



# Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association (Inc)

## Newsletter

April 2018

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Ragtime rehearsal



## FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS' OF THE OGA

Firstly, thanks to everyone who responded to the Survey we sent out towards the end of last year – we had a fantastic response and received lots of valuable feedback. We have analysed the information, have already taken on board some of the suggestions and comments, and will keep the feedback top of mind as we move towards the OGA Centenary in 2021.

Secondly, as many of you will know, our current Treasurer and Past President Julie Goodyer has invested huge time and energy for a number of years in compiling and editing the Newsletter. She is now handing over the reins and we'd like to thank Julie immensely for her wonderful work. We are taking on the task, in conjunction with Committee member Katharine Collins, and you'll see a few new components, including a "Lost and Found" section. We also want to introduce a "Letters to the Editor" column – so feel free to write or email us to have your say. Additionally, if you have an idea, story or article to contribute, we'd love to hear from you.

A message that came through strongly in the Survey feedback was for more news of "ordinary" Old Girls, as well as the wonderful high-flyers. Many EGGs students excel and achieve phenomenal success, but many more go on to enjoy full, fruitful and successful lives in their own ways, often under the radar. We endeavour to celebrate all EGGs alumnae and are always seeking inspirational and heart-warming stories. If you have a story about an "ordinary Old Girl doing extra-ordinary things" or, equally, an "extra-ordinary Old Girl doing ordinary things" (it may be you!), please do let us know!



Athletics Day - February 2018



Epsom Girls  
Grammar School

Courage, Compassion, Curiosity, Community

Into a **NEW**  
**CENTURY**

We reach a lot of women all around the world, each of us with a shared high-school history, and we'll continue to work on inclusivity. It's not easy for those out of Auckland, and indeed those living abroad, to get to OGA events, and we're giving thought as to how we can expand and consolidate our presence across NZ and the globe.

EGGS alumnae all have a common thread and, just as eggs bind ingredients together in cooking to give strength and stability, so are the ties that bind EGGS Old Girls together. We recently came across the *EGGS Cookbook*, produced in 1980 to raise funds for the new Jubilee Pool. There is a "Celebrities" section, with recipes by Mrs Thatcher (Orange and Walnut Cake), Rob Muldoon (Summer Fruit Cake!!), Marilyn Waring (Delicious Rich Lamb Chops), Hudson & Halls (Chocolate Rum Gateaux) and also two contributed by our very own celebrity, past Principal Gae Griffiths (Cocktail Fudge and Scallops Au Gratin). It even has a section called "Special Eggs" – recipes include Egg Fondue and Egg Jelly!



Times change, as do recipes, but there are a few in this cookbook that, like our days at EGGS, we think are worth revisiting!

In line with progress, and looking to the future, the OGA Committee held a Strategic Workshop in November 2017. We generated a **Purpose: "To grow lifelong School connections"**. We also identified Strategies that are important to us, namely:

- **GROWTH** – Sustainability and Progress
- **CONTRIBUTION** – Supporting Alumnae and the School
- **ENGAGEMENT** – Communication
- **LEGACY** – Past, Present, Future
- **WELLBEING** – Enhancing Lives

These outcomes align with the School Values of **Courage, Compassion, Curiosity and Community**. We'll be holding another session to get a clear Vision around where we want to be at the time of our Centenary, as well as refine these strategies and get clarity on how to achieve them.

Another new initiative we'd like to introduce is to encourage promotional communication within our community of Old Girls. If you wish to promote your business, your products and services etc, we'd love to hear from you. Whilst this is a way for you to advertise at a modest rate, it is also an opportunity for us to generate much-needed funds (every bit helps), whilst spreading the word about all the great things our alumnae are up to. Many thanks to Jo Page at EGGS (Publications and Old Girl) who assists bringing this newsletter together, we are grateful for her layout skills and production help.



We look forward to receiving feedback at any time, about any matter – we encourage you to contact us!

**Contact us via email:** [oga@eggs.school.nz](mailto:oga@eggs.school.nz)

*Per Angusta Ad Augusta*

*Sally Blyth and Lynley Sheweiry, Co-Presidents 2016–2018 & Editors of this edition*

## ANNUAL MORNING TEA 2018

A group of Old Girls joined together for a warm, wonderful and well-attended Annual Morning Tea function at the Hostel on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April. Despite a major storm the previous evening, traffic chaos and many without power at home, we had approx. 60 attendees who enjoyed camaraderie, laughs and non-stop chatter. We were treated to an emotional and poignant song from the upcoming School production *Ragtime*. With gorgeous costumes and polished singing and dancing, the performance was a taste of what is in store when this musical comes to town in May. If you get a chance, do go along; it is going to be fabulous! (See Page 6 for info).

The School and OGA acknowledged Christine Black's contribution to the School Archives over many years. Tasty sandwiches, savouries and cakes were provided by Compass. Outside the Hostel dining room window, a large tree had fallen but thankfully the rain and wind held off so School Tours could go ahead and everyone wandered the grounds to get a sense of the School in its 2018 splendour. Thank you to the group of Year 10 students who led these tours so capably and enthusiastically. Thank you also to Eden Catterall who was our photographer for the morning (*Group photo on Page 16*).

## 1957/58 REUNION LUNCHEON

Following the Morning Tea, a group of about 20 Old Girls who began third form in 1957 and 1958 enjoyed a convivial time together over a wonderful lunch. It was 60 years since these OGs had begun their school days at EGGS and there was lively conversation and many wonderful reconnections made. Plenty of reminiscing went on well into the afternoon and it was a truly uplifting occasion. Reunions always are!

Many thanks to Lynley Sheweiry for organising these events; thanks also to Mary Dunkley and Gay Bates for their support.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At the New Family Barbecue in mid-February it was lovely to meet with mothers of new students who are alumnae of the School and, when the Head Prefect team attended the Bright Lights University of Auckland event for Distinguished Alumni Award winners recently, they were approached by former EGGS students in the audience. Epsom is a school about connection and pride in that connection. Fond memories usually come up in the conversations and former students are always curious about what school life at Epsom is like now.

At the moment, school life has been all about welcoming approximately 500 new families; students settling into new year levels; sporting achievement in School and Zone athletics and swimming; celebrating our cultural diversity with more than a dozen cultural groups performing at the Auckland Polyfest and enjoying the challenges that a new century brings.

This year we are EGGS #101 – the first year of our second century – and we are looking at two main questions:

- What will Epsom Girls Grammar School look like in its second century?
- What will learning look like at Epsom Girls Grammar School in its second century?

Both offer exciting prospects and it is important to us that students, families and alumnae have an opportunity to bring their voice to these two questions. Thank you to those who responded to the Communications Survey last year. We will have further news about the actions coming out of the review by mid-year. We are also undertaking a uniform review – the current uniform was born of a review in the late 1980s with the final parts formally introduced in 1992. We'll share more news later this term on consultation for this review.

We are also hoping to put a stake in the ground, in this first year of a new century, about raising awareness around further action regarding environmental responsibility and sustainability. At the moment student leaders are exploring possibilities. Our first steps have centred on individual action – we know that single-use items are clogging landfills and the oceans. We can all take actions that will help – two simple things being having a long-lasting reusable coffee cup and water bottle. Each thing we do is a positive step. It's a matter of taking the awareness we have and putting it into action. The sustainable coastlines group has helped to reinforce these messages with the students at assemblies and students are also joining in the beach clean-ups the group organises. If this is something that you would like to be involved in they are always keen for volunteers. <http://sustainablecoastlines.org/>

Learning at Epsom in a new century is based on knowing the learner, listening to the learner and responding to and with the learner. We are currently exploring a refurbishment of L Block into a flexible learning environment, and hope to be in the construction phase by the end of the year. We have launched a fundraising campaign for this as Ministry of Education funding will not cover multi-functional breakout learning and recreational spaces on a decked area to be added to the north face of the building. See Page 8 of this newsletter for how you can contribute towards this project and watch for news of fundraising events planned.

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March we hosted the Auckland Young Feminists group in the Raye Freedman Arts Centre for a Feminist Leadership Workshop. The theatre was sold out as the Q & A guest was Epsom alumna The Right Honourable Helen Clark, former New Zealand Prime Minister and former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. The current Head Prefect Team of Ruby Murray, Head Prefect, and Deputy Head Prefects Jacqui Alexander, Libby Gane and Yasmina Latu had the opportunity to meet Helen Clark after the event. This was a real highlight for these young women. We hope to host Helen Clark in the School at an assembly during this year of EGGS #101.

It seems a long time ago now, but I would like to formally thank the Old Girls Association for hosting the annual Graduation Dinner last December. It was a very happy occasion for the leaving students and their families. A great deal of effort goes into the success of the evening – on behalf of the leavers of 2017 and the School, thank you to all involved.

*Per Angusta Ad Augusta*  
Lorraine Pound, Principal



*Mrs Lorraine Pound, Principal with the Right Honourable Helen Clark and Head Prefects at the Feminist Leadership Workshop hosted by EGGS*



## COMMITTEE PROFILES

Here we profile some of the members of our OGA Committee – we'll bring you more in the next issue.

### Sally Blyth Co-President



Self-employed, works in the creative realm: writer, editor, artist, facilitator. Mask artisan, wearable arts enthusiast and international tour leader. Lived and worked in the UK/Europe during 1980s. A diverse career, mainly working with not-for-profits and in the health/wellbeing sector. Long-time involvement in local community alongside strong international focus. Enjoys enabling connections, generating inspiration, sharing experiences and taking people beyond their expectations. Loves travel, horse racing, skiing, cooking. Married with two adult sons. At EGGS 1975-1978.

#### Committees:

OGA Committee member since 2011  
Co-President since 2015  
Centenary Cttee member 2015-2017

### Lynley Sheweiry Co-President/Honorary Member



Biochemist with sales, customer service & marketing experience. Currently has own business – clairvoyant giving spiritual counselling. Passionate about education, fundraising and supporting the learning environment. Mum of Rachael Banbury (OGA Cttee) & two boys that attended AGS. Deputy Chair EGGS BOT, Chair Personnel Cttee, Curriculum & Enrolment Cttees, Foundation Trustee, Arts Council & Capital Campaign Cttees. AGS Gala Dinner Cttee 2009-2016 and Treasurer & Secretary of Aorere College Foundation since 2015.

#### Committees:

OGA Committee member since 2014  
Co-President since 2016  
BOT Member since 2012  
Centenary Cttee member 2012-2017

### Julie Goodyer Treasurer



Two daughters attended EGGS 2009-2013. Serves on Finance & Property, Epsom House and Curriculum Committees of the Board which enables a good working knowledge of the School. Resource Management Lawyer (30+ years' experience). Enjoys connecting with past students, hearing stories of how EGGS has changed over the years, enhancing connections between alumnae and current School. Passionate about the School and girls' education. Interests include walking, yoga, family time incl. elder care involvement. Skills: governance, management, leadership, networking and (of necessity) social media. Three adult children. At EGGS 1971-1975.

#### Committees:

OGA Committee member since 2009  
President 2010-2014, then Secretary  
BOT Member since 2016  
Chair Centenary Cttee 2012-2017

### Virginia Bishop Secretary



Broad General Operations Management experience with leadership and managerial roles across a diverse range of industries. Focus on brand retention, customer service differentiation and governance. Currently with Arvida Group. Advocate for women in business leadership roles. Married with two daughters (who will attend EGGS) At EGGS 1981-1984.

#### Committees:

OGA Committee member since 2015  
Foundation Member since 2017

### Katharine Collins Comms, PR



Third generation EGGS girl maintains a wide group of 'Old Girl' friends. Human Resources Manager, passionate about communication and creating open cultures, the community, giving back & supporting others. Looking for ways for us to engage in various ways are important, as is women making decisions about what we want, need and can achieve. Took a lot from days at EGGS, loves reconnecting and seeing the School in action. Enjoys skiing, running, biking, photography, cooking. Married with two primary school girls, who already feel a connection to the school. At EGGS 1986-1990.

#### Committee:

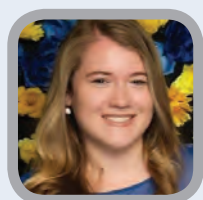
OGA Committee member since 2016

**Annise Raea Events**

Degrees in Civil Engineering and Commerce from Auckland Uni. Works as team manager and project manager for WSP Opus, involved in a variety of projects predominantly in public infrastructure, including planning and design of transport and water infrastructure. Interested in supporting the School and the education of young women. Also interested in business networking and mentoring for OGs and current students moving into university and the workforce. Two daughters, one currently at EGGS in Year 10. At EGGS 1989-1993.

**Committee:**

OGA Committee member since 2017  
Née Brumby

**Rachael Banbury Technical Advisor**

Recent OG. Currently attending Auckland University, double majoring in History and Politics as part of a BA minoring in Sociology. Works part-time at Auckland Normal Intermediate School as a teacher aide & after school tutor. Continues to be involved at EGGS by lending a helping hand with general school events, specifically the Arts side of the School (member of the Epsom Arts Council since 2015). Member of Epsom Memorial Archway Trust Committee since 2015 (organises ANZAC Day services). At EGGS 2012-2016.

**Committee:**

OGA Committee member since 2017  
Student Rep 2015-2016  
EGGS Arts Council since 2015

## ARCHIVES – THANK YOU TO CHRISTINE BLACK

Christine Black has been the School's Archivist since the early 2000s. Every Wednesday, from 10am to 2pm during term time, Christine has undertaken research enquiries about past students and has been instrumental in having many of the archival photographic records digitalised. The EGGS Archives have been open for 21 years and, with Christine's capable curation, they have continued to be a recognised and valuable resource within the school community.

Christine will be retiring from this role at the end of Term One but will be maintaining a strong connection with the School and OGA as she has generously offered to write a History of the OGA for the 2021 Centenary. Preparatory work is under way and this will be an important document for future Archives. Thank you Christine for your significant work in this important area of Archives.



If you'd like to make an appointment to visit the Archives room, please email [archives@eggs.school.nz](mailto:archives@eggs.school.nz)

## "OLD GIRLS" OR "ALUMNAE"?

As we approach our grand old age of 100 (we're currently 97), and being aware that most of us are not so old(!), there has been a suggestion to change our name from Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association (EGGSOGA) to Epsom Girls Grammar School Alumnae Association (EGGSAA). This would, of course, need to be discussed and ratified at an AGM, and the Constitution would need to be updated. However, as a first step, we'd like you to have a think about this idea and let us have any thoughts or feedback by the end of April so we can get a feel for how you feel about this. Feel free to ask questions!

**Contact us via email:** [oga@eggs.school.nz](mailto:oga@eggs.school.nz)

## DATABASE ALTERNATIVES

The OGA and EGGS Foundation are researching database alternatives to the one currently being used, as our Strategic Plan relates to enhancing the means of communicating with our Alumnae. If anyone has any ideas, advice or expertise that could help us in this endeavour, please contact Lynley Sheweiry 0275-596-539 or email [lynleysheweiry@gmail.com](mailto:lynleysheweiry@gmail.com)

## SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE

Following the recent Survey, we've received offers to assist with mentoring, as well as donating time to assist with various activities. Thank you, we appreciate the interest.

Perhaps you may be interested in talking to the current students through the **Thursday Lunchtime Talks** programme. The School welcomes alumnae working in a wide variety of fields (including, but not limited to, those listed below) to come and talk to current students about their career.

- Arts/Humanities/Education
- Communications/Media/Theatre/Music/Film
- Design (e.g. graphic, product, spatial) and Architecture
- Law/Commerce/Management/Tourism
- Veterinary/animal related and conservation/environmental science related

If you would like to share your professional journey and inspire the girls about life in your chosen field, please contact Philippa Leask, HoD Careers Department, at the School on 09-970 6774 – she'd love to hear from you, as will the students! Or let us know, and we'll put you in touch with Philippa.



## EGGS/AGS SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2018

This year Auckland Grammar School and Epsom Girls Grammar School are excited to bring you the musical production **'Ragtime - School Edition.'**

To whet your whistle, here is an overview by students Lucia Rindermann, Reuben Wickstead and Matilda Excell ...

***Ragtime**, based on a novel of the same name by E L Doctorow, is a story that encapsulates human struggle and triumph, after the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in America. It takes you on a journey of the heart as you are exposed to the lives of Jewish immigrants, African Americans and upper-class Anglo-Saxon Protestants in New York at the time. We watch their lives interconnect as they are faced with prejudice and hardship, but also love and understanding. As students in the production, we are excited that the audience will be faced with issues that were present then, but are also very relevant to our world today.*

*Under the direction of Anna Richardson, the cast began the rehearsal process in January and continues to meet three afternoons a week. As a cast and team, we are feeling very excited about our progress, the performance skills we are developing and what we are learning about history in the process. We have become a tight-knit ensemble and can't wait to share our work with the wider community of both schools. Look out on the Facebook page for character and actor biographies as well as performance snippets: <https://www.facebook.com/AGSEGGSProduction/>*

**'Ragtime - School Edition'** will hit the Raye Freedman Arts Centre stage from **12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May**. Tickets go on sale during the Term One Holidays. We can't wait to share this epic journey with you.

**Show details:** 12th to 19th May, 7.30pm at the Raye Freedman Arts Centre – all welcome!

**Tickets:** Adult \$25; Concession/Student \$20

**Purchase through [iTICKET.co.nz](https://www.iticket.co.nz) on sale from 16 April (handling fees apply)**

These annual joint productions are always impressive, showcasing a raft of talent and infectious enthusiasm. The standard of performance is truly outstanding and the OGA recommends that you get along and enjoy this one!



## EPSOM HOUSE SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is sponsored by the Epsom Girls Grammar Old Girls Association and is available to a student in her first year at Epsom House. The Scholarship fund was initiated by Mrs Sally Dalzell (a former Principal of Epsom House) and was built upon during the Reunion held in 2007 to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school. The Scholarship is awarded to a successful applicant to Epsom House whose family has had close association with the school. Only girls who are accepted for Epsom House are eligible. Since 2016, the Scholarship has been sponsored by Compass Group.

If you know of anyone applying for Epsom House who would be interested in applying for this Scholarship, please get them to contact us for more information. Epsom House interviews are carried out in May each year.

## EPSOM HOUSE POD 2

Meanwhile, Epsom House POD 2 construction is well underway with the floor slab poured in mid-March. The second POD replaces the Manuka accommodation block which was demolished in December last year. POD 2 is scheduled for completion in September and is expected to be occupied by students in Term 4.



*Epsom House POD 2 under construction*

## EPSOM HOUSE SPONSORS

Please support our Key Epsom House Sponsor and Partner **Compass Group** when considering services and catering that you need to purchase.



## MEET THE EGGS FOUNDATION TEAM

The Epsom Girls Grammar School Foundation was established in 1999 to foster the EGGS community both past and present, with a particular focus on investing in the ongoing success of EGGS and its students. We are a registered charity where the overall governance of the EGGS Foundation rests with eight Trustees.

Located in the Administration building of the school, the Foundation Office is made up of:

- Najira Khanam – Communications, Marketing and Development Manager
- Moira Boyle – Foundation Administration Coordinator

The Foundation Office works very closely with the school to provide the following support services:

- Fundraising
- Working with the OGA to build a strong alumnae network
- Managing sponsorships, gifts and bequests
- Developing relationships and partnerships with the EGGS community
- Communicating information about the school
- Liaising with the media



*Najira Khanam*



*Moira Boyle*

Our relationship with you is important to us and we are always keen to find out from our Old Girls about what sort of involvement you would like to have with EGGS. Are you interested in joining the group of alumnae role models who give their time to come in and speak with current students about their career paths and interests? (See page 5). Would you like to be involved in our fundraising activities? Come and speak to us or the OGA directly. We look forward to hearing from you.

## The Foundation Office

[www.eggs.school.nz/foundation/foundation.aspx](http://www.eggs.school.nz/foundation/foundation.aspx)

## Help us build a brighter future for Epsom Girls

*The L Block renovation will create positive outcomes for young women, a multi-functional space for connected and collaborative studying and a stronger sense of community.*



This year we will be upgrading our L Block into a flexible learning environment to keep pace with the needs of our EGGS community. As the government will only fund the interior of the block, the school has to raise **\$150,000** to extend the flexible learning environment to a multi-purpose outdoor space too – a space that will be used for breakout learning, meetings, individual and group work and covered recreational space for lunchtimes. With your generous support we can build the whole package.

Help us provide our students with an outdoor area that:

- encourages creative and critical thinking
- optimises learning
- betters student achievement
- provides access to the winter sun's light and heat
- provides protection from summer heat and sun
- gives shelter from the rain during all seasons

The flexible learning environment creates positive, supportive relationships between students and teachers and forms the basis for our learning. A vibrant, well connected, physical environment that encourages and supports our students through their EGGS journey – a journey you have all been through.

Your spirit of giving has supported many fundraising campaigns over the years including the Sports Complex, the Raye Freedman Arts Centre, the pool and other facilities. We are enormously grateful for your generosity and welcome your continued support.

### Make a donation today

To make a contribution, for any amount you choose, small or large, please complete a [donation form](#).

All donations make a wonderful difference to EGGS and will be recognised.

## Create a lasting legacy

Making a gift in your will is a unique way of reflecting your own interests, passion and vision for the future success of Epsom Girls Grammar School in areas of education, sports facilities and resources, teaching or community benefit. Whether you wish your gift to be made in memory of someone close to you, to carry on your own name in perpetuity or to be given anonymously, it is a gift with value and that, ongoing, will make a difference to thousands of young women every year.

Speak in confidence with the Foundation Office by phone 09 970 6753 or by email [foundation@eggs.school.nz](mailto:foundation@eggs.school.nz) if you're interested in leaving a lasting legacy.

Please download our [My Legacy](#) booklet for more information.





## MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE IN THE OGA LOOP

If you know of someone who is not receiving the newsletter but would like to have a copy posted or sent by email please let us know.

## SPORTS HALL OF FAME

A call was put out last year for nominations for the School's new Sports Hall of Fame – any alumnae who have represented New Zealand or another country in their chosen sport. There has been a great response already (80+ names and counting) and because this project has become larger than initially predicted, the School is in the process of seeking funding. If you'd like to donate or if you'd like to nominate an international sports rep Old Girl for the Hall of Fame, please email [sport@eggs.school.nz](mailto:sport@eggs.school.nz) or talk to Steph Jones at the School.

## CURRENTS SCHOOL NEWS

Throughout the years, EGGS girls have achieved great results across all disciplines. Whether in the academic, sporting, science or arts realms, and beyond, our students are right up there with the best. Take a read of the accomplishments outlined below, and you'll agree that EGGS girls work hard and achieve well.

### 2017 NCEA Results

EGGS students have again achieved some outstanding NCEA results in 2017, with 92.3% of Level One students achieving this qualification, 96.3% achieving at Level Two and 89.7% of students at Level Three. Of Year 13 students, 81.1% achieved University Entrance. When compared to national statistics, EGGS' results are well above the national average. These standards of high achievement are also consistent over time. All students are to be congratulated on their results.

### NCEA - Top Scholars

Towards the end of February, the School celebrated the highest levels of success with the presentation of Top Scholars' Awards at Assembly. These are awarded to no more than the top 5% of the cohort based on the course they have completed in that year.

Scholarship is an extra examination to recognise the highest levels of achievement in the country. Approximately 3% of the cohort sitting Level 3 in a particular subject nationwide are awarded Scholarship. In 2017 EGGS students gained a total of 88 Scholarships including seven awarded at Outstanding level. These scholarships were spread across 21 subjects, showing a depth of achievement at the highest level across a broad range of curriculum areas. Outstanding Scholarships were gained in Biology (3), Statistics, Photography, Design & Visual Communication and Accounting.



## CURRICULUM NEWS

### Environmental Science - Trip to Goat Island



Twenty-six girls from 10EVS spent the day at Goat Island on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February. They visited Auckland University's Marine Discovery Centre where they learned about marine food webs and the importance of reserves for marine ecosystems. In the afternoon they had the chance to see the ecosystem in action as they snorkelled in the reserve.

## ARTS & CULTURAL NEWS

### 2018 Choir Trip

The School choirs – Epsom Singers, Canto Vivo, and Paradisum – have recently had a fantastic weekend away on the annual choir camp to Eastern Beach. The trip was a huge success – 120 students attended for a weekend of singing and preparation for this year's concerts and competitions. Thanks go to all of the wonderful staff, students and parents who were involved.

## SPORT

### Rowing

North Island Secondary Schools Championships - 45 students competed at Lake Karapiro as a part of the Epsom Rowing Team, who came away with the following results: Bronze- GU18 Novice 8+; Bronze- GU18 4+; Silver- GU17 8+; Gold- GU16 8+.

### Swimming

AKSS Swimming Central Zones – 17 Epsom students competed and came away with five 3<sup>rd</sup> and three 2<sup>nd</sup> placings. The Junior, Intermediate and Senior Relay Teams all gain placings in both the Freestyle Relay and Medley Relay. Well done to all swimmers, including Erin Hamilton and Mackenzie Brears who both secured individual placings in the Breaststroke.

### Waka Ama

The Epsom Waka Ama Team competed at the Auckland Secondary School Champs in Orakei and had success by taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the U19 500m!

### Mountain Biking

The Epsom Mountain Biking Team raced their first event at Riverhead Forest. Congratulations to the Senior Relay Team who placed first, this team consisted of Poppy Buissink, Scarlett

Buissink and Maia Barclay who is a new Year 9 student racing in the Senior division! Additional results included: Poppy winning the U20 race; Scarlett placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U17 race; and Maia placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U15 race.

### Triathlon

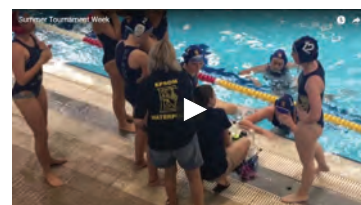
Four Epsom teams and two individual competitors raced at Maraetai. However, due to water conditions, Triathlon turned to a Duathlon instead. Both U19 teams placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in their grade, as well as the Junior team placing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations to all competitors!

### Athletics

Athletics day was a huge success in Week 4 with the majority of our EGGs students competing! Well done to all of those students who participated and our sports captains for helping the day run smoothly. Champs will be announced in the next newsletter.

### Summer Tournament Week

The EGGs Sports Captains have made this video to wrap up an awesome Summer Tournament Week!



## FOCUS ON BONE HEALTH

We have been working with three alumnae – Professor Jill Cornish (Dept of Medicine, Auckland University), Dr Susannah O'Sullivan (Endocrinologist) and Christine Gill (ED, Osteoporosis NZ) – as to how information about the importance of good bone health at a young age can be disseminated to students. We have had several meetings with relevant teaching staff and Principal Lorraine, who support the initiative, and we hope to run a pilot at EGGs. We are considering what form this may take, and further meetings are in the pipeline.

We shared bone health information in our November 2017 issue, as it is such a significant health issue, especially for women, particularly as we age. We are alarmed to learn that ONZ has severe funding issues and unless income can be sourced, they will cease to exist at the end of this year. We sincerely hope this is not the case and if any Alumnae are able to assist with advice of appropriate grants or funding sources that may enable ONZ to remain in operation, and therefore this pilot proceed, please let us know.

## FOCUS ON OLD GIRLS

### Margareta (Greta) Evelyn Bussell (née Morton) – nonagenarian, and going strong!

Greta was born in London on 25th May 1918 and her family emigrated to NZ when she was just 15 months old. Whilst her older sister went to Dio and her brother went to boarding school in Whangarei, Greta attended EGGs (1931-1933) and retains fond memories of her time there.

Agnes Loudon was Headmistress at the time. A new development at the school back in 1930 was the appointment of heads of department for English, French and Maths who were responsible for delivery of subject matter as well as overseeing new teachers. There was no budget for building improvements or expansion at the time and so for Greta's third form year, 1931 (year of the Napier earthquake), the School roll was capped at 600 as Loudon was concerned about the lack of available space, unsatisfactory buildings and make-shift accommodation.

When she left EGGs at the end of her fifth form year, in 1933, Greta went on to train as a shorthand typist and worked for the Automobile Association (AA). After living in Wellington for a time, she moved to Dunedin when she got married. Greta was involved in the early days of the Dunedin branch of the Old Girls Association which, sadly, has become defunct. [We'd love to have it re-established if any Dunedin OGs would like to help make it happen!]



Greta has three children and her great-granddaughter Nicole Bussell is currently at EGGs in Year 11. She has recently been blessed with her first great-great-grandchild. Many years ago Greta wrote a family history book which she is very proud of. Titled *The Stream Runs Fast*, it traces her roots back to Anne Boleyn, in particular to Anne's sister Mary.

Today Greta lives at Castlewood Rest Home in Alexandra, Central Otago. She doesn't see too well these days but, as she approaches her 100th birthday this year, she is a cheery and fabulous – and one of the very oldest – EGGs Old Girl!

Best wishes to Greta for a wonderful 100th celebration in May.

*[Historical information about the school from Educating Women of Integrity by Pauline Farrar]*

### Fiona Watson – inspirational teacher

Fiona attended EGGs from 1980 to 1984. After completing her training at Auckland Teachers College (1986-1988), she gained primary school teaching experience in South Auckland, then took a three-year OE which included a year of supply teaching in the East End of London.

Fiona was Deputy Principal at Jean Batten School (Decile 1) in Mangere from 2004 to 2015 and was much-loved by staff and pupils alike.

She won a DP Study Award in 2006 and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Education. Alongside this, she tried online dating – perhaps her busy teaching career had been an obstacle to true romance!? – and met a Coromandel boy. They kept up a long-distance relationship for nine years and, in 2015, Fiona bought five acres just outside of Coromandel Town, moved there and built a new home with her fiancé Pat. They plan to build a larger house on the property and run the small one as an Airbnb.



*Fiona with Dais, Gavin and Gertie McGoatface*

Happily ensconced in Coromandel, and content amongst her goats and nature, Fiona started relieving at local schools in 2017. Originally aiming for two days a week, she quickly became in high demand and now usually works four days. It seems the Coromandel Peninsular sees the same wonderful qualities in Fiona that were in action at Jean Batten School.

Fiona admits that she holds the position of relieving teacher with a little trepidation – she recalls (and regrets!) locking a reliever in a cupboard when she was at EGGs and hopes that there are no mischievous kids intent on doing the same to her! Somehow, with her natural teaching talent and fun-loving personality, we are sure this will not come to pass.

### Anna Dong – doing good and having fun



EGGS alumna (2011-2015) Anna Dong, who is on a scholarship at Princeton, New Jersey, spent the summer as a curriculum development intern at the Joint US China Coalition on Clean Energy in Shanghai. She helped develop and pilot an environmental education curriculum for Chinese primary schools and hosted a dialogue on sustainable finance with the Vice President of the New Development Bank. The organisation partnered with a local supermarket to teach kindergarten-aged students about nutrition and Anna wrote a song for their joint events.

*Singing Anna's song in the supermarket*



## REMEMBERING ALUMNAE You can read more obituaries on the OGA tab of the School website.

**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.

**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 was unknown but foul play was not suspected.



**Michael Sinclair Tainui Rose** – Died 24 March 2018 aged 63 years. Michael was the proud father, with Elizabeth, of Sarah, Raphaella, 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.

## UPCOMING OGA EVENTS AND REUNIONS

**OGA AGM – Monday 11th June, 7pm** – Please join us, we'd love to see more Old Girls in attendance. Don't let the acronym AGM put you off or get you yawning – this is a fun and friendly evening, and a great opportunity to meet other Old Girls in a relaxed environment at the School. We want to meet you; we want you to meet each other! We will also be acknowledging Honorary Old Girls.

**Lawyers & Judges Function – Wednesday 27th June** – We are planning an inaugural and special function for alumnae working in the legal profession – more details to come.

**OGA Film Evening – Monday 3rd September** – This was such a successful event last year we plan to run with it again this year. Put the date in your diary. More details to come.

*Check all the Save the Date info on page 16. Contact us via email: [oga@eggs.school.nz](mailto:oga@eggs.school.nz)*

## BE A SILVER ROAD CLUB DONOR



A group of Old Girls are now Silver Road Club Donors, supporting us with a monthly automatic payment of \$10 to help cover our costs. This is less than the cost of a cup of coffee a week and we would love your support in this way. We are a registered charity and will send you a donation receipt at the end of the year. Please contact us for more information to become a member of the Silver Road Club.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR PRODUCTS/SERVICES IN OUR NEWSLETTER?

If so, please contact us for full details, costs and process. We have a large database and this is a great opportunity to profile yourself and your business to a group of wonderful women who may be looking for exactly what you are offering! We're happy to spread your good news along with our own. All content subject to Editor's approval.

## CONNECTION CORNER

### YEAR GROUP REUNIONS

The OGA organises 60 and 70 Years-On Reunions, combined with the annual Morning Tea. But if you started your third form year in another decade ending in "8" i.e. 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998, 2008 and would like to organise a year group Reunion for your year group (and those who joined the cohort in subsequent years), please contact us and we will help you get under way.

You don't have to be in Auckland to organise a Reunion – our alumnae are everywhere so no matter where in NZ or the world you are, if you're keen to reconnect and get a group together, do contact us. We'll assist you in every way we can to locate former classmates and create an event to remember. Spring is a great time for these events and gives you time to locate people and spread the word. A gathering of just a few EGGS Old Girls is as much fun as a gathering of many!

Email [oga@eggs.school.nz](mailto:oga@eggs.school.nz) if you are keen.

*NB: We focus on the corresponding decade years so next year it will be 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979 etc. If you want to get the ball rolling for these early, that's great! Equally, if you'd like to organise a reunion for your year group at any time, regardless of decade year, that's great too. Get in touch with us.*

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

This year we are organising a **Lawyers' & Judges' Function (Wednesday 27th June)** and we are keen to extend this concept to organise gatherings for other groups – it might be a professional focus, or a sporting, cultural, arts group. If you're keen to have a get-together for people in your profession or with your passion, do contact us.

### LOST AND FOUND

If you are keen to reconnect with a former classmate you have lost contact with, please get in touch with us and we will see if we can help. Being female, it can be extra tricky with maiden and married names but we have great archives and can hopefully fill in some gaps to help you find your long-lost school friends.

In future newsletters we will have a dedicated "Lost and Found" space, so do let us know names, years etc of anyone you'd love to reconnect with and we'll publicise the details in the hope you will find them! **Contact us via email:** [oga@eggs.school.nz](mailto:oga@eggs.school.nz)

### REGIONAL BRANCHES

We have active branches in Franklin and Tauranga but would love to expand our branch network. If you're interested in activating a branch in your neck of the woods, let us know and we'll help get you started.

### INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

We'd love to expand our international connections so we can gain a better picture of where in the world we all are. Many alumnae live overseas and if you are one of them, or know someone who lives in a far flung destination, do let us know details. If you know any Old Girls living overseas who may not currently be in the OGA loop, please let us and/or them know and hopefully we can help generate many connections around the world.

### OGA CENTENARY 2021

We're planning to hold an Art Show during the Centenary, showcasing works by Alumnae – if you are an artist and would be interested in participating, please contact us to let us know so we can measure interest and keep you informed of plans.



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## INTERNATIONAL PROFILES

### A new slot profiling Old Girls living overseas ...

First up are two girls from the 1975 third form intake.

**Victoria (Tori) Macdonald (at EGGS 1975-1978)** is Health and Social Care Correspondent at Channel 4 News. She is an award-winning journalist who has been covering health and social care issues since 1999. Reporting on changes in the NHS in hospitals as well as the community, Tori also covers reforms and politics. She monitors how the care system impacts on the elderly and those with disabilities, also keeping an eye on mental health, HIV/Aids and TB and child health. Victoria trained at ATI and worked for the Auckland Star before leaving for England, where she spent 10 years at the Sunday Telegraph, eventually joining Channel 4 News.



*Victoria Macdonald (pictured with husband Andrew and Gabriella) finally realised her long-cherished dream of becoming a mother at the age of 47 thanks to a student in Spain who donated her egg.*

In her family life, Victoria has lived in London on and off since 1984. In 2009 she became mother to Gabriella after years of fertility treatment. She shared her moving story in the Daily Mail in an article in 2012 – you can read more here <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2145569/Victoria-Macdonald-I-paid-student-720-eggs-gave-baby-And-dont-tell-exploitation.html>

**Elisabeth (Libby) Drewry (at EGGS 1976-1979)**. I moved to Auckland from the UK, so I began my career at EGGS part way through the fourth form. After a not very illustrious school career, I left EGGS at the end of the seventh form and, not knowing what I wanted to do with my life, I went on to ATI to do a secretarial course. I worked for a couple of years in Auckland, and then returned to the UK, working as a legal secretary for a few years before looking at the people for whom I was working, and deciding that I could do that. I put myself through Uni, and had the great fortune to receive government grants to pay my fees and maintenance – I wouldn't have been able to do it otherwise. I qualified as a lawyer in 1992. I am now an Associate at DAC Beachcroft, an international law firm



with offices around the world, and legal partners in Auckland and Wellington; I work in the Bristol office, specialising in high value personal injury claims, representing a broad range of insurers. As it turns out, I managed to find the one area of law I couldn't practice in NZ – the ACC takes care of what I do.

My two older sisters also attended EGGS – Sally now lives in Scotland, and Alison is still in NZ. We all attended Centenary events last year and loved reconnecting with classmates we hadn't seen in years. It was lovely to see the school looking and feeling so vibrant, and it stirred up lots of memories. I am married to Patric and am step-mum to his two daughters, both of whom are preparing for, or already attending, University. Neither is planning a career in law!

If you'd like to share your story, please contact us!



## BACK IN THE DAY – *Reflecting on life in our land of yesteryear*

### 70 years ago in 1948 ...

- The estimated population was 1,853,900 (a 2% increase on 1947)
- Head of State was King George VI ("Bertie")
- The Governor-General was The Lord Freyberg
- We had a Labour Government (28th NZ Parliament)
- Prime Minister was Peter Fraser
- Mayor of Auckland was John Allum
- The 1948 Summer Olympics were held in London – seven competitors (six men and one woman) from NZ took part. NZ did not win a medal (along with 21 other nations)
- The 1948 Winter Olympics were held in St Moritz, Switzerland
- The following prominent New Zealanders were born: Billy T James; Richard Prebble; John Clarke (aka Fred Dagg); Peter Blake; Lockwood Smith.

### 60 years ago in 1958 ...

- The estimated population was 2,316,000 (2.3% increase on 1957)
- Head of State was Queen Elizabeth II
- Governor-General was The Viscount Cobham
- We had a Labour Government (32nd NZ Parliament)
- Prime Minister was Walter Nash
- Mayor of Auckland was Keith Buttle
- The "Black Budget" raised taxes on tobacco, alcohol and petrol
- NZ's first supermarket – Foodtown – opened in Otahuhu
- PAYE tax was introduced
- Brian Barratt-Boyes performed NZ's first open heart surgery at Greenlane Hospital
- Emergency number 111 for fire, police and ambulance was introduced
- US base for Operation Deep Freeze was established at Christchurch Airport
- NZ's first geothermal power station was commissioned at Wairakei
- NZ sent a team of 63 competitors to the 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games, held in Cardiff, Wales. Four gold, six silver and nine bronze medals were won.
- The following prominent New Zealanders were born: Simon Upton; Neil Finn; John Bracewell; Jeff Crowe; Martin Snedden (a good year for cricketers!); A J Hackett; the Topp Twins.

## CALLING OLD GIRLS TO SUPPORT OLD GIRLS!

Occasionally we receive approaches from Alumnae who have been offered a unique opportunity for further study that requires significant personal financial investment. As you'll be aware, the OGA is not flush with funds, the money we do receive being carefully disbursed and accounted for. Much as we would love to assist, alas, we just do not have spare funds to assist significantly with such requests. However, we wonder if there may be Old Girls out there who are happy to personally support young Alumnae with exciting prospects.

If you would like to assist an Old Girl to be able to take next steps when an amazing opportunity arises for them, and they need financial help, please contact us and we can provide full details of these approaches to us. This is a way our EGGS Alumnae can "give a little" with great purpose.

Contact us via email: [oga@eggs.school.nz](mailto:oga@eggs.school.nz)



OGA Annual Morning Tea - April 2018

## Save the Date

Ragtime – School Edition.....	12th – 19th May, 7.30pm RFAC
OGA 97th AGM.....	Monday 11th June at 7pm
Founders Assembly .....	Tuesday 19th June
Lawyers & Judges Function .....	Wednesday 27th June
Film Evening .....	Monday 3rd September (tbc)
Graduation Dinner.....	Thursday 29th November
OGA CENTENARY YEAR 100th Celebrations .....	The year 2021

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