too-wong Library.

It was well-attended with over 20 present and several genuine apologies. It was very pleasing to welcome several newcomers to the Branch. Bookings have again been made for gatherings in 2024.



*Top: Barbie Wishart, Julie Lee & Jocelyn Green.  
Above: Tanya Carter and Melissa Dobbie*



*Above: Marie Lynagh, Glenda Burke, Jan Myerscough and Anne Dickson  
Right: Carol Hall, Dianne Swanwick and Sue Thomas (seated).*



*Left: Vice President of the OGA Kay Jones and Co-Presidents Helen Pullar & Leah Bell.*

On Commemoration Day tributes were paid to the following Old Girls who had given a great deal to the OGA.

### Jan Nind (IGGS 1952 -1953)

Jan was one of four Wilson girls – Jan, Val, Bev and Desley – who were 4<sup>th</sup> generation IGGS girls, a tradition started by Jessie Wilson in 1907, who was the first of 18 members of the family. Jan was very proud when her daughter, and fifth generation IGGS girl – Dr Suzanne Carrington – was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2020.

Jan joined the OGA straight after school and, as one of the ‘young Old Girls’ at the time, organised a number of social events. I remember being involved in a production of “The Fruity Melodrama” circa 1967 at the OGA Dinner.

When the Gold Coast Branch was formed Jan immediately joined and frequently offered her lovely canal-side home for meetings until very recently. She is remembered with great affection.



### Nancy Kleinschmidt (IGGS 1944 – 1947)

As a school girl, Nancy was known as Lexie. She was a clever, industrious student and, therefore, a great favourite of Miss Armitage's. She told of how the girls used to persuade her to request school dances—in aid of the Magazine funds— as she was more likely to be successful. In her Senior year she was both Head Girl and Dux.

A teacher for many years at Clayfield College, she joined the Brisbane

Branch and was Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer for 34 years. Nancy is on our Honour Board and has a room in the School named after her which is one of the current Museum Rooms.

This year's Head Girl is Alexa Kleinschmidt. In each set of examinations held this year she has gained first place in every subject. She has not only worked excellently, but has been helpful in the school and in the house in her own quiet way, which is, by example rather than by precept.

### Shirley Barnes (IGGS 1947-1948)

Shirley is another Old Girl with a room named after her and whose name is on the OGA Honour Board. Shirley was the organisation's Treasurer from 1961 for 32 years. She was probably the most loyal and generous of our supporters – never missing a Dinner or Luncheon if she was in Ipswich and always donating to any appeal that the OGA made for financial assistance.

We were very aware of her absence on Commemoration Day and will remember her again at the Luncheon.

At her funeral this lovely photo of her as an IGGS pupil was on display. She was very proud of her association with IGGS.



### Valé Veronica James aka Miss Stark

Girls who attended IGGS from 1956 to will remember with great fondness our Mathematics teacher Miss Vonnie Stark— even those who were not so fond of Maths!

As Professor Veronica James OAM, she became, among other things, an internationally renowned researcher into breast cancer.



She was named Woman of the Year in 1999 by the American Biological Institute and received the International Scientist of the Year 2004 Medal from IBC Cambridge. In 2010, she was inducted into the IGGS Hall of Fame, nominated by the Gold Coast Branch whose meetings she attended whenever possible.

### Memories from Lyn Brown (Hart)

Earlier this year I received a parcel of memorabilia from the younger daughter of Lyn Brown who attended IGGS as a boarder from 1950 to 1953.

After her death a little packet containing her IGGS hatband and tie was discovered in her bedside table, a place they had always been kept according to her husband. How moving is that!

Lyn received Certificates of Merit in years III, IV and V and was awarded a teaching scholarship. She taught in country schools before her marriage and then again from 1968 in Brisbane Bayside schools. She finally worked as a supply teacher at Capalaba State School. Lyn was a great gardener and on days when she didn't want to teach, she went out into the garden early so that she wouldn't hear the phone as she hated saying, “No”.

Also included among more traditional items sent to the Archives, were a series of poems written by Lyn and her classmates in Vth Form. I really can't decide which one is my favourite, but the following is an example. What fun they must have had composing them!

*Our form captain Pam is next on the list.*

*Not seen her boy Alf? You don't know what you've missed.*

*Especially when they get up to dance*

*In each other's arms they go into a trance.*

*Alf is progressing without any doubt.*

*One of these days, he may take her out!*



## *Important Dates to Remember*

### Special Events

Saturday 2 March—Old Girls Commemoration Day 2.00pm Old Girls Commemorative Performing Arts Centre  
Saturday 8 June— OGA Reunion Luncheon 12 noon Phoenix Room

## 2024 Reunions

One of the great benefits of social Media is the ease with which Old Girls can stay in touch with each other and we hear constantly, with delight, about the number of you who are getting together.

However, for our organisation—the oldest past students association in Queensland—to remain viable, we do require your support at our functions.

Please give thought to organising a reunion group for the 2024 luncheon—a sumptuous three course meal in wonderful surroundings with all the work done for you. \$65 per head.

For additional information please contact Reunion Organiser: Eirys Jones [eirys@bigpond.net.au](mailto:eirys@bigpond.net.au)

### 2024 Meeting Dates

Term 1	OGA AGM—Tuesday 6 March	7.00pm	IGGS Social Staff Room
Term 2	General Meeting—Tuesday 30 April	7.00pm	IGGS Social Staff Room
Term 3	General Meeting—Tuesday 23 July	7.00pm	IGGS Social Staff Room
Term 34	General Meeting—Tuesday 22 October	7.00pm	IGGS Social Staff Room

## ALL LOCAL MEMBERS WELCOME

### Signature Bricks

On the last page you will see a form for anyone interested in obtaining a paver for the Old Girls Courtyard.

Our last appeal ran over quite a long period, largely due to the work needed in the Old Girls' Courtyard, but pavers are now in place.

While there is still some remaining work to be carried out, we are offering a short, sharp and unexpected opportunity, the result of enquiries from a few 2023 Seniors. Funds will again go towards restoration of the verandas.

Maybe you are interested this time round.

Print and fill in the last page, or find a form on the OGA Facebook page or email [ogaiggs@gmail.com](mailto:ogaiggs@gmail.com) and a form will be returned.

### Gifts to IGGS

As was the intention, the funds raised by the most recent paver drive will be spent on the veranda restoration adjacent to the Old Girls' Courtyard where the pavers are placed. Visitors to the School, as well as current students spend hours in this area, reading the names on pavers and constantly comment on what a lovely idea it is.

Despite the depletion of our funds, both through these donations and our enormous support of the Museum, we were also able to give money towards equipment for a new innovation—TechnoRats. The enthusiasm for TechnoRats stems from an explosion of opportunities for students with an interest in E-sports, gaming, artificial intelligence (AI) and technological innovation. A Gaming Den was a bit of a 'hard sell' to some Committee members but we have provided much needed equipment.

*A request has been made by our newest Old Girls, the 2023 Seniors, for Signature Bricks to match those already laid in the Old Girls' Courtyard. As a result, we are launching another small fundraising campaign for all interested Old Girls.*

*All monies raised will go towards the restoration of the verandas around this Courtyard — an area frequented by our Senior girls.*

An individually named paver will be a unique and lasting record of your years at IGGS. Your personalised paver will be placed in the Old Girls' Courtyard.

# \$85 per paver



Engraving details: Please print clearly in block letters. Each square represents one letter, number, space or punctuation mark.


**Please fill out this form and return to: IGGSOGA, PO Box 16, IPSWICH QLD 4305, or scan and email to**

**ogaiggs@gmail.com or hpullar@bigpond.net.au (Contact phone: 0400 801 443).**

**NAME:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

**PHONE:** .....**EMAIL:**.....

**Payment by:**

**Cheque:** (payable to IGGS Old Girls Association) ☐

**Electronic Banking:** IGGSOGA BSB: 633000 ACC: 159198647 (LAST NAME AS REFERENCE) ☐

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## *Closing Date: 31 January 2024*

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