



Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association (Inc)



Newsletter

April 2019

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FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF THE OGA

We hope everyone has settled into 2019 – it's hard to believe it almost one-third over already. Another busy year for the OGA lies ahead. During March, we held an OGA Committee Meeting, we presented a significant award (see below) and we organised a successful networking function for women working in law. Coming up on 10th April we have our **Annual Morning Tea** at 10am and the **Reunion Luncheon** for 1949 and 1959 third formers afterwards at 12pm. Anyone interested in attending can email oga@eggs.school.nz for more information. We're introducing the addition of occasional E-Newsletters which will focus on upcoming events and current news. Our regular Newsletters will still come out three times a year, but we hope the interim E-Newsletters will keep you in the loop. Do also check the OGA Facebook page – content is regularly uploaded with all sorts of interesting stuff to read. We encourage all students, past and present to get involved with the OGA and our various activities – especially in view of the OGA Centenary coming up in 2021. If you have any feedback or story ideas, please do get in touch.



Per Angusta Ad Augusta
Sally Blyth (Editor) and Lynley Sheweiry (Design), Co-Presidents 2016–2019

FOUNDERS AWARD PRESENTED TO ROSEMARY (RO) BELLAMY

On Monday 25th March 2019 Ro Bellamy (née Colgan) was honoured as an EGGs Founder, for "Outstanding Service to the Old Girls Association and Epsom Girls Grammar School". Ro is battling ill health, so we presented her with the award at a private ceremony in advance of the usual Founders Assembly in held in June. We are very proud to honour Ro in this way and offer our congratulations and best wishes. Here's an abridged version of Ro's Citation.

Ro, who attended EGGs as a student between 1954 and 1958, has taught at EGGs for many years over three stints (1963-1965 and 1968-1972 and 1982-2001). She has served on the OGA Committee for 37 years and was President from 2007 to 2010. In addition, Ro served on the Board of Trustees when it was first established under Tomorrow's Schools.



Tric Milner, Lorraine Pound, Julie Goodyer, Ro Bellamy, Donna Corse-Scott,
Sally Blyth, Virginia Bishop & Lynley Sheweiry

Education and sport have always been Ro's principal focus. She spent time in New York and after finishing her teaching role at EGGS she went on to do post-graduate study at the University of Auckland with a Royal Society (NZ) Teaching Fellowship followed by completing an MSc and continuing her love of teaching by working at the University. Ro has always been proud to say that she came to EGGS in 1954 and has never quite left. She has spent a huge chunk of her life involved in the school, one way or another, particularly in relation to the gardens. Ro has spent years caring for the School gardens, volunteering her time to weed and water plants over the weekends and holidays, planting and nurturing memorial trees donated in memory of Old Girls, helping to re-establish the native trees along the Manukau Road boundary and caring for the flax bushes from the property of Sir Apirana Ngata behind the Gae Griffiths Library. Green spaces, quadrangles and Paradise have all benefited from her caring touch over the years as she has strived to keep alive the vision that both Marjory Adams and Joy Carter had for the school grounds, namely that they should be mainly grass and trees, for ease of maintenance.

Not only has Ro been an active gardener at EGGS, she has passed her skills on to countless students over the years by organising gardening clubs and working bees in the gardens to encourage students to care for the school grounds and learn the joy of gardening. For the Centenary weekend, Ro and her husband Dick bought bags of daffodil bulbs and offered returning Old Girls the chance to donate to the School by planting a bulb under the trees opposite the Administration Building. These now bloom each spring, fulfilling Ro's vision for a "host of golden daffodils" to grace the entrance area. Along with her legacy of garden maintenance and enhancement over past years, and into the future, and her long teaching career, Ro has also been a generous and much appreciated donor to the School and OGA in so many other ways.



It is a great pleasure to honour Ro as a distinguished alumna of Epsom Girls Grammar School and a recipient of a Founders Award in 2019 for her outstanding service to the Old Girls Association and Epsom Girls Grammar School.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The year 2019 has begun with a series of events: swimming and athletic sports; the new family barbecue; cultural groups preparing for Polyfest; and everyone settling into their new year's courses. A new year has the promise of a new start and new opportunities. It is wonderful to see students trying something new; challenging themselves and participating as an active member of the Epsom community.

By the end of this term we will be getting ready for the construction phase of the L Block redevelopment project, which will continue until late in the year. The Donor Wall of Honour is building well – each donation

of \$500 or more being acknowledged on this wall which will be a feature of the main entrance to the building. If you would like to join the Donor Wall of Honour, please contact foundation@eggs.school.nz

At the end of last year, a number of alumnae, former and present staff attended the funeral of Joy Carter. At the service it was a privilege to be able to acknowledge the very significant contribution that Joy made to the School from 1945 to 49 and then from 1951 until 1973 when she retired. Joy taught Mathematics, Chemistry and Science in that period of 25 years at Epsom. She was appointed as the Head of the Chemistry Department in the late 1950s and by 1962 she was appointed as Deputy Principal, retiring from that position in 1973.

Looking ahead, the OGA Annual Morning Tea is always a highlight in the calendar. The commitment of the Association to the ongoing support of current and future students is palpable and significant. The Graduation Dinner in December of each year is an excellent example of this support, with a celebratory end of year event and the giving of scholarships to Year 13 students leaving the School to take the next steps on their journey. On behalf of the students and staff I would like to thank the OGA for the important role they play in the life of the School.

*Per Angusta Ad Augusta
Ngā mihi, best wishes
Lorraine Pound, Principal*



Epsom Girls
Grammar School

Courage, Compassion, Curiosity, Community

Into a **NEW
CENTURY**

CURRENT SCHOOL NEWS

At the end of last year, the School farewelled four long-serving staff.



In 2018 **Laura Harvey** was on maternity leave. She had been with the School for nine years in The Sciences Learning Area and, more particularly, Physics. She had also been Assistant and Head Timetabler.



Fiona Merritt performed four distinct roles in her ten and a half years at Epsom – Mathematics Teacher, Assistant Timetabler, as the first Business Manager for the School for four years, and as Human Resources and Timetabling Manager.



Jo Bidwell left after 12 years in Graphics and Technology, as Teacher in Charge of Year 9 and 10 Technology and, more recently, as Head of Department Design Technology.



Marama O'Loughlin retired with 17 years of service at Epsom: in Health and Physical Education, including Early Childhood Education and Childcare, as well as her role as a year level Dean and, over the last seven years, as Head of Department, Deans.

Each of these four staff members made a significant contribution to the School and we wish them well.

Head Prefect Team 2019



(left to right) Deputy Head Prefects, Jasmin Wiki & Anushka Unnikrishnan, Head Prefect Amelia Burton & Deputy Head Prefect Rebecca Mead

Swimming



Congratulations to the 23 EGGS students who competed at the College Sport Central/East Zones at the end of February.

CHRISTCHURCH

At the moment everything seems to be underpinned by sadness after 15/3 in Christchurch. Last Thursday the school community was involved a collaborative art project in Paradise over several lunchtimes.

The main materials were rainbow coloured ribbons kindly donated by contemporary NZ artist Tiffany Singh.

This was an inclusive project

designed for everybody, staff and students, to participate in. Ribbons were tied to the Jacaranda tree and then flowers and messages tied into the ribbons in a beautiful colourful tribute to those that lost their lives.



FOCUS ON OLD GIRLS

CHARLOTTE BEST: Striding Forward in Law (EGGS 2005–2009)

Words by Sally Blyth

Since leaving EGGS, Charlotte has been full-steam-ahead pursuing a legal education and career. She is going from strength to strength since gaining her Law Degree but, prior to all that, music has been a lifelong passion. She learnt to play the cello when she was 8-years old and, during her time at EGGS, was a member of the Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, and also played in a Trio. She learnt the saxophone when she was 15 and went on to play in the School Concert Band and Stage Band. She was Band Leader in 7th Form (Y13).

Charlotte absolutely loved music during her time at EGGS and has been a cellist with the Auckland Symphony Orchestra since 2010, performing regularly in the Town Hall and beyond. The discipline required to combine practice, rehearsal and performance with a full life, legal studies and, now, a burgeoning legal career is not to be under-estimated. Charlotte has managed to balance all this beautifully, with serious studies, and always with a smile on her face and sweet music in the air.

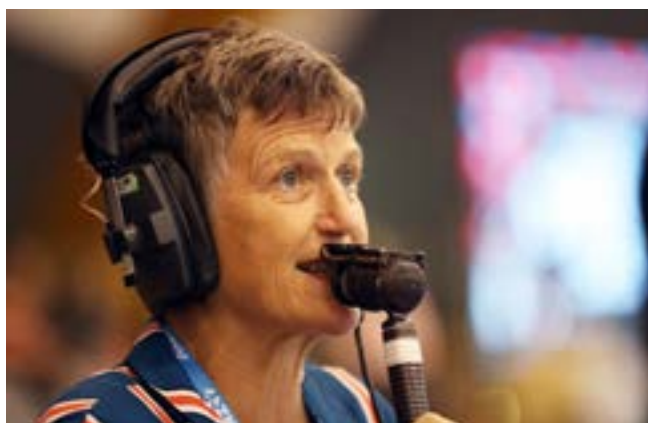
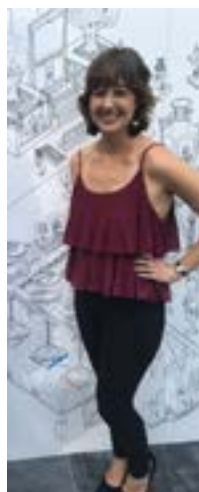
After leaving EGGS, Charlotte completed a BA/LLB conjoint degree in Psychology and Law at the University of Auckland. She followed this up with a Masters, gaining her LLM and fully deserving First Class Honours. Her LLM was in two parts, with a focus on the criminal justice system: the first part was about youth sex offending; the second was in relation to offenders with neuro-disabilities.

During her Summer Research Scholarship in 2012, Charlotte worked closely with Ian Lambie, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Auckland. Over the course of four years, she published nine articles which appeared in the NZ Law Journal and various other legal publications: two on female youth offending; one on including 17-year olds in the youth justice system; three on fire setting; and several others. This is prestigious acknowledgement, of which Charlotte can be justifiably proud.

After graduating from University with her LLM, Charlotte gained a job as a Judges' Clerk at the Auckland District Court at the beginning of 2016. This was a research-based job she absolutely loved, where she got to meet and work with many judges. Working in a Court environment might mean pressure, precision and plenty of prowess on a daily basis, but Charlotte assures us it also comes with a good dose of fun along the way! She describes the job as awesome in every way and acknowledges that it helped her grow in many dimensions. She has made lifelong friends and considers it superb grounding for the type of legal work she wishes to do into the future.

Keen to progress her career, Charlotte has recently taken on a new role as Junior Prosecutor at Kayes Fletcher Walker who are the Crown Prosecutors in Manukau. A focus of her work is in the youth justice system and, as this area of law is Charlotte's true passion, she is looking forward to getting stuck in. The role involves court work as well as her beloved research work. She is especially interested in working with female youth offenders and this role gives her great scope to work within this territory.

An accomplished musician, a refreshingly vibrant and mature young woman who embraces life with gusto, and a criminal lawyer with a fabulous future ahead of her, Charlotte is an EGGS Alumnae to truly admire. Like many students, she may have remained somewhat under the radar during her time at EGGS, but she is already making her serious mark on the legal world. And she has so much further to go. We wish Charlotte all the best in her new position.



JENNY WOODS: News, Sports, Family and More (EGGS 1974-1978)

Words by Sally Blyth & Jenny Woods

Jenny has combined her love of journalism, news and sports into a varied and rewarding career which she continues to enjoy. There have been many "pinch-me" moments along the way; here is her story ...

Hailing from a farm just north of Dargaville, Jenny attended EGGS as a Hostel girl in the 1970s, along with her sister Tina who was two years ahead of her. Their mother Barbara Guy, and aunts Janet and Helen Guy, had also been boarders.

While acknowledging that boarding school is not for everyone, Jenny believes her own experience set her up for life. She was very sports-oriented and played anything and everything during her time at EGGS; making the Auckland collegiate netball and basketball teams. Her netball coach in the third form was Sue Rope – who funnily enough Jenny played against in the recent World Masters Games in Auckland. Others included sports teacher Wendy Eggington – herself a provincial rep at the time. Jenny was voted in as Games Captain in 1978.

After leaving EGGS Jenny did a six-month journalism course at ATI (now AUT) and went out to start her cadetship at the Taranaki Herald in 1979. She spent a year in Stratford, a year in Hawera and then a year in New Plymouth. Netball was key to her over those three years, making the Taranaki provincial team, and helping forge lifelong bonds particularly in Hawera.

After her stint in Taranaki she moved back to Auckland and worked for a year at The Auckland Star (circa 1982). She then headed overseas, working in London (as a temp secretary not a journalist) and travelling as much as she could. She returned in 1986, and spent a few months on the farm at Waihue pondering her next move. She got a job with the NZ Herald in Auckland, but before taking it up, saw one advertised with Radio New Zealand in Hamilton. So began a radio career that is still going. The pace and variety of the medium is something she loves.

Jenny spent three years in Hamilton, before moving back to Auckland and marrying in 1989. By this time, she was a general reporter at Newstalk 1ZB which before very long morphed into Newstalk ZB. Daughter Laura was born in 1993, and Jenny returned to the station part-time after maternity leave in the role of Breakfast Sub-Editor. Twin boys Bruce and Henry arrived in 1995. With husband Tony bearing the load in the morning, Jenny could manage a 4am start, and mid-morning finish. The early years are much of a blur, but once the children started school, things became much more manageable. Even though the early morning starts might horrify many, Jenny counts herself lucky in that she has been able to have the best of both worlds – a satisfying career, while still being home after school for the family.

A chance that came her way at the age of 45 is what Jenny believes has helped keep her in the media industry. Many will know Jenny as a Sky Netball Commentator and her journey to this role is an example of the adage 'just do it'. After a number of years where TVNZ delivered the National Bank Cup and the competitions that went before it, SKY Television gained the rights. It began by taking over coverage of the internationals, just ahead of the 2007 World Cup which, thanks to the coup in Fiji, ended up in Auckland. A former ZB colleague Andrea McVeigh was pivotal in setting up SKY's netball coverage and knowing Jenny's netball interests wondered if she might like a crack at commentating. Initially there was a feeling of hesitancy, but Tony was one who observed that, essentially, she commentated every game from the couch anyway, so why not be paid to do it. In many respects it's been life-changing.



Open A netball 1978

Barbara Hanchard, Gabrielle Cole, Wendy Eggington (coach), Jenny Woods, Charlotte Karaka, Jill Christie, Janet Graham, Luisa Tauati.



Games Committee of 1978

Back Row: Megan Calderwood, Katy Thomas, Roz Thompson, Michelle Brown, Jill Stevenson.

Middle: Jocelyn Neutze, Jill Christie, Jenny Woods (GC), Diana North (dep. GC and GC 1979), Gabrielle Cole, Sara Weeks.

Front: Sandra McDonald, June Carruthers, Michelle Gifford, Roslyn Collins, Sarah Smith.

An audition at SKY with a parade of netball greats – Anna Stanley, Bernice Mene, Tania Dalton and former Australian skipper Kathryn Harby-Williams – followed, and before she knew it, Jenny had a new career. The process of learning the intricacies of a new discipline has been rewarding.

The trans-Tasman ANZ Championship launched in 2008, followed by the ANZ Premiership in 2017, and Jenny has been able to combine working on these competitions, while hanging on to her radio job. With the netball has come travel, working on the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010, Glasgow in 2014 and Gold Coast last year. Jenny was also at the World Cup in Singapore in 2011, Sydney in 2015 and is hoping to be in Liverpool in July.

SKY picked up the rights to the ASB Classic in 2012 and the tennis has thrown up another opportunity for Jenny. She did play tennis for EGGS during her time at school but, shall we say, was never in the same stratosphere as Brenda Perry – who, by the way, was her first Head Girl in 1974. Nevertheless, she knew the game and, more importantly, followed it.

Working on the tennis has become a regular gig in the first week of each January. As a journalist, the research required for commentary is something Jenny enjoys. Time-consuming, yes, but rewarding and necessary. It was certainly necessary last year, when Jenny was asked to work on Bowls3Five – a sort of fast version of lawn bowls. She quickly learned the difference between calling a sport you've played all your life, and one you haven't.

Away from the microphone, Jenny still plays basketball regularly, and netball sporadically – finding it a lot harder on the body. Her team regularly attends Masters Games here and overseas, and generally comes back with a medal of some colour or other.

In recent years, Jenny has added funeral celebrant to her list of activities. It's something that suits her journalism and radio skills. While obviously some funerals are incredibly sad, others are tremendous celebrations of a life well-lived.

Jenny is grateful for her now more-than-30 years in radio and is aware that her sports commentary career could come to an end at any moment. All that's needed is a change of broadcast contract here, or a producer's whim there. More than anything, she's grateful to her family, particularly Tony, who's helped make taking so many of the opportunities which have come her way possible.

JEANETTE SINCLAIR: A Passion for Bowls (EGGS 1952-1955)

Words by Sally Blyth

Jeanette loved her time at EGGS. Playing bowls wasn't an option in her day, but she enjoyed other sports including swimming, diving and gymnastics. Being crowned Junior Gymnastics champ took her by surprise and still makes her chuckle. She remembers going home to tell her mother this news – she was hanging out the washing and, with a peg in her mouth, said "That's nice dear".

When she left school, Jeanette worked at the Bank of New South Wales. She later married and became a full-time house wife and mother to three sons, who attended Auckland Grammar School. She also spent time dairy farming in Greytown in the Wairarapa, and then owned and managed a berry fruit garden.

Soon after taking up bowls Jeanette was hooked and became very involved, especially in the umpiring area. She became a badged umpire in 1991 and, later, became a member of the Bowls New Zealand Umpires Committee for six years, travelling to many bowling centres. In 2006 Jeanette represented New Zealand as an International Technical Official (ITO) at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

In addition to this she has served on the Investigations Committee for the Bowls NZ Hall of Fame, has administered bowls at club and centre level, and was President of Auckland Bowls for two years. With a huge passion for lawn bowls, a game that all can participate in, she became President of Bowls NZ in 2017. She recommends it as a great game for everyone of any age – it requires strategic thinking and is also physical, but without the rough and tumble of sports like rugby.

Jeanette lives in Auckland and, when not involved with bowls, she enjoys gardening, reading and cooking.

NB: The Bowls NZ Secondary Schools Championships take place 26th to 28th March 2019 at Carlton Cornwall Bowling Club – this is the first time a national bowls event will be held.



Inspirational Women in the Sports Realm at EGGS

Inspired by Jenny and Jeanette's stories, we highlight just a few women at EGGS who helped inspire students in the sporting realm during the 1970s:

- **Eira Lehtonen (Lydiard)** – PE teacher, former Finnish gymnast who competed at the Olympics (Rome 1960 and Tokyo 1964). Married endurance running coach Arthur Lydiard in 1977. Died 24th Nov 1984, aged just 45. Miss Lehtonen will be remembered with great fondness and for bringing a touch of international sporting stardom to EGGS in the 1970s.
- **Wendy Eggington** – PE teacher – sporty, smiley and always energetic.
- **Alison Branfield** – Badminton champ, competed at various Commonwealth Games – she taught French and several other subjects, but everyone was in awe of her badminton success.
- **Sue Rope** – a mover/shaker in Auckland Netball (she coached Jenny Woods at EGGS).

If you recall someone at EGGS who inspired you in your sporting endeavours – a teacher, a coach or a fellow student – do let us know!

CHARLOTTE PURDY: Storytelling Through Film (EGGS 1988-1992)

Words by Sally Blyth

Charlotte is Executive Producer at Rogue Productions Ltd. She has worked in current affairs and television and her main love is telling authentic stories about real people and actual events. Her own story offers an insight into the full and challenging life of an award-winning film-maker.

Reflecting back to her school days at EGGS – which she loved – Charlotte recalls a keen political awareness amongst some of the students. One particular memory is a desire by the Head girl to have a marae on site. This, along with great teachers with progressive attitudes – especially History and English – had an impact on her.

Time spent hanging out with young actors who made their own short films inspired her into the world of film and, when she left EGGS, she studied at the South Seas Film & TV School. Whilst there, she made a documentary which did well, and she found herself drawn to telling true stories through documentaries. This tied in nicely with her love of history, especially recent history. Charlotte's first filmmaking highlight came in 1995 when her film *Hookers, Whores and High Heels* was shown at the 1996 New Zealand International Film Festival. This fuelled her desire to continue making films that told real stories.

Charlotte approached renowned producer, and head of drama at TV3 at the time, the late Caterina De Nave, who took her on. She loved working with Caterina and was always developing her own proposals and seeking funding as she learnt the ropes. At the time, Charlotte didn't fully realise what an impact her mentor would have on her future in the industry. Over the following years Charlotte worked in the realm of factual programming and current affairs. She was a producer for 60 Minutes and other current affairs shows and says that telling real stories about regular people and meeting those dealing with hardship gave her a window into people's lives that brought amazing perspectives on her own life. Charlotte acknowledges that identifying a good story and sharing it has been a privilege – as well as an important component of gaining much-needed funding – and she loves this angle of film-making.

After immersing herself in freelance work, Charlotte founded Rogue Productions Ltd in 2006 so she could make her own films and reality shows with a serious focus. One of these was the award-winning feature documentary *Erebus Operation Overdue*, released in 2014, which brought all Charlotte's passions and skills together. From the inkling of the idea to the completion of the film took four years but much of this time involved the eternal challenge of seeking and securing funding. Actual filming took place over eight months and the film received excellent reviews whilst touching many hearts. Charlotte has a personal connection to the tragedy; her uncle Gordon Brooks was an engineer on the fateful flight in 1979, and it was when her cousin Virginia attended a memorial service for the victims that Charlotte got the idea to make a film focussing on the heroism of the rescuers involved in the recovery effort.

At that point in time, it had been almost 20 years since her first film was released and, since then, Charlotte has been busy producing a range of TV shows, including *Anika Moa Unleashed*, bringing a seriously humorous element to the telling of real-life stories.

In her busy personal life, Charlotte enjoys music and nature, passions which help balance the high energy that is required to manage the demands of recent parenthood and the many facets of running a production company. Her life and business partner Claire had a baby boy a couple of years ago, and Charlotte has herself just recently given birth to a baby boy (both have the same dad). Maternity leave was short and sweet for Charlotte and she has just recently returned to work on two premium documentaries that are currently in the making; one about the Teen Parent Unit and a much-anticipated docudrama about the 1987 Rugby World Cup, due for release in September 2019 and sure to resonate with Kiwis everywhere. Another project in progress is a reality show about escaping from Zombies.

Whilst passion fuels Charlotte to keep making cutting edge films, funding remains a challenge and she relies very much on having great stories to tell. There is no doubt that Charlotte has a knack of finding such stories and telling them with tact and sensitivity; we'll await the release of her future films with great anticipation.

Meanwhile, congratulations on new motherhood and the busy joyful juggle that goes with it.



OGA CENTENARY 2021 – Initial planning is under way for our OGA Centenary in 2021. The feature will be a fabulous Cocktail event – watch this space! We're also planning to hold an Art Show during the celebrations, showcasing works by Alumnae. If you're an artist and would be interested in participating, please contact us so we can measure interest and keep you informed. If you would like to join the OGA Centenary Sub-Committee, please get in touch!

VIVIENNE CRAWSHAW: Appointed QC Nov 2018

Vivienne (EGGS 1978-1981) has focused her legal practice on family law, in particular, relationship property matters and cases involving children. She is a former NZ Herald columnist, having written a family law column, and in 2006 she published a book on family law. She was admitted to the Bar in 1977, became a partner at Gubbs Lawyers in 2003 and has been a barrister sole since 2008. She shares her experience of her Admission Ceremony ...



Vivienne with her daughters Grace, Ruth, Bonnie and Bridget

I was absolutely thrilled and honoured to be appointed Queens Counsel in November 2018. The ceremony took place on 18th February 2019 and was a very exciting moment, which was carried out in a time-honoured tradition in the No 1 Courtroom at the Auckland High Court. As part of the ceremony I was required to make

a declaration to the Court to carry out my roles and responsibilities properly. I chose to recite my oath in te Reo Maori, which required me to practice a good deal, but was a very meaningful and rewarding way in which to give my declaration to the Court. For a barrister, becoming a Queen's Counsel is a true pinnacle of your career. It is fair to say that it has taken some time for the status to sink in. With that status comes considerable obligations which of course I take extremely seriously. Of the 152 Queens Counsel in New Zealand, only 18% are women, so I consider myself even more fortunate, given those statistics. It is hoped that they will eventually improve!

I would not have imagined that I would have achieved such a great honour when I was a pupil at EGGS. Although I enjoyed some minor successes, I did not particularly shine as a student. This is possibly because I went through school with far too many extremely intelligent girls and was over-shadowed by their brilliance. I was, however, fortunate to have excellent English and History teachers and will be forever grateful for the high standards of teaching that I received at EGGS. It is no surprise that so many former EGGS students have achieved so well in the law, not the least of whom are Justice Judith Potter, Chief District Court Judge Jan-Marie Doogue, Karen Price, Belinda Sellars, QC to name but a few. It was very exciting that Belinda Sellars, QC and I were appointed Queens Counsel in the same year and both hail from Epsom Girls. We were both thoroughly proud to have received such a high standard of education from our alma mater.

Congratulations Vivienne!

NB: We profiled Belinda in the December 2018 edition of the OGA Newsletter.

Special Post-Graduate Grant

The 2015 Kathleen Mandeno Scholarship recipient, Grace Kaemper, has been achieving excellent results in her Veterinary studies, gaining A+ for every paper. This year Grace has been awarded a special Post-Graduate grant for high achievement. The BVSc is a five-year degree and we wish Grace all the best as she continues her studies. Thanks to Jill Mandeno for making these extra funds available to Grace.

In our December 2018 issue we profiled ANNEMARIE HOPECROSS – here is a brief update ...

Annemarie is thrilled to have received an "honourable mention" in the 12th Julia Margaret Cameron Awards for three of her images. The work will be exhibited in Barcelona from 8th to 25th May 2019; the exhibition is called "Women Photographers Today". Well done Annemarie!

OGA AGM 2019

To be held on Monday 10th June at 7pm in the Board Room, Admin Block, Epsom Girls Grammar School

We encourage all Old Girls to attend our 2019 Annual General Meeting. This will be our 98th AGM.

We'll host drinks and nibbles beforehand and look forward to seeing you there from 6.30pm.

Please contact us if you have a resolution to put forward (to be received by Secretary 28 days in advance of the meeting) or if you would like to join the Committee.

INTRODUCING OUR YOUNGEST OGA COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

RACHAEL BANBURY: Life after EGGS (EGGS 2012-2016)

Rachael was our Student Rep for 2 years and remains an active member of our Committee. Here's an update on what she's up to since graduating from EGGS

Like many freshly graduated Year 13 students, I left school at the end of 2016 feeling a mixture of conflicting emotions. On one hand I was upset at the prospect of saying goodbye to what had not only been my second home for the past five years, but the place where I made lifelong friends and everlasting bonds. On the other I was anticipating the exciting challenges, and what felt like freedom, of entering University and the world of adulthood.

I am now in the third year of my degree Bachelor of Arts majoring in History and Politics and have managed to keep a part-time job as a teacher aide at Auckland Normal Intermediate – so needless to say I have picked up a few tips on what to expect when leaving high school and going on to tertiary education.

One of the most obvious differences in my expectations versus the realities of life at University was the idea that I would have much more freedom and flexibility surrounding my timetable.

Do not be fooled! One of the biggest oversights I made in my first semester was thinking I had an abundance of time to finish essays and assignments while simultaneously catching up for coffee with friends, watching YouTube clips and balancing a part-time job. Time management is so important and if you want to get those A's you have to spend the time – your grades will reflect the effort you put in. My advice would be to buy a diary or use the calendar in your phone to map out your commitments.

It is also important to set time aside for yourself; being snowed under by deadlines and word counts can be overwhelming but it is necessary to take time out and catch your breath. Try not to be disappointed by the first grades you get back; you are only just starting out so try to learn and listen to feedback, as you can only improve from there. This is all part of becoming resilient and taking on criticism and building from there – do not let it define you.

As I complete my final year at the University of Auckland, I am hoping to continue my academic journey by going into postgraduate study in History and gaining a Masters degree. My goal is to then go into high school teaching with the ambition of, in some way, resembling the incredible and inspiring teachers I had at Epsom Girls Grammar School.



OUR NEWEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

We're pleased to welcome our new crew: Alice Raea (Student Rep, Y11), Lucie Chambers and Claudia Chaney (both 2018 graduates).

Joining a committee of "old" girls is not generally first on the list of priorities for young girls leaving school but we're thrilled Lucie and Claudia are keen to participate and give back to the School. The Student Rep role is an important one and helps us maintain easy collaboration with current students and we look forward to working with Alice.

Below, we introduce our three newest and youngest members ...

ALICE RAEA, Student Rep

I am currently in Year 11 at EGGS and am excited to be a part of the Epsom Girls Old Girls Association for 2019. I am involved in various activities across the School and this year, as the OGA Student Representative, I am hoping to create a stronger connection between the OGA and the girls currently attending EGGS.



LUCIE CHAMBERS, 2018 Graduate

As a second-generation Epsom Girl, I have always felt a strong connection to EGGS. During my School years, I served on the library and learning committees as well as being a Learning Prefect in my final year. I have also been a part of the School production crew and Shelia Winn Shakespeare festival, as well as a member of the basketball and trampolining teams.

I am currently in my first year of a Bachelor of Nursing degree at Massey University in Albany and look forward to a rewarding career in this field.



CLAUDIA CHANEY: Beyond the "Glass World" (EGGS 2014-2018)

Words by Sally Blyth

Claudia graduated from EGGS in 2018, a fantastic achievement given she spent much of her youth in hospital and missed a great deal of formal schooling. Hers is a life story to that is both heart-breaking and heart-warming.

After battling, and ultimately surviving, Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), a fast-developing cancer that makes those with it susceptible to many health challenges, Claudia wrote a book about her journey called *Glass World*, published in 2017. In this book, Claudia takes the reader on the roller coaster ride of her life with cancer. It provides insight into the journey of a young girl and her family dealing with trial after ordeal and setback after suffering. Early on, Claudia lost so much blood it was a wonder she was still alive, she had a collapsed lung and her liver stopped working. Also, due to GVHD (Graft versus Host Disease) – a serious condition that can occur following a bone marrow transplant – her stomach also came close to dissolving itself, and the iron build-up inside her meant her body was getting to a toxic level. At this point, Claudia's family were preparing to say goodbye; and all this before she was even five years old. After many months in hospital, Claudia improved to the point where the leukaemia was gone, and she could go home. But the joy of recovery was short-lived and what happened next was even more devastating.

The GVHD returned, this time attacking her scalp, which became an open wound that proved difficult to treat. In her book, Claudia outlines her memories of the pain and trauma, and is open and honest about how she fought the medical staff who were trying to help – she had endured enough in her young life already and she simply didn't want any more invasion or pain. But the intervention was a necessary evil. By her own admission, she was not an easy patient. However, she does acknowledge the wonderful medical care she received, and it is thanks to some of the nurses and people around her that she was able to endure what was, without doubt, a harrowing and incredibly painful time.

Becoming wheelchair-dependent early in her life was something Claudia and her family had to learn to adapt to, although it was a while before she found a wheelchair that suited her. She tells some delightful tales of how curiosity about her wheelchair helped generate friendships at school, as well as how it enabled a good level of independence. Many things have happened in Claudia's world which have taken her out of her comfort zone or into a world of absurdity and/or hilarity – she calls these moments "funsies". At times it's hard to know how much fun was involved, but the use of word throughout the pages displays Claudia's ability to see beyond the difficulties and dark times and find a bit of delight in all sorts of odd happenings.

Throughout all the challenges, Claudia's love of cats never waned, her precious cats Crystal and Luna providing endless distraction, entertainment and solace for all. Claudia also got involved in Riding for the Disabled which she loved.

Claudia started at EGGS in 2014 and, although initially challenging for her, she soon made friends and settled in to the routine of high school life. That same year, Claudia had the opportunity to go to Disneyland and Santa Monica which she loved beyond her wildest dreams. It was around this time that music came into her world – despite an awkward choir audition, she soon found her niche and, to this day, music plays a hugely important role in Claudia's life. She also became involved in Starjam, an organisation that enables performance for people with disabilities, which gave her new perspectives and opportunities within the musical realm. Throughout her life, Claudia has undergone many surgeries and at one time she was having surgery every single day, which is almost too much to comprehend. Her suffering is explicitly detailed, in her own words, in her book. Despite all this, and some very dark times indeed, her optimism, fighting spirit and humour shine through on almost every page. She talks of how she missed out on aspects of education but also how much she learnt through the schools she attended and the people who supported her. Her time at EGGS was a highlight and it was a truly heart-warming moment at the Graduation Dinner when Claudia and her mobility dog Wren, who came into her life in 2018, graced the stage, along with much applause and admiration.

This year, Claudia is taking a break from academics and is focusing on what is in store for her now that she has graduated from Epsom Girls.

She has joined the Auckland Youth Choir and is looking forward to being part of the OGA. Hoping to further work on her music and writing, Claudia is looking forward to opportunities that may come her way to allow her to pursue these two passions of hers. Claudia also has plans for a second book and has a few ideas in mind, possibly leading on as a sequel to her first book, with more of a focus on life after school and how she is navigating life now – with her mobility dog, Wren.

Claudia has endured more than most people can imagine and her strength, positivity and resilience are to be greatly admired.

We are thrilled to have her join the OGA Committee with such enthusiasm.



Claudia with Wren

OGA EVENTS

Women In Law

On Wednesday 27th March, EGGs alumnae, parents, and current students were treated to an informative and entertaining panel discussion on what lawyers in different types of legal practise do.

Facilitated by Dame Judith Potter DNZM CBE our panellists, all alumnae of EGGs, explained about the variety and range of work available in the legal profession and what to do as a young lawyer entering the job market.

Our panellists came from diverse career paths and gave insights to the students and young lawyers present about what a career in the law can involve.

A huge thank you to our panellists: Belinda Sellars QC, Fryberg Chambers; Kavita Deobhakta, litigation partner at Morgan Coakle; Yasmin Olsen, solicitor at Kayes Fletcher Walker; and Tara Hauraki, solicitor at Kahui Legal.

Our event was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Ulrich Milne Lawyers <http://www.uml.co.nz/> who are new neighbours to EGGs, based at 3 Owens Road.

Thanks to everyone who came along and to the organisers and participants who all made this evening so informative and enjoyable.

We'd love to do a similar evening with alumnae in other professions so contact us at oga@eggs.school.nz if you'd like to help us organise an event like this for your profession.



Our panelists' faces lit up when presented with Centenary Lion Cubs and the EGGs history book titled, "Educating Women of Integrity".



Kavita Deobhakta



Yasmin Olsen



Tara Hauraki



Belinda Sellars QC

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.

SEETA MULLER (née Thomas Patel): An International Career In the Arts (EGGS 1991-1995)

Words by: Seeta Muller & Sally Blyth

Seeta currently lives in France and works around the world, with a focus on many different forms of art, from drawing to film-making to curating. Here's an overview ...

When she finished her education at EGGS in 1995, Seeta graduated in Fine Arts from Elam School of Fine Arts, University of Auckland. Her art practice is concerned with the aberration in the physical environment that we find in our physical space. This has evolved into artworks, from drawing to painting and, later, printmaking, where the acid formed the imperfection and non-spaces. Her practice has seen further development through coursework at the Melbourne University, in cinema theory. Seeta's works embrace film essay techniques, and this has led to the production of a series of short films that have featured in a number of festivals.

Moving further afield, Seeta spent a decade in London, where she undertook an MA at Camberwell College. This coincided with an internship at the non-profit London-based art organisation no.w.here.org, focusing on Super 8 film, and processing the use of Rostrum Camera in animation, and the production of her own short film Red Shoes. After completing her MA, Seeta curated artist film nights in Notting Hill, London and at the APT Gallery in Deptford; this occurred over a five-year period and developed into a co-curating role with artists in Brussels and Leipzig.

In 2017 Seeta relocated to France, where she is developing a film and drawing Lab; a space that will be a platform for artists to exhibit their work, with a collaborative alliance of artists and filmmakers from Europe and Oceania. In 2018 Seeta co-curated a film project for Teststrip – collaborating with an artist and curators based in Berlin, with film nights planned for Sofia and Paris. Seeta's numerous short films have been exhibited in various festivals: Clermont-Ferrand short festival; Bideodromo festival, Spain; Portobello Film festival, London; Exploding Cinema London; APTgallery London; Deptford Cinema London; Bees on the Run Productions Bussey arts Building, London; Zsenne/Art Laboratory Brussels; and Museum Leipzig. This has been alongside exhibiting prints and drawings in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Sweden, Germany, Hungary, Cyprus, South Korea, Canada and the United States.

In 2019 Seeta will be curating a group show in Berlin and will exhibit at a symposium in southern Italy. She is a selector for the Whakapapa Film Festival to be held in Irsina, Italy in July 2019. Next year, in 2020, Seeta will undertake a residency, that also includes an exhibition in Barcelona.

We wish Seeta all the best with her many and varied endeavours in the world of the arts!



A Meeting in New York

In our December 2018 Newsletter we profiled Old Girls Jan Beagle (UN Under-Secretary General) and Vivien Whyte (2018 EGGS graduate and recipient of the Kathleen Mandeno Scholarship). Little did we know at that time that, on 18th January 2019 these two would meet each other! Jan works in New York and Vivien was in the city as part of a UN Youth tour visiting different organisations and people working on sustainable development. They had the opportunity to meet each other at the UN Headquarters; what a wonderful way for Vivien to begin life after EGGS!

During their meeting, Jan touched on her extensive 35-year career in diplomacy as well as recounting the immense opportunities she had in Aotearoa during her school days, both in education and co-curricular activities. Jan's main message to Vivien was to be kind to everyone because you never know where life will take you and who you'll meet again.



SUMMER BRADLEY: Recent Leaver and OGA Scholarship Recipient 2018

A letter of thanks to the OGA



To the Trustees of the Old Girls Association at Epsom Girls Grammar,

When I was awarded one of the Old Girls Association Scholarship Awards at the Graduation Dinner I was both honoured and humbled that you would choose me to be a recipient. Thank you for recognising how my fondness for EGGS overflowed into my school life, whether it be academic or extracurricular. I will always be grateful for the way EGGS supported me both inside and outside of school.

As you know I was heavily involved in dancing throughout my five years and I am incredibly grateful to have had the school's support allowing me to take part in auditions, lessons, and international competitions. I am continuing to pursue a career in dance but EGGS also sparked a newfound interest in business/commerce which I hope to study in the future. EGGS is truly a school of many opportunities and I will carry the lessons I learnt in high school with me for life.

Once again, thank you for entrusting me with this money which I will use to further my dance career and academic pursuits. I hope to stay connected to Epsom Girls in the future and I look forward to watching the school excel in every aspect for many years to come.

Many Thanks,

Summer Bradley, Class of 2018

EPSOM HOUSE NEWS

Here's an update from the BoT Epsom House representative, Julie Goodyer ...

Epsom House has started 2019 with 139 students and with almost one-third of these students being new, the start of the year was spent settling the students into the routine of the House. All new students have been paired up with a Year 12 or 13 student to help them settle in. The senior students are enjoying the two new accommodation Pods - Pohutukawa and Manuka. The House prefects have been organising lots of events for the girls to take part in including a Hogwarts night and a Valentine's dinner. The House received an excellent report following the ERO visit to EGGS last year. The Epsom House Head Girls were fortunate to attend the New Zealand Boarding School Association conference in Palmerston North this term and picked up some great ideas to bring back to the House. The Head Girls have been presented with their badges and the Parent Committee is planning to sell another Epsom House clothing item – possibly a T-shirt or sports shirt. Last year Epsom House hoodies were very popular. The money raised from parent donations is used to top up Pod equipment and supply other items to make the girls more comfortable. At the end of 2018 the Compass Group upper North Island awards were held. Compass Group are the Epsom House catering contractor. These awards cover 300 sites and we are proud to say that the Epsom House site manager Alma Daly won Site Manager of the Year for the Epsom House site. The Epsom House site also won "Food Safety Site of the Year". Congratulations to Alma and the Compass team. We also acknowledge that Compass Group sponsor the annual OGA Hostel Scholarship. Our recipient for 2019 is Year 9 student Bella Cottier from Pukekohe who is looking forward to trying the choir, Te Reo and rowing this year. Compass also do the catering for our Annual Morning Tea and Reunion Luncheon.



Alma (centre back) with her award surrounded by her work mates.

WILHELMINA (MENA) WILLS (née Macdonald): Hostel Memories from the late 1940s (EGGS 1947–1950)*Words by Mena Wills*

Mena came to EGGS from Te Kauwhata, having attended Waerenga School. She was a hostel girl from 1948 to 1950 and now lives in Takanini. Mena sent us some precious items for the Archives, including a School Project and some photos. She also sent us this personal write-up of her memories of School days. Thank you, Mena, we appreciate it very much – and we're sure this will jog memories for many readers, especially Hostel girls from those days!

Coming from such a small isolated country school to one of the city's largest schools was a completely new lifestyle for me. I vividly remember the first day getting dressed in my uniform with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. As with most girls' schools in the 1940s, the uniform was a navy serge gym dress with long-sleeved blouse, and a neatly knotted tie. In winter the numerous layers of thick fabric pleats made the gym dress quite cosy but, in summer, still accompanied by the obligatory black woollen stockings, wearing it was like being in a sauna. The wide white blouse collar had to be starched cardboard-stiff and the long sleeves were always firmly buttoned at the wrist; not to forget the black Italian cloth bloomers worn at all times!

When not in the School grounds a navy felt hat or white panama hat and navy gloves completed the uniform. If you had your blazer with you, wearing it was obligatory; and it had to be buttoned up, double-breasted, with the four lion-embossed gold buttons. We had two pairs of shoes – highly polished (or supposed to be) black leather-soled lace-ups for street wear; but when at School we changed into our Doc Martin-style crepe rubber-soled "house shoes". These always squeaked as you traversed single-file down the long corridors.

After a nerve-racking journey in the tram from my boarding place – a new experience for a country kid – I found myself in the midst of a milling crowd of third-formers at the School gate. Most of the girls, of course, had friends from their previous schools but I must have looked totally bewildered because finally, from out of the crowd, emerged another girl feeling equally as uncomfortable as I was. "Do you know anybody here?" she asked, and when I replied "No", she said "Let's be friends then!" Her name was Anne Ryan – she had a mass of blonde hair that was equally as unruly as my black mop of curls. As chance would have it, we ended up in the same class throughout School!

We were all ushered into the School Hall – the biggest enclosed space I had ever been in – and, after greetings and a few formalities, sat an entrance exam. Based on those results, plus previous school reports, I somehow managed to make it into the top academic class, 3A Latin.

We filed in single-file along the corridors behind our Form Mistress, Miss Christabel Ash, and into the first room we came to. Miss Ash was a quiet little unassuming Quaker lady. In retrospect, I think she was about 30 but seemed older. All staff members wore their academic gown during class-time so they were easily recognised.

There were some very intelligent girls in my class, and I struggled to stay above the demotion mark each term. Latin totally bewildered me, and it was a great relief when Miss Ash suggested I drop the subject, although I was allowed to stay with the same group of girls throughout School. As often happens with bright pupils, we were not the best behaved and frequently ended up having Miss Ash in tears – I have often wished I could meet her again to apologise!

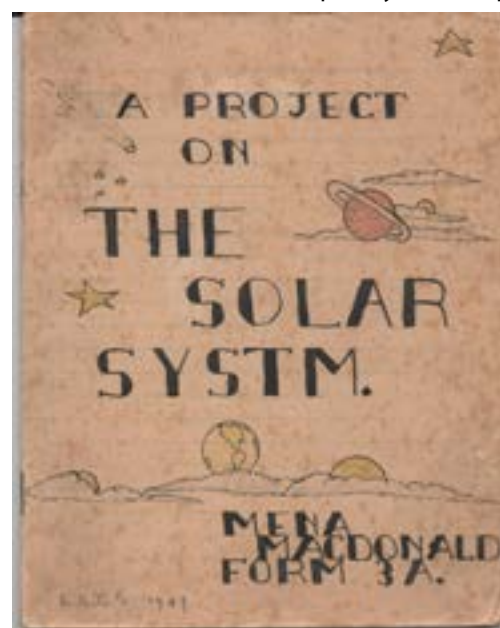
Each day began with Assembly in the School Hall, each class seated in a row across the Hall with the Form Mistress at the end. First a hymn was sung, then a Scripture reading and the School Prayer. For the Notices which followed, we were asked to "Please sit", so we flicked up the back of our gyms and sat on the floor. This was okay on a fine day but in wet weather we had to be careful to avoid puddles as the roof leaked.

Uniform rules were very strict; gym dress hems no more than three inches above the knee when kneeling. We were all surprised when Miss Ash came into Religious Study Period one afternoon and asked us all to kneel down – we were aghast, was she trying to convert us to her Quaker religion? No, she just wanted to measure the length of our gym!

Most subjects were taught in our form room but when we moved to the Science Lab etc it was in single-file, accompanied by 30 pairs of squeaking shoes – and strictly no talking!

I spent much of the third form year in a haze of wonder. I had never had friends my own age in my back home in the country, nor had I been in a class with more than one pupil at my level, so there were a lot of challenges for me. I worked really hard but my private board facilities were most unhappy, so I was relieved when schools were closed early in November 1947 because of a polio epidemic.

Schools remained closed until March 1948 in an endeavour to curb the epidemic and we were sent packs of lessons to do at home – one was a project on the Solar System which I still have! [NB: Mena kindly sent this to us for the Archives – Ed].



The Solar System project is full of lovely ink and watercolour illustrations – the missing "E" on the cover can be excused!

By the time schools re-opened I was able to live at Upper House Hostel. By then I had settled into School life and found a group of really close friends. I loved the routine and rough and tumble of a shared life. I began to try a few sports but, as I am left-handed, I was never a great asset to any team.

Gym lessons in the old drill shed were never welcomed, especially clad in black sateen rompers. Rompers on an adolescent were a joy to behold, with their pleated waistline and puffy legs. Not! Swimming was one of my nightmares – I had a nasty fright when at a Sunday School camp and never liked water, but we were all expected to aim for a Bronze Lifesaving medal. In those days, swimming suits were anything but glamorous – black knitted woollen singlet-topped garments with no shaping or support and with the Grammar School lino emblazoned on the chest; most unflattering, especially when wet, as they sagged down to your knees.

Lunchtimes were often spent in "Paradise" – that lovely area encircled by a hedge and shady trees. There we sat or lolled about on the grass, just chatting, reading or knitting – a lovely tranquil area to wind down. I enjoyed my fourth form year.

In 1949 I was promoted to School House Hostel where we had a little more privacy. Lessons at School became intensive as School Certificate loomed and the majority of spare time was spent swatting for the dreaded exams. Each year there was a Shakespeare Competition where all 5th and 6th form classes were required to stage an Act from a play. Acting was not my thing, so I helped with costumes and scenery – I don't recall any great success.

About three weeks before School Cert exams were due, I was rushed to hospital with appendicitis. I returned to School a couple of days before the exams, determined to sit the papers, much against staff advice – if I failed, I would lower the School average! Fortunately, I scraped through with a couple of marks to spare, much to my and everyone else's surprise.

Because I had been allowed to stay in the Language stream despite not taking French or Latin, I was permitted to go to Clothing classes during that time. I was in heaven. I had always loved making things and here was my chance to build on what my aunt had taught me during the holidays.

My final year was spent in 6B2, separated from my friends because of my low School C marks. I discovered a keen interest in zoology and was made a Lab Monitor where I spent much of my spare time catching snails and worms for dissection in class, organising enough sheep's eyes for examination in the next class, or pickling dogfish in formaldehyde for later use.

All focus was on University Entrance, the achievement needed to go on to further study. If you measured up all year, you could be accredited and not have to sit the exam. The day the list was read out, we sat with bated breath, awaiting our name to be called out. I remember sending Mum and Dad a telegram – "Wildest dreams – have gone mad".

At Prizegiving that year, 1950, I was also awarded my first and only academic award – the Zoology Prize.

All too soon, 1950 came to a close and I stood in final Assembly singing our dismissal hymn "Lord dismiss us with thy blessing" – tears streamed down my face and I realised how much I'd loved Epsom Girls Grammar School and how much I would miss my friends. With a final hug, my first-day friend Anne Ryan and I went our separate ways.



EGGS Staff 1948



Hostel Reunion August 2006 (maiden names):

Back row: 1. Leith Robertson 2. ? 3. ? 4. ? 5. ? 6. Beth Walker 7. Ethel Symes 8. ?

Middle row: 1. ? 2. Audrey Giles 3. ? 4. Myra Morrison 5. ? 6. ? 7. Sheila Snelling 8. ? 9. Mena Macdonald 10. Doreen Soppet

Front row: 1. Jean Giles 2. Marion Morrison 3. Dorothy Trotter 4. ? 5. ? 6. Dawn Paulsen 7. ? 8. Jeanette Hulek 9. Helen Hungerford 10. ?

If you know any of the ladies in the photo that we don't have names for, do let us know!

SUPPORTING ALUMNAE

SANDANI (Sandy) WIJETUNGE: Passion for Film, Principles for the World (EGGS 2005-2009)

WORDS BY SALLY BLYTH

Sandy was born in Sri Lanka, lived in Bahrain and moved to NZ when she was 12. She is now a young independent filmmaker who has worked extensively in film and television production. Her passion is for social justice-based projects and she is busy challenging herself and society by making cinematic feature documentaries with international appeal on the themes of education, the environment and human rights.



When Sandy was at EGGS, she loved tapping into her roots by participating in the Sri Lanka Stage Challenge and being part of the Fiafia Night and Polyfest were also highlights. With a penchant for painting, she also loved art class. When she left EGGS, Sandy wasn't convinced that University was her pathway so decided to take a six-month break. Having always been interested in film and television, she decided to go to Unitec and completed a degree in Performing and Screen Arts. Initially, she trained as a make-up artist and then she discovered production. It was this side of film-making that appealed – the chance to have input into bringing a story to life, from beginning to end. Three years later, in 2013, Sandy graduated from Unitec and has been working in the production side of the film industry ever since. Now, just over five years on, and with experience in everything from making low-budget music videos, short films and advertisements as well as multi-million-dollar feature films and television series, she still feels relatively new to things. She acknowledges that it is difficult to get your foot in the door but, once you do, the life of a freelance filmmaker is stimulating and worth the hard graft. It is a challenging and far from stable life, always with an unknown quotient, and this has meant Sandy has had to take on plenty of other unrelated jobs on the side, from retail to product demos, just to pay the bills. Doing this has meant she's been able to soldier on with her own film projects, but it has also meant relentlessly working virtually 24/7.

Sandy has been working on her own films since 2015, with a special affinity for making documentaries, and social justice-based projects in particular. "Loading Docs", a unique initiative that produces short documentaries that captivate and inspire audiences locally and internationally, while developing and promoting New Zealand filmmaking talent, has helped Sandy on the path to film-making.

Water for Gold was released in 2016; it tells the alarming story of how international trade law is leading us to trade our most basic rights to clean, safe water for access to gold and Sandy says this was an amazing project to be part of.

Around the same time, filming of Beautiful Democracy wrapped up; released in 2017 it explores the art and activism around New Zealand's pro-democracy movement as it sought to stand up against the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) – which was signed in February 2016 and ratified in May 2017. Sandy worked on these two projects with Director Rose Archer and both received highly positive feedback. Ending Violence, a film with impact.

Over the past year, Sandy has been developing and filming a new documentary called Ending Violence. Filmed mainly in Botswana over three weeks in 2018, she hopes it will become a feature film in the future for maximum effect but, for the time being, feels it will have more immediate impact as a short film. The next step is the post-production phase.

The film tells the story of activist Leslee Udwin who runs "Think Equal", an education initiative with a mission to introduce social and emotional learning into every single preschool in the world. The ultimate goal is to end ingrained prejudices and attitudes of sexism, racism and sectarianism through education.

Leslee came to NZ to tour her film India's Daughter, which is based on the 2012 Delhi gang rape and murder of 23yo Jyoti Singh, a physiotherapy student. Sandy went along to the film and subsequent Q&A session and discovered that Leslee's "Think Equal" project was being piloted in Sri Lanka. Having always wanted to make a film back in her home country and inspired by Leslee's desire to bring tolerance to the world, one pre-school at a time, Sandy had the opportunity to get on board and did so without hesitation. You can read more about Leslee and her work at <http://www.thinkequal.com/>

Whilst Sri Lanka was the initial pilot country, Botswana was more progressive as well as having a more stable and less volatile political climate in which to do filming. Sure, there were challenges associated with making a film in Botswana but, at this point in time, they seemed less difficult to face than those that Sri Lanka might throw up.

While the media shows troubles, poverty and starvation, the positive sides to countries like Botswana are generally not fairly represented. Sandy talks of many amazing connections she made during filming and is enthusiastic to be able to tell different and enlightening stories about an African nation. For Sandy, the opportunity to showcase some of the positive work being done, especially in Botswana, Kenya and Sri Lanka – the innovations being embraced and the bold steps being taken towards solutions – is highly satisfying. Like Leslee, she believes that, although community-led programmes exist and do good work, many children don't have the privilege of learning about emotions, collaboration, problem-solving etc; there is a lack of emphasis put on the importance of this at the very start of education.

Instilling good habits and characteristics when children are between the ages of one and three is what makes them the adults they eventually will become, and this is a major focus of the project.

Today's three-year-olds will be dealing with severe climate challenges when they grow up and it's important to offer a strong emotional foundation to set them up now so they can live innovative fulfilled lives and cope with the inevitable challenges they will face into adulthood.

Ending Violence is an important film which aims to question the purpose of education. The main target audience is policymakers and policy-influencers – to encourage them to look at how their policies affect the children and to urge them to create policies that will provide lasting impact for generations to come.

As Sandy says, every young child is taught everything, from brushing teeth to tying shoelaces, yet somehow the emotional lessons of life are overlooked. The "Think Equal" programme is well thought through and prescriptive; teachers are trained in the practices and all children in the programme begin their day with a lesson that will then permeate into all the other lessons of the day, and hopefully on into their home life as well.

Seeking Support

For Sandy, this is a passion project and she has been giving her time for free but there are still significant costs involved in bringing it to completion. Some funds have been raised through crowd funding, private donations and grants from the Film Commission, all of which have enabled the project to come as far as it has to date. However, there is still much more post-production work to be done, not to mention distribution and impact work – approx. \$40,000 is required to undertake this work. Along with financial support, Sandy and the team are seeking impact partners that believe in what they are doing – individuals, businesses, organisations – to partner with them so that the film gets in front of the people who need to see it and receive its message. Leslee herself is travelling the globe encouraging government officials and policymakers to adopt this progressive education initiative into their current education system. It's a truly inspirational programme, a seed of change, that should be embraced far and wide.

If any Old Girls know people within New Zealand Government, the Ministry of Education, international government officials etc, have connections with any suitable entity, or would like to make a financial contribution, please contact Sandy on

Sandani.wijetunge@gmail.com or via the OGA on oga@eggs.school.nz

Please join our support for Sandy in making an impact with this project.

Find out more at <https://www.endingviolencethefilm.com/>

LOST AND FOUND

This section aims to help bring long-lost school friends together. Here's a story to encourage you to seek out a friend from school-days who you have lost touch with. Stop thinking, get Googling! Or contact us!

Looking for: Tracey Wong

Old Girl Harriet Tautau (EGGS 1987) is wishing to reconnect with her coach Tracey Wong, a senior student at the time. The two became great friends but Harriet hasn't seen Tracey since School days and would dearly love to catch up again. Harriet appeared on the cover of the School Magazine with Erana Henare for Te Maori Essay. Harriet also played for the Junior Basketball Team which won the Junior Secondary Competition.

Please contact the OGA and we will put you in touch – email us on oga@eggs.school.nz

WONDERING WHAT YOUR OLD SCHOOL FRIENDS ARE UP TO?

We encourage all Old Girls to seek out former classmates.

If you'd like some help reconnecting with someone you have lost touch with, let us know. Maiden and married names don't make things simple but if you put something in our Lost & Found section, you may just find that friend! We're happy to publicise details.



BE A SILVER ROAD CLUB DONOR

We'd love your support as a Silver Road Club Donor! A group of Old Girls are part of this Club, supporting us with a monthly automatic payment of \$10. We'd like to grow our special Club and encourage you to join up. It may seem a small amount – less than the cost of a cup of coffee a week – but it's significant and helps cover our costs and keep us afloat. We are a registered charity and will send you a donation receipt at the end of the year. All members receive a special Silver Road Club badge. Please contact us for more information.

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

If so, please contact us for full details and process. We produce three newsletters per year which are emailed and posted to a large database. 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.

REGIONAL BRANCHES

We have active branches in Franklin and the Bay of Plenty area 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.

Franklin Branch

Rita Peterson and Sonia Butcher have been Co-Presidents of this branch for the past six years. They loved their time at EGGs and have also thoroughly enjoyed leading the Franklin Branch – but they now wish to step down and so it is time to hand over the reins. The AGM will be held on Tuesday 9th April at 10am in the St Andrews Anglican Church Hall, 43 Queen Street, Pukekohe.

All Old Girls in the area are encouraged to come along and, if you'd like to put your hand up to take the President's role, even better! We'd like to thank both Rita and Sonia for the work they have done for the branch, organising annual dinners and other events. The branch also makes an annual donation to OGA which goes towards prizes. Thank you both for six years of much appreciated service. For more information contact Rita on 09 238 6522.

Bay of Plenty Branch

Anne Mortensen oversees our Bay of Plenty branch and shares a note below to encourage girls in the Tauranga/BOP area to get involved. Thank you, Anne, for all you do for this local branch.

The ladies from the EGGs Old Girls Bay of Plenty had a luncheon on 18th October last year, which was held at the Tauranga RSA. We do this every year at a different venue. One of our ladies entertained us with her floral skill which was much enjoyed.

We are also fortunate to have Past President of the association, Julie Goodyer, come down from Auckland. She brings prizes so we can run raffles and the funds raised from these go to assist the OGA. It's always fun catching up with our old school mates. If you would like to join us and are not on my list, please call me on 07 574 4229 or email me agpowell@extra.co.nz

I would be thrilled to hear from you and see you at a future BOP event.

Kind wishes. Anne Mortensen, née Keesing.

PROSPECTIVE BRANCHES

Otago/Southland

Old Girls Jan Bean (EGGS 1962-65) and Annemarie Hope-Cross (1982-1986) are keen to kickstart a branch for Old Girls living in the Central Otago and Southland area.

If you are interested, please contact Annemarie by email on annemarie@hopecrossphotography.com

Hamilton Branch

There is currently no branch in Hamilton but there are a couple of ladies who could be interested in getting something going in the future so if you're in the area and keen to be involved, let us know and we can put you in touch to get the ball rolling.

REMEMBERING ALUMNAE

We send our sympathies to the families and friends of all Old Girls who have passed away. You can read more Obituaries on the OGA tab of the School website.

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.

Margaret Anne SPRAY (née McLeod) – Died peacefully at home in Amberley on 29th March 2019 after a short illness, aged 76 years. Margaret attended EGGs in 1956 (3BLatin). Her daughters are Linda Spray, 3CK (1982), Wendy Spray, 3VN (1984) and Kerry Spray, 3Wh (1987).

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.

Passed Away November 2018

Ailsa Lilian SCOTT – Died peacefully on 2nd November 2018, aged 92 years.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Update from Virginia Bishop, EGGS Old Girl, OGA Committee Member and Foundation Trustee

L-Block Fundraising Activity

This year, we will begin upgrading the L Block into what is now referred to in the education circles as a 'flexible learning environment'. We are actively seeking donations for our current large capital project at the school. You may remember the weatherboard music and art block, just to the left of the Marjory Adams Hall (and former administration area) as you walk into the school from Silver Road - we call this block 'L Block'. I daresay, it hasn't changed too much since you were at school! It's one of the original school buildings, built in the 1950's.

The school's challenge is to build a vibrant, well connected, physical environment that encourages and supports many different types of learning. The government only funds the redevelopment of indoor classroom space. However, we would like to extend the flexible learning environment to include an outdoor space – creating a multi-purpose decking area with shelter.

We have set a goal to raise NZD\$150,000 for the outdoor space, a breakout learning place - this will create an area that gives much needed shade in the summer and shelter from the rain during lunch time and interval.

To achieve this, we require the support of the community, individuals, trusts, sponsors and businesses to help build a good quality outdoor space to better student achievement. The Old Girls have been set a target to raise a contribution of NZD \$20,000.

See the artist impression pictures of how the space will look once the project is complete - very different from when we were students!

If you would like to speak with someone regarding this project please contact former old girl and committee member Virginia Bishop, her details are : Virginia Bishop, virginiab@xtra.co.nz, Home Phone: +64 9 630 1081, Mobile: +64 275 536715

Alternatively if you would like to donate to us directly - here are the NZ account number for the Old Girls Association:

Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association Incorporated - BNZ 02-0192-0137887-000

Of course an acknowledgement and a receipt will be provided - there is also the option of recognising the donation on the Donor Wall of Honour, which lists the name of donor alongside other donors.

Virginia is happy to to give you further details regarding this.

We respect each individuals preference in this regard as some prefer to remain anonymous.



LIST OF OGA PRESIDENTS

1921 – 1959	Listed 1957 Reunion Book	1989 – 1992	Jan Bean
1959 – 1963	Margot Grant	1992 – 1994	Lesley Murgatroyd
1963 – 1965	Kadia Barnard	1994 – 1997	Sue Rope
1965 – 1967	Patricia Maud	1997 – 1999	Joslyn Goulter-Pearson
1968 – 1971	Lois Edgar	1999 – 2001	Sue Rope
1971 – 1973	Melva Hancock	2001 – 2004	Christine Black
1974 – 1975	Peggy Rollerson	2004 – 2007	Gay Roberts
1975 – 1977	Lesley Martin	2007 – 2010	Ro Bellamy
1978 – 1980	Margaret Brenton-Rule	2010 – 2014	Julie Goodyer
1981 – 1983	Susan Moody	2014 – 2015	Kathryn Seagrave
1984 – 1986	Norma Buckland	2015 – 2016	Kathryn Seagrave & Sally Blyth (Co-Presidents)
1987 – 1989	Janice Naish	2016 – present	Sally Blyth & Lynley Sheweiry (Co-Presidents)



CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

If you're interested in making a gift to Epsom Girls Grammar School in your will, and leaving a lasting legacy, please Speak in confidence with the Foundation Office

by phone 09-970 6753 or by email foundation@eggs.school.nz

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

Save the Date - 2019

Annual Morning Tea	Wednesday 10th April
OGA AGM	Monday 10th June
Founders Awards	Tuesday 18th June
Graduation Dinner	Tuesday 3rd December
OGA CENTENARY YEAR 100th Celebrations	The year 2021

Please return to sender if not known at this address or Phone 09 970 6753



Epsom Girls Grammar School
Old Girls Association (Inc.) - Newsletter
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Auckland 1344

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