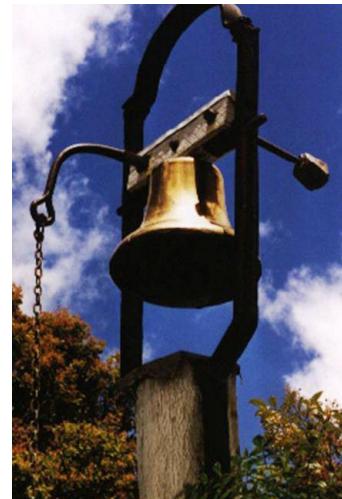




# OGAPRESS

Edition 24

September 2015



## The Newsletter of the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School Old Girls Association A Fêteful Day – 1 August



*Faithful supporters – the Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band with our beautiful heritage building framed in the background*



*Old Girls Sue Wyatt, Vicki Doig, Margaret Hasswell and Annette Shuker manning the secondhand stall*

Much to my surprise in May this year I found myself significantly responsible over the following few weeks for the 2015 OGA Fête and Heritage Markets through a series of circumstances not predicted when the Committee agreed in 2014 to undertake this major event. I was very quickly transported back to the 1990s when, as part of my working brief, I had similar responsibilities for the IGGSTRAVAGANZAS though I was then 20 years younger – a fact of which I was all too aware the morning after the big event!

Our small OGA Fête Committee could fortunately build on the success of the previous years when the foundation was laid for the current format, though it had been decided that using only the grounds at the front of the School would have definite benefits. I had a few personal ambitions as well: to keep the area outside our heritage building clear so that as one staff member said, “our ‘old girl’ could be seen to advantage”; to increase the Old Girl participation; to involve the current girls more and to really utilise the Assembly Hall. As these pictures show these ambitions were fulfilled. (Continued P 2)



*An IGGS Dance Troupe – one of the many groups who performed on the day*



*The Assembly Hall at lunch time packed with diners and audience all enjoying the feast of entertainment*





We have been very aware of the fact that the great space which is our current Assembly Hall has been under-utilised but somehow those glass doors formed an impenetrable barrier – people looked in but were reluctant to venture in no matter the attraction. But, people will always find food.

So, this year we sited the very popular cake stall, a preserves stall, hamburgers and a soup kitchen – all organised and staffed by Old Girls or former staff – together with the P & F's Pork Rolls and the Junior School Support Group's Tea and Cupcakes all under the cover and warmth of the Hall which proved very popular.

Thanks to the fabulous co-operation of the Music Department, there was a programme of entertainment on the stage throughout the day building up to another highlight to conclude the afternoon – a fashion parade of Senior Formal gowns.

The Senior girls, especially the Prefects and House Captains, once again worked really hard to promote the event through social media within the School, and held their own Willy Wonka Sweets Stall.

Because planning got underway a little later than was ideal, the number of outside vendors was smaller but they fitted along the drive beautifully while the car park area below the Hall was home to many other OGA and School stalls.



*Old Girls, Leisa Harrys and Hollie Berry once again ran the fairy floss stall, ably assisted by Harriet Berry.*

Another innovation this year was the use of the Art Block. Not only was it an ideal venue for much of the art and craft on display but Mrs Paula Lange devoted many hours to setting up a display of student work which attracted a lot of attention. Being able to showcase the student work adds a real dimension to an event such as the Fête, enabling it to serve a secondary purpose as an unofficial 'open day' and the School was delighted by the enquiries received.



*A section of the impressive display of student work*

Another very gratifying aspect of the art complex was the number of stalls featuring the work of Old Girls. Once again Annamaria Mays-Vermeer and Angela Geertsma (Haenke) had their wares on display and they were joined by Kirrleigh Griffith's amazing paper flowers, Jodie Bowen's (Beer) paintings and Jeanine Dwyer's (Robson) photography. I urge other girls to take the opportunity in the future to support the OGA while displaying the many talents we have in our ranks.



*Kirrleigh Griffith's stall was a popular attraction in the Art precinct.*

While this is just a snapshot of what the day had to offer, it acknowledges just some of the contributions made to the event by many and, hopefully, encourages others to contribute in future. For the continued support of our regular contributors, and involved Old Girls, parents, students and IGGS staff who helped make the day so successful a heartfelt thank you.

**Helen Pullar (on behalf of the Fete Committee)**

**Photographs courtesy of Jeanine Dwyer**



## From the Editor – Helen Pullar

September already and before we know it we will be looking at dates for 2016 and deciding what functions and events we will be holding.

However, the one sure and certain event will be Commemoration Day on the first Saturday in March so please keep that date – 5 March – in mind.

Our Dinner this year promises to be well attended which is gratifying as the Luncheon was probably the biggest yet.

Old Girls continue to meet informally at both happy and sad occasions but always reinforcing the ties that bind.

This should be the last OGAPRESS for this year as the fourth term publication scheduled is @ Grammar. The newsletter is just a little earlier than normal as I am out of the country for the next six weeks. Please note that we have had such a pleasing response to our Paver Drive that we are extending it as the pavers will now have to be laid in the Christmas holidays so you can still respond following receipt of this newsletter to:

[oga@iggs.qld.edu.au](mailto:oga@iggs.qld.edu.au)

or go online and download a form from the IGGS web site.

**Helen Pullar Editor**

## Old Girl author – Jennifer Loakes

Old Girl Jennifer Loakes has recently published a children's book entitled *Mate and Me*.

The book covers real community issues. Set in Brisbane's culturally diverse West End, the story follows a young boy's journey to connect with his new neighbour, a recent arrival from South Africa. He's excited and curious about his potential new friend, but the neighbour has experienced trauma and is learning to adapt to a new home. Covering themes of multiculturalism, displacement and friendship, this new picture book gently demonstrates the positive outcomes that can be achieved through acceptance of people who are different.

Jennifer is a Brisbane-based psychologist (provisionally registered) who has spent many years working with and advocating for vulnerable children. Her psychological training and government policy roles have given her a unique understanding of the complexities of social policy issues and the factors that impact individual and community wellbeing.

The book is published by Windy Hollow Books and Jennifer can be contacted at:

[jenloakes@hotmail.com](mailto:jenloakes@hotmail.com)

## 1975 – What an amazing year

One feature of OGA reunions is the recount which a representative gives relevant to the particular cohort's years at IGGS. At the annual Luncheon in June, organiser of the 40 Year Reunion, Tricia Cook, set her fellow students' Senior year into an amazing global time frame.

Many of these events, as Tricia said, shaped the lives of these women giving them unprecedented opportunities. I am sharing some of her speech with you.

- **1975** was the International Year for Women
- South Australia became the first Australian state to make sex discrimination unlawful
- The Family Law Act introduced radical changes to marriage dissolution. This included 'no-fault' divorce and valuing the contribution to family life of homemakers and breadwinners equally for the purposes of property distribution
- Elizabeth Evatt was appointed Chief Judge of the newly formed Family Court of Australia
- Margaret Thatcher became leader of the Conservative Party in Britain
- Australian television began broadcasting in colour
- The Bankcard credit card system was rolled
- Bill Gates and Paul Allen co-founded Microsoft
- IBM produced its first commercial laser printer
- The first portable mobile phone was patented by Motorola
- Sony introduced Betamax video tapes closely followed by JVC introducing the VHS format
- The digital camera was invented by Kodak.
- BIC launched the first disposable razor
- Contrary to the former White Australia policy, Australia participated in Operation Babylift to relocate orphans from Saigon prior to its downfall
- The Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act came into force on 11 June
- Medibank, Australia Post and Telecom all commenced operations on 1 July
- On 15 August, the Federal Government transferred leasehold title for a parcel of land on Wave Hill Station to the Gurindji Aboriginal people
- A month later, Papua New Guinea was granted independence from Australia
- On 16 October, Indonesian troops in Portuguese Timor killed the Balibo Five
- The Opposition deferred passing the Budget in the Senate which culminated in the Government's dismissal on 11 November
- Two weeks later on the 27 November, IGGS released 56 senior students to their futures.



## Valé Alison Vera Goleby

8 February 1923 - 31 July 2015

All IGGS students who were fortunate enough to have been taught by Miss Goleby will be greatly saddened to hear of her death after several years of poor health following a stroke.

Her funeral, held at St David's Anglican Church, Graceville was attended by a very significant number of her former teaching colleagues and students and the 2015 IGGS Prefects formed a Guard of Honour.



It was a fitting tribute to a wonderful lady and inspirational teacher who was always reluctant to accept just how significant her impact was on the lives of many girls in whom she instilled not only a passion for history but also a love of learning.

She was loved and admired by many more for her loyalty to the Old Girls Association, particularly through the Brisbane Branch.

In 2004, Margaret Cook conducted a very valuable and lengthy interview with Misses Marsden and Goleby and in that Alison reveals a little more of what was a very private life. I include a few extracts verbatim because I am sure that if you knew Alison you will hear her voice as you read and it will evoke memories:

*I came [to IGGS] in 1961. I had been teaching 14 years earlier but my mother took ill so I stopped to nurse her. I had become friendly with Dorothy (Marsden), Thalia (Kennedy), Deidre (Brown) and Joan (Benson). They used to come to my place for tea. After Mother died, I came back from a year in England with Dad and I didn't know what I was going to do. I had no plans. I thought I might go back to teaching. Then Dorothy and Thalia asked me up for the School Christmas Carol Night in 1960. As we walked along the hallway from Miss Carter's office to the Assembly Hall, Miss Carter [Headmistress at that time] 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 Thalia and Dorothy said, "Of course you could". So I said that I supposed I could, and Miss Carter said "We will take you on". There was no interview, no question about have you got a degree. She took me on entirely on the say so of two staff which I suppose is as good as you can get. I was frankly terrified as I hadn't taught for 14 years. I was only part time for the first year and then in 1962 I was full time. I taught Junior History and Junior English. Miss Carter had the senior Modern History which of course I was itching to get my hands on. When she did retire I took over senior Modern History and then just taught history throughout the school.*

In other sections of the interview Alison and Dorothy discussed **Teaching areas:**

AG: *Oh that shed. It nearly killed me!*

DM: *That shed was a classroom for many, many years. When the winds blew the blinds rattled and when the goods of all varieties [going to the kitchen] were delivered [along the service drive] behind us the children just stopped listening and looked out. That was their entertainment for the day. Alison will have to tell you one story.*

AG: *I was taking a history lesson. It was a 4C class, I know, and there was a girl called Shelly Terrace in front of me. The board was on an easel behind me with the wind blowing like mad and suddenly Shelly called out, "Look out" and they all stood up. The board fell down behind me missing me by a whisker. It could have killed me! Poor Shelly looked stunned.*

*A lot of our teaching was in the block down the back – the demountables. That was really very hard. It was a long way to go. The rooms were very hot in summer and very, very cold in winter. The wind had open go and could get in anywhere. When the history room was built I was in 7th heaven. We actually had a room where you could set up for history.*

**And finally, because it is topical: School Fêtes**

AG: *I think we should make mention of the work we did for the fêtes. Goodness didn't we work for those fêtes! The staff were always in charge of the sweet stall. Dorothy used to take the boarders down to the kitchen for nights before.*

DM: *All the week before at night to teach them to make sweets. They had no idea.*

AG: *Every class in addition had to do a stall of some kind. I had a coffee shop and that was 5As. I used to say to them, anyone younger than you would not be responsible enough to do it so you are on your mettle. This made them feel rather grown up. They made very good money. I remember one year they over bought on coffee and they said, "Miss Goleby you did so much work you have the coffee. It was a huge tin and it was the most appalling coffee. It was Pablo. I think I probably gave it to the staff!"*

The teaching life of these women was all-encompassing so it is no wonder that their impact is so lasting and valued.

**Helen Pullar**

## Eirys Jones IGGS Senior of 1970

Later, when I became a teacher of History, she was a role model for the teacher I aspired to be. As students, we would rush to our classroom where Miss Goleby tapped her foot impatiently at the door, ready to launch into the lesson.

## Kathy Shelton Senior of 1975

I caught her 'love of history' bug and for that I will be forever grateful as she gave me a career I love. She taught me to look at the world differently as an historian. To ask questions. To research, interpret and write. To try and question the past to understand the present. To respect our culture and history and that of others. I hear her lessons when I travel and when I use the skills of an historian every day. Thank you Miss Goleby. You were an inspiration to many.

**Margaret Cook (Pullar) Senior of 1985**

**Valé Deidre Alison Brown Brown OAM**

HP

## Andrea Whelband – An incredible story of resilience and persistence

Former Brassall resident and IGGS student, Andrea Whelband, recently entered and completed the gruelling UK Ironman event, held in Bolton, UK on 19 July.

Reaching a fitness level just to attain the stamina required to enter and complete an Ironman is a tremendous physical achievement in itself. For the uninitiated, the event involves a 4.2 km swim followed by a 180 km bike ride and lastly a full marathon run of 42 kms. Entrants are allowed 17 hours to complete all three legs. In Andrea's case just completing the unrelenting course was particularly rewarding for a number of reasons. After finishing IGGS in 1996, Andrea went on to complete a four year Materials and Manufacturing Engineering Degree at UQ, graduating in 2000.

One of, if not her proudest achievement while an IGGS student, was to be a member of the school's A Grade cricket team which defeated BGGS in the GPS cricket final. No mean feat when BGGS had dominated the competition for many years.

Andrea accepted full time employment with Brisbane Water, which was at that time a division of Brisbane City Council.

Like a lot of young people, the travel bug bit her and she moved to England in May 2004, initially living in London with her sister Belinda (IGGS Senior of 1994) for some years before moving to Leatherhead, Surrey, where she now resides. After a few months with a lighting firm, Lemax, when she first moved to UK, she accepted employment with a multi-national firm and last January notched up 10 years employment with this firm. Andrea came to athletics later than most. Friends in Surrey introduced her to social bike riding approximately six years ago. She found this to be an enjoyable leisure activity and soon joined the local bike club for Saturday outings. In no time at all the camaraderie and encouragement of fellow riders led to her working her way through the club grades to a level where she considered travelling to Europe to enter the public section of the Tour de France. That particular leg travels through the Pyrenees Mountains. On a visit to Queensland around that time, on a day out to Stanthorpe, she remarked that Cunningham's Gap would be a good training ride!

However, her constant knee troubles resulted in knee surgery, which thwarted her plans that year. Once recovered she resumed her training in the hope of entering the Tour the following year. Frustratingly, after getting as far as organising fellow club members to travel with, booking accommodation and paying race entry, the knee



once more gave her grief. Her ambition was thwarted for another year.

Undeterred, the training regime continued in the hope of third time lucky. Again, it was not to be. On a training ride with the elite grade riders in her club, another rider's wheel clipped hers, resulting in 11 days in critical care with a badly broken shoulder, a shattered collarbone and deflated lung from floating bone fragments. Timing couldn't have been worse, as a significant number of UK's orthopaedic surgeons were out of the country at a conference. Six days after admission to hospital her lung was finally reinflated and surgery performed, resulting in two plates and nine screws being inserted to hold her shattered shoulder together.

Her sister flew from Brisbane to care for her till she was once more reasonably self-sufficient. People who know Andrea would acknowledge her steely determination and resolve to overcome any obstacles she is challenged with. Needless to say the physio who supported her through recovery is now counted as one of her best friends. Her determination is staggering, from someone who was never a strong swimmer, now challenged with a shoulder full of metal and a knee that continued to give her grief, yet again she ploughed back into training and reached a new ambition to do a triathlon, rather than just a bike ride. Fate visited yet again to question her ambitions.

Following the wonderful support she received from the ambulance service and St Johns, she joined the service as a volunteer and on a particularly difficult 99 mile charity bike ride to raise funds for the Air Ambulance wing of St Johns, on a dull day and near the end of the ride her front wheel dropped into an uncovered manhole. (Our Mayor would never let that happen in Ipswich!) No broken bones this time but she was badly hurt. Her friends from the ambulance service were again wonderful in assisting her and yet again, she recovered from this latest setback. Although she still hasn't entered the Tour de France public leg, she has since successfully completed many triathlons and charity bike rides and finally the aspiration to do an Ironman started forming. At the age of 35, time was starting to work against her so she set about training in all three legs of Ironman, joined a triathlon club and obtained coaching in swimming and another coach to mentor her through the preparation and lead up to the big day. The swim leg of the event went well, as did the bike leg, which was held on a challenging and hilly course in continued showers of rain with resultant mud and slippery conditions. She transitioned to the final leg, the marathon run, and kept a reasonable pace till half way through her knee gave way totally and she doubted she could continue.



### Andrea Whelband (con't)

Slowing to a walk she wiped away the tears of frustration and devastation, only to rub a contact lens off the surface of her eye. Oh boy, could the situation get any grimmer? Slowly heading for the nearest first aid station for assistance she rounded a corner of the course to see one of her friends there waving a large poster with her name on it, encouraging her to keep going. More tears and another eye wipe, which resulted in the lens miraculously dropping back in place.

She said the crowds sensed her situation and started cheering and calling her name, urging her on. Her comment later was that uppermost in her mind were her friend's poster, the amazing crowd support and the thought of one of the main reasons why she was doing this event which made her determined to reach the finish line. She alternately walked and jogged her way forward, gritting her teeth to overcome the agony in her knee, and proudly whipped out her Aussie flag and waved it high as she crossed the line at 10 pm, almost 16 hours after she set out on the swim.

For her parents in Brassall who watched the live feed of her crossing the finish line at 7.00am Monday morning, it was a moment of total happiness and tears for her success, pride in her achievement and love for the wonderful lady she is. Her unbelievable effort had raised well over £1,000 towards research into Parkinson's disease, something no one back home in Brassall knew till later. Further funds are still coming in - when she told people of her fundraising goal she said they literally "threw money at her"!

Andrea credits several things with getting her over the line:

- her friend's poster
- the unbelievable crowd support which kept up an outstanding level of momentum right through to the last athlete crossing the line
- her love for her father and what she so desperately wanted to achieve for research on his behalf
- the amazing assistance of all the volunteers at all sections of the event and
- the notes of encouragement from family and friends at home and in UK that she opened at intervals during the marathon leg.

There may be more triathlons and charity bike rides in her future, but she doubts whether there will be another Ironman, except maybe as a volunteer!

### Dawn Whelband

Congratulations Andrea and my thanks to her mother who wrote this story.

There must be many more proud parents who might like to tell of their daughter's achievements. I look forward to hearing from you.

## OGA Annual Dinner Reunions

### Saturday 31 October

#### 10 Year Reunion

Seniors of 2005

Contact: Penelope Younger

penelope.younger@uqconnect.edu.au

#### 30 Year Reunion

Seniors of 1985 – Juniors of 1983

Afternoon tea and Dinner

Contact: Tara Kitch

tarakitch@hotmail.com

#### 50 Year Reunion

Students of 1962 – 1965

Contact: Suzanne Franzway (nee Charles)

Suzanne.Franzway@unisa.edu.au



Looking forward to meeting up at the Dinner are some of the 1985 cohort: *Margaret Pullar, Lonella Goudens van den Handel, Kylie Fourte, Fiona Pottinger, Maria Marendy, Kate O'Flaberty and Christina Bohl*

The Boarders Reunion 1999 cohort has been postponed.

All Annual Dinner Attendees – both General and Reunion– are reminded that the Acceptance form must be returned so that we can ensure a place and a meal.

For all enquiries:

President: Leah Bell

oga@iggs.qld.edu.au

or

leah.bell@outlook.com

Phone: 07 3282 1163

Mobile: 0407 596 160

The form can be downloaded from the IGGS web site or forwarded to you by email or post.



## OGA Office Bearers 2015

### OGA President

Leah Bell (Sanger)  
(07 3282 1163)

### Vice President

Kay Jones (Roach)

### Secretary

Judith Hill

### Treasurer

Sue Stewart

### Past President &

### OGAPRESS Editor

Helen Pullar (Birrell)

### Brisbane Branch President

Joan Meecham (Parsons)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Jocelyn Green (Hutchison)

### Darling Downs Branch President

Ros Scotney

### Secretary

Cheryl Wilson (Hine)

### Treasurer

Lyndall Madden (Scotney)

### Canberra Branch Contact

Faye Noonan (Edmondson)

### Sunshine Coast Branch President

Jan Wright (Swan)

### Secretary

Lynne McLaren (Black)

### Treasurer

Dell Huey (Brown)

### Gold Coast Branch President

Denise Armstrong (Whitehead)

### Secretary

Lurline Campbell (Bellingham)

### Treasurer

Ruth Thompson (Penglis)

### OGA Calendar 2015

#### Ipswich

#### General Meetings

12 October

AGM 23 November

All at 7.00pm Social Staff Room IGGS

Annual Dinner 31 October

6.30 for 7.00pm IGGS Phoenix Room

#### Brisbane

AGM 14 November

2.00pm Reading Room Toowong Library

#### Sunshine Coast

TBA

#### Darling Downs

Christmas Luncheon 12 December

(venue to be decided)

AGM 2016 21 February 2016

(venue to be decided)

#### Gold Coast

AGM 17 October

11.00am 41 Rix Drive Upper Coomera

## Old Uniforms – a valuable asset Could you donate yours?



A popular feature of this year's Fête was a parade of uniforms by the Year 7 and 8 girls with the assistance of Armitage Head of House – Nicole Williams.

Over the years, the OGA has been donated quite a substantial collection which we would dearly love to have on permanent display. In the meantime they are lovingly stored in their dry-cleaners acid free boxes.

When Leah and I went through the boxes to sort uniforms for the parade we realised that we have been so determindly acquiring our old uniforms (the box-pleated tunic etc) that we have overlooked the fact that we really don't have a very healthy supply of the second uniform – the little A-line dress and jacket or its winter equivalent which was introduced in 1973. (as pictured right)

We would be very grateful if any Old Girl is willing to donate any item of this uniform to our collection.



## Condolences

We have been saddened to hear of the following bereavements and extend our sympathies to Gold Coast members, Jill Blakely and Jan Hagerty on the death of Jill's husband and Jan's brother-in-law, Beres.

Lynne McLaren, Secretary of the Sunshine Coast Branch, recently lost her mother, Gloria Black – a well-known Ipswich identity.

Gold Coast members also attended the funeral of former Commercial teacher, Mrs Shirley Gregson (Boyd), who taught at IGGS in the 1950s and were able to pay tribute to her.