



# Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association (Inc)

## OLD GIRLS ASSOCIATION POLICY ON OBITUARIES

It is inevitable that we lose Old Girls every year and we aim to acknowledge those who pass away in our regular Newsletter, and on this website. We can only record Obituaries if we are notified of them by a relative or if we are able to verify information in a published death notice. We apologise in advance if we miss recording an Obituary and offer our sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones over the years.

To notify us of the passing of a former student or staff member please email us on [oga@eggs.school.nz](mailto:oga@eggs.school.nz) or phone the Development Office on Ph 970 6753. Obituaries will record the name; maiden name; date passed away; years at School; and any other relevant information we are provided with.

### OBITUARIES JUNE 2016 TO MARCH 2019

#### *Passed Away March 2019*

**Dawn May SPENCER (née Gissing) – Died 18th March 2019.** Dawn was in 3C Modern, 1947. Sister of Shirley WALDEGRAVE (née Gissing) 1953. 3M3. A long-time resident of Longford Park, Takanini.

**Audrey Jane ROWSON (née Tucker) – Died 24th March 2019.** Audrey was in 3C Modern, 1947. A long-time resident of Manurewa.

#### *Passed Away February 2019*

**Jennifer May WISEMAN (née Walls) – Died 23rd February 2019.** 3A 1952 – 6A 1956. Jennifer's granddaughters are presently at EGGs: Imogen in Year 13 and Miranda Wiseman in Year 9. Jennifer's sister, Shona Walls (deceased), who was at EGGs 1955-3AL to 1959-6A. Shona was a Nursing Sister and a Gold Medallist and did a Post-Graduate Course at "King Edward Memorial Hospital", Ealing, London. Shona was also a Tutor Sister at Middlemore.

#### *Passed Away January 2019*

**Dorothy Elizabeth (Betty) NORMAN – Died peacefully on 28th January 2019 at Auckland Hospital, aged 92 years.** Attended EGGs 1939.

**Sheila Cooper HICKMAN – Died 31st January 2019, aged 92.** Sheila attended EGGs in 1940 and loved painting. Sister of Daphne Joy (Joy) Hickman who died on 27th October 2018 (see below).

## *Passed Away December 2018*

**Nellie Gladys CHAPMAN (née Wakefield) – Died 1st December 2018.** Nellie was in 3A (1945) and travelled from Tokoroa to EGGs for the 60-years-on Reunion in 2015 – her first visit to the School since leaving.

**Sheila Anne McGREGOR (née Snelling) – Died 5th December 2018.** Sheila was a Hostel girl and was in 3B in 1945. She died peacefully in Whangarei. Her sisters were Peggy Snelling (3DM, 1947) and Cushla Traylen (nee Snelling) (3B, 1948) – both also Hostel girls, now deceased.

**Joyce (Joy) CARTER – Born 10th February 1921, died 11th December 2018.** Joy Carter passed away peacefully in her sleep on 11th December 2018, aged 97 years. She would have been 98 on 10th February 2019. Earlier this year Joy moved out of her home in Herne Bay (in which she had lived for over 75 years) to a rest home. A group of Joy's students, including Noelene Creighton and Ro Bellamy, remained good friends and companions to Joy over the years and garden parties were often held at her home.

Joy taught Chemistry, Maths and Science at EGGs for over 30 years in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. She was Deputy Headmistress at EGGs from 1962 to 1973. She was a strong believer in education and was also active in the Girl Guide movement from 1941.

In the EGGs Centenary year of 2017, Alumnae and family members joined Joy for a garden party at her home to celebrate her 96th birthday the previous day; the weather was perfect for a party in her lovely garden. Later that year Joy also attended the Staff Luncheon at the Centenary celebrations; she was the oldest person present.

In 2017 Joy reluctantly stepped down from the various roles she had held in Ponsonby's U3A since it was first established in 1994. Joy and the Ponsonby U3A were featured in an article in the Ponsonby News March 2017 edition, written by EGGs Alumna Noeline Creighton. Joy was a founder of "Greenfingers", as part of U3A. Although she continued to live independently until this year, Joy's primary carer over her later years has been her nephew, Murray Smallfield. Joy is also survived by her sister Ngawini who was one of the early gardeners at EGGs. Ngawini and Joy planted many of the original trees still found in the grounds at EGGs today.

Joy's life was celebrated at a service at All Saints Church, 284 Ponsonby Road, Ponsonby on Wednesday 19th December 2018 at 1.30pm. Lorraine Pound spoke at the funeral, and she and Fiona Cottam were both pallbearers.

Joy will be missed by many and remembered with great fondness.

**Winifred Clare (Winkie) ASHBY (née Griffin) – Died 11th December 2018.** Winkie attended EGGs in 1949 and was the School swimming champion. She competed at the Commonwealth Games twice (Auckland 1950, and Vancouver 1954). Winkie passed away peacefully following a brief battle with cancer. “She’s off to swim in another ocean, one where the water sparkles and is always warm” – from the NZ Herald notice.

### *Passed Away November 2018*

**Ailsa Lillian SCOTT (née King) – Died 2nd November 2018, aged 92 – 3A 1939.**

**Stella Lindsay JOHNSTONE, Dr (was Faber, née Horwell) – Died 13th November 2018.** Stella was in 6B, 1939 and was known to her patients as Dr Lindsay. She died in Whangarei.

**Virginia Frances LEE (née Neels) – Died 16th November 2018, aged 50 years.** Virginia attended EGGs in the early 1980s; she was in 3WS 1982. Virginia passed away peacefully at home in Beckenham, UK, after a long and courageous battle with cancer, with her husband Mark by her side.

### *Passed Away October 2018*

**Glen HARDING (née Nicholson) – Died 2nd October 2018.** Glen attended EGGs 1937-1942 (3A 1937 and 6A 1942). She was Head Girl and Dux in 1942 and received a University Scholarship 1941/1942.

**Deborah Marian KNOWLES (née Grossman) – Died 9th October 2018.** Deborah passed away peacefully, in the presence of her family, after a long illness. Deborah attended EGGs 1964-67 (3CL 1964) and taught English and Drama at EGGs between 1979 and 1983. She was a writer and wrote a book on her family history and the Holocaust. She published five books and is survived by her husband David, children Edward and Josephine and two granddaughters.

**Joy HICKMAN – Died 27th October 2018.** Joy was in 3A Modern in 1942. She was a writer of many booklets on Biblical themes, also a musician and poet. Her sister was Sheila Hickman (3A Modern 1940) who died on 31st January 2019 (see above).

### *Passed Away Sept 2018*

**Gwenda Margaret LITHERLAND (née Cammell) – Died 4th September 2018, aged 67.** Gwenda grew up in Green Lane, attending Cornwall Park School and Remuera Intermediate before coming to EGGs in 1964 (3CG). Her mother, Joan Cammell (née Nicholson), also attended EGGs in the 1930s. Gwenda was cousin to OGA Committee member Margi Leech (née Cammell) and niece of Valda Cammell (née Nicholson).

After finishing her schooling at Selwyn College, Gwenda embarked on a career in travel management, beginning at the Northern Steamship Company in the city. Gwenda married Don, an AGS Old Boy, and had three children. She studied the piano, teaching students in Mangere Bridge.

Later Gwenda continued her career. She and her husband, Don, had a very successful travel business in Royal Oak for many years; they were well-known in the travel industry and Gwenda won many awards.

Gwenda died suddenly and unexpectedly in September leaving three adult children and several grandchildren. (Pictured with her granddaughter Isla). She will always be remembered as a kind and caring person, and for her community and church service.

**Patricia Louise SOLLOWAY (née Conyngham) – Died 6th September 2018, aged 89.** Patricia was in 3A in 1942. She died at Howick Baptist Healthcare. Her sister is Dr Anne Hall (nee Conyngham).

**Anne PARKER (née Goodall) – Died 14th September, aged 91.** Anne was in 3A, 1940 and was a teacher, wordsmith and the best crossword-puzzler. She lived in Manurewa for many years. Her late sister was Judith Goodall (3AL, 1949).

**Sally Ann PULHAM (née Hough) – Died 14th October 2018.** Sally grew up in Green Lane, attending Cornwall Primary and Remuera Intermediate before coming to EGGs in 1968 (3AG). She attended Auckland Teachers College and went on to become a successful primary and intermediate teacher. Sally was a much-loved teacher and colleague, as well as a very artistic person. She was well-known for her interior design creations and for making the props for all the school performances where she taught (also where her two children, Matthew and Scarlett, attended school). Sally finished her career at Te Kura, The Correspondence School. She died at Mercy Hospice after a short illness with cancer. Her sisters are Jan Hough, 3BG 1956 (deceased) and Penny Brown, nee Hough, 3BL 1961.

### ***Passed Away Aug 2018***

**Sue Mary HAMILLÉ (EGGS 1977-78) – Died 12th August 2018, aged 58.** Sue (EGGS 1977/78) was a Hostel girl from Whakatane; she was in 7Cp in 1978. Sue was married to Don Richards and died in Wellington. Sue stood as an independent candidate for Ohariu in the 2014 election. Her brother is Rob Hamill, long-distance rower.

### ***Passed Away July 2018***

**Doreen Joyce PRITCHARD (née Soppet) – Died peacefully at Middlemore Hospital on 15th July 2018, aged 84 years.** Doreen attended EGGs 1947 – 1950.

**Mary Elizabeth CRESSWELL (née Hill) – Died 2nd July 2018.** Mary (EGGS 1957) was in 3BG. She attended the OGA 90-Year Jubilee celebrations in 2007 and won the raffle prize. Her daughters are Jane Cresswell (3WH, 1983) and Kate Akel (3CN, 1988). She died surrounded by her family.

**Judy Anne (Juliette) PARSONS (née Patterson) – Died 19th July 2018, aged 84.** Judy was Hostel girl and was in 3B Modern, 1948. She died peacefully in Tauranga, having lived a long time in Whangarei.

**Joanne Lesley (Lesley) McHARDIE-HUGES – Died 20th July 2018, aged 69 years.** Lesley taught at EGGs in the early 1990s and was the first Y13 Dean to do Graduation Dinner – she did five Grad Dinners between 1996 and 2016. She was a Life Member of the OGA. She died peacefully at Mercy Hospice with family by her side.

### *Passed Away May 2018*

**June Olive OGILVIE (née Furness) – Died 1st May 2018, aged 93 years and 10 months.** June attended EGGs from 1938 to 1940 and was a Life Member of the Old Girls Association. In 1938 she was in Form 3B modern and in her last year she was in 5CM. Whilst attending EGGs she resided in St Stephens Ave, Parnell. She was the sister of Audrey Furness who attended EGGs in the late 1920s. June was also a regular member of St Luke's Presbyterian Church, in Remuera. Her school reference from the Headmistress, dated 12th February 1941, stated that "her attendance was punctual and regular and her conduct good ... Her progress in her studies was quite satisfactory ... She has a neat appearance and pleasant personality ..." June recently attended the Centenary Morning Tea and enjoyed it thoroughly. June resided in Pakuranga Park Village until her death.

**Lady Norma Margaret Sarah BEATTIE (née MacDonald) – Born 26th September 1925, died 9th May 2018 in Wellington, aged 92 years.**

Lady Beattie, wife of former Governor General the late Sir David, had a long and fulfilled life, with a chunk of it spent in the public eye. She trained as a nurse in Auckland when she left EGGs, met lawyer David and they married when she was 24. They moved to Wellington when David became a judge. When David was made Governor General in 1980, the family moved into Government House where they welcomed various royals including Prince Charles, Princess Diana and baby Prince William. The famous "Buzzy Bee" toy was given to William by Lady Beattie.

Norma and David had seven children. Youngest son Simon – she discovered she was pregnant with him at age 47 – was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes aged 14 and she and David worked to raise the profile and reduce the stigma of diabetes through their work with Diabetes NZ.



There was plenty of travel around the country and the couple undertook a lot of charity work, continuing this after retirement. For 23 years Lady Beattie was Patron of Diabetes New Zealand, bowing out gracefully in 2011 so she could spend time with her many grandchildren (21) and great-grandchildren (8). Norma was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in 2001 when she was 75, shortly after David's death, thus making her "legitimate".

Norma was passionate about tapestry and embroidery. Widely travelled, she was hugely inspired by the Kimberley, Australia, and its spirituality, and this was reflected in a special piece she created in honour of her eldest daughter Sarah who died in 2010 of a brain tumour. She found needlework highly motivating and meditative. Many people with Type 2 diabetes go undiagnosed and Norma's message to many was to go and get yourself tested; if there is indication, you can modify your lifestyle. Awareness is everything. A fitting message from a strong woman who always thought of others and, despite her high profile life, always put family first.

**Yvonne MACK (née Foster) – Died 19th May 2018, in her 90th year.** Yvonne attended EGGs in 1943 and 1945, together with her elder sister, Dawn Tucker (née Foster, 1942-1944). Her daughter Shelley Mack attended from 1973 to 1977 and granddaughter Jessica Bishop (née Mack) attended from 2000 to 2004.

**Margaretta Evelyn (Gretta) BUSSELL (née Morton) – Born 25th May 1918, died 20th May 2018, in her 100th year.** Gretta was a true matriarch for the Bussell and Morton extended families over many years and will be sorely missed for her strength and guidance. She lived on her own in Wanaka until six months before her death at Castlewood Home, Alexandra, after a short illness. NB: Gretta was featured in our April newsletter she attended EGGs 1931-1933.

### *Passed Away March 2018*

**Michael Sinclair Tainui ROSE – died 24 March 2018 aged 63 years.** Michael was the proud father, with Elizabeth, of Sarah, Raphaela, and Madeleine who all attended Epsom Girls Grammar School. Michael served as a trustee on the EGGs Foundation from 2005 to 2011 and also as Chairperson from 2006. He was very involved in the wider EGGs community when his daughters were at the school and was made an Honorary member of the Old Girls Association in June 2011. Michael attended the Centennial Cocktail event last year for the EGGs Centenary celebrations. He was also an integral member of the Samoan sailing community.

## **Passed Away January 2018**

### **Gretchen Mary DAVIES (née Cork) – Born 1930, died 6th January 2018.**

Gretchen attended St Cuthbert's for her 3rd Form year in 1944 and then moved to EGGs from February 1945 to December 1947. Class photographs began in 1948 so alas there are no formal photographs of her time at eggs.

Gretchen became a talented and much-loved teacher of infants and primary school children. She did her qualifying year with Panmure District School in Auckland, then worked in London, Hong Kong and Sydney. She undertook much charity work through her life and taught "English as a Second Language" through a church-run programme in Sydney's northern suburbs. Her daughters Karen and Susan will miss her enormously, as will her four grandchildren.

## **Passed Away December 2017**

### **Beverley BATKIN – Died 14th December 2017, aged 78**

Beverley was an independent, sincere, caring and engaging mother and friend who is sadly missed. Beverley's daughter Ursula attended EGGs 1985-89.

## **Passed Away November 2017**

**Moana Nui-a-Kiwa Hinemoa WHAANGA (née Manley) - Died at Auckland on 15th November 2017, aged 82 years.** Moana attended EGGs 1949 – 1952. She was the first Māori woman to be crowned Miss New Zealand and the first Kiwi to compete at Miss Universe. She moved from Rotorua to Auckland as a child and was a champion swimmer who was selected for the Commonwealth Games. She entered the 1954 Miss New Zealand pageant to help raise money for her swimming club and was surprised when she was crowned the winner.

## **Passed Away August 2017**

**Lucy (Tui) AITKEN QSM (née Flower) – Died on 15th August 2017 aged 92.** Tui attended EGGs from 1940 to 1943. A long-time food editor of the NZ Woman's Weekly, Tui was known for sharing her passion for cooking and giving common sense advice. The Herald's obituary described Tui as a "multi-talented woman of substance and character". She worked for the Woman's Weekly between 1965 until her retirement in 1984.

### *Passed Away July 2017*

**Alma Gloria SCHISCHKA (née Sellwood) - Died 5th July 2017 in her 93rd year.** Alma attended EGGs from 1937 - 1940 and attended the Centenary celebrations in her wheelchair along with her daughter Mary Mountjoy nee Schischka. Alma thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations and had been looking forward to them for ages before that weekend. Alma and her family lived in the Schischka homestead which was next to Wenderholm at Waiwera.

### *Passed Away May 2017*

**Margaret Joan (Joan) HOOD (née Paulsen) – Died on 1 May 2017 at Te Puke Country Lodge aged 92 years.** Joan attended EGGs from 1937 – 40. She helped set up the EGGs OGA Bay of Plenty Branch.

### *Passed Away April 2017*

**Gisele SCHENIRER (née Riches) – Died on 30th April 2017 12 days short of her 98th birthday.** Gisele was on the staff at EGGs from 1950 – 1958; her daughter Simone attended EGGs from 1976 to 1980.

**Constance (Connie) Marlene THOMAS – Died at home on 25th April 2017.** Connie was on the Hostel staff from 1988 to 2010 and became Hostel Matron; her granddaughter Andrea Miller attended EGGs from 1995 to 1999.

### *Passed Away January 2017*

**Dr Gwyneth Marie ALLISON (née Hookings) – Died on 14th January 2017 in her 88th year.** Gwyneth attended EGGs from 1942 to 1946. Gwyneth attended an Old Girls Association Dunedin reunion held at Balmac Restaurant and Café on 7 December 2012.

**Rochelle Lynn CRAIG (née McNeil) – Died suddenly at Middlemore Hospital on 3rd January 2017.** Rochelle was the daughter of long serving EGGs staff member Linda McNeil (PA to the Principal at EGGs and Board of Trustees Secretary) and mother of Lachlan Craig who was an itinerant music teacher at EGGs. Rochelle was an accomplished dancer and dance teacher.

### *Passed Away December 2016*

**Barbara Anne, Lady WEBB (née Griffin) – Died at North Shore on 11th December 2016.** Barbara attended EGGs in 1935 and was the wife of the late Lieutenant General Sir Richard Webb.



**Jean FJ SARGENT – Died in Blenheim in December 2016.** Jean attended EGGs from 1937 to 1942 and was a Prefect. Jean sent in an original photograph of the 1942 Prefects for Archives.

### *Passed Away November 2016*

**George Frederick BUTCHER – Died on 29th November 2016 aged 77 years.** George was the husband of Sonia Butcher nee Minus who attended EGGs in 1951. Sonia is Co-President of the Franklin Branch of the OGA.

**Jacqueline May, Lady DAVISON (née Carr) – Died in her 92nd year at Mercy Parklands Auckland on 16th November 2016.** Jacqueline attended EGGs in 1939 and was the wife of the late Sir Ron Davison QC.

**Jean Broughton WISHART – Died 16th November 2016 aged 96 years.** Jean attended EGGs in 1935. Jean was the longest-serving editor of the New Zealand Woman's Weekly.

### *Passed Away October 2016*

**Mary MELROSE (née Gordon) – Died 15th October 2016.** Mary was in 3AL from 1956 to 1960 and on the staff from 1965 to 1971 and again in 1973.

**Beryl HENDRY (née Thomson) – Died on 13th October 2016 aged 101 years.** Beryl started at EGGs in 1928.

### *Passed Away September 2016*

Joan Gordon BROCK – Died peacefully on 16th September 2016 at Selwyn Heights Village. Joan attended EGGs from 1945 to 1949 and was a Prefect in 1949.

**Carol BARTLETT – Died 12th September 2016 in Honolulu after a holiday in Canada.** Carol taught at EGGs in 1985 and 1986.

### *Passed Away August 2016*

**Tanya Patricia RALPH (née Wehner) – Died unexpectedly on 10th August 2016 aged 76 years.** Tanya attended EGGs in 1953 and was in 3CG.

### *Passed Away July 2016*

**Gaye Denise (Denise) MADDEN (née Bulmer) – Died peacefully at home on 31st July 2016.** Denise attended EGGs from 1965 to 1966. Denise was with TVNZ from 1976 to 2006.

**Pamela Diane HAYHOW (née Stewart) – Died on 5th July 2016 aged 79 years.** Pam attended EGGs from 1949 to 1953 and was Arahi Games Captain in 1953.

**Beryl Edith NEELS (née Body) – Died on 3rd July 2016 at Mt Maunganui aged 95 years.** Beryl attended EGGs from 1935 to 1937 and is the grandmother of OGA past President Julie Goodyer.

### *Passed Away June 2016*

**Bert Manuhopukia ERUERA – Died 22nd June 2016.** Bert was the husband of Waratah Eruera who was a supervisor at Epsom House for 20 years.

Pauline BREMNER (née Shera) – Died 18th June 2016. Pauline attended EGGs from 1952 and was in 3BG.

### *Passed Away March 2004*

**Susan Margaret-Eleanor OKIN (née Moller) – Born 19th July 1946, died 3rd March 2004.** Susan was a well-regarded liberal feminist political philosopher and author. Whilst she passed away 14 years ago, in the USA, we'd like to share a little about her. Susan attended EGGs between 1959 and 1963 and was Prefect in 1962 and 1963. She won the Johnston Prize for English, the Special Prize for History and the Senior Speech prize in 1963. She earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Auckland in 1966, a Master of Philosophy degree from Oxford in 1970 and a Doctorate from Harvard in 1975.

Susan taught at several universities, including Auckland, and spent 15 years teaching at Brandeis University in Massachusetts. In 1990 she moved to California, having been appointed the Marta Sutton Weeks Professor of Ethics in Society and Professor of Political Science at Stanford University.

For many, Professor Okin invented the study of feminist political theory, and continued to define its debates until her death. She received many awards during her career and published numerous books, including the agenda-setting *Women in Western Political Thought* (1979), in which she detailed the history of the perceptions of women in western political philosophy. Ten years later, in her book *Justice, Gender and The Family* (1989) – a critique of modern theories of justice – Okin demonstrated that political theories of justice needed to be recast to take gender into account.

Susan held a visiting professorship at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and was on leave from Stanford, at the time of her death in 2004. She was found dead in her home in Lincoln, Massachusetts on 3rd March 2004, aged 57. At that time she was working on the implications of economic development policies for women's rights. The cause of death is unknown but foul play was not suspected.