



Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association (Inc)

Newsletter

July 2018

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AGS/EGGS Ragtime
Production



FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF THE OGA

It has been an incredibly busy time for the OGA lately with our AGM, Founders Awards Assembly and the new Women in Law function, as well as planning for other upcoming events and activities. It was a pleasure to meet this year's Founders Award recipients – find out more about them on Pg 3.

We would like to thank Old Girl and EGGs staff member (Publications)

Joanne Page for her work on our newsletter layout and design over recent years. Jo has a busy role at the School and we'd like to acknowledge her contribution. In the interest of being fully self-sufficient, the OGA is now doing this aspect of production going forward. We will continue to make improvements on how we communicate with you and are looking into ways to do this.

So, we hope you enjoy the news and updates in this issue and we look forward to seeing you at future functions and events, and continuing to engage with you in many ways. Meanwhile, do provide us with any feedback and ideas - we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us via email: oga@eggs.school.nz



Per Angusta Ad Augusta

Sally Blyth (Editor) and Lynley Sheweiry (Design), Co-Presidents 2016–2018



Prefects Legacy Gift to EGGs

Some of our 2017 prefects team returned at the end of June to unveil the prefects legacy gift to the school which honours the EGGs Centenary celebrated in April last year.



The stainless steel plaque in the shape of the centenary logo has been mounted onto the brick wall outside student reception. A heartfelt thanks to the 2017 prefects for leaving a lasting legacy.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

During the second half of last year we conducted a communications review and I know the OGA also sent out a tailored comms survey to your membership. A major finding of the School's review was the need for a new website and we are now underway with that project. We will work closely with your committee on OGA content once we get to that stage. We are also in the midst of a uniform review, and the feedback received to date has been very worthwhile.

The 2017 NCEA results of 92.3% at Level 1; 96.6% at Level 2 and 91.1% at Level 3 are a real credit to the students and to their teachers. Students gained a total of 88 Scholarships across 21 different subject areas (81 Scholarships and 7 at Outstanding level). High NCEA endorsement rates also mean that a large number of students have been able to meet the full range of university rank score requirements. We are also very pleased that, once again, more than 40 tertiary financial scholarships were awarded at last year's senior prizegiving.

This year we have continued our involvement of increasing numbers of Alumnae in careers talks for students – women alumnae pilots, to lawyers, to business women. The students really appreciate hearing about their working life journey and experiences.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution that Sarah Stenson has made to Epsom Girls Grammar School in the sixteen years that she has been here as Deputy Principal. Congratulations to Sarah – we will miss her but are all delighted for her on the well-deserved appointment to Kelston Girls College as Principal.

Regarding building projects, the second pod – Manuka – is well underway at Epsom House – part of the redevelopment of boarding facilities spearheaded in the time of Sally Dalzell and continued under Sarah, who has been closely involved with both pods' design and construction. The redevelopment of L Block is due to start in December and I can recommend the Women in NZ Politics fundraising event that will be in the RFAC on the evening of 30 July – Jeanette Fitzsimons, Chlöe Swarbrick and Tessa Berger – in discussion with MC/interviewer Rawdon Christie.

I would like to thank Sally, Lynley, Tric, and their committee for a very successful Founders Awards Assembly on Tuesday 19th June – a wonderful annual opportunity to recognise Alumnae who have made such significant contributions in their fields.

Per Angusta Ad Augusta

Lorraine Pound, Principal



FOUNDERS AWARDS ASSEMBLY

The OGA Founders Awards are prestigious and made to a small number of past student recipients annually.

The purpose of the Founders Awards is to:

- provide inspiration for current girls at the School
- bring the School and its alumnae closer together
- broaden the School community's perspective on the major achievements of the School over time
- have a prestigious School alumnae award that is given out to truly exceptional women

Founders Awards were made annually from 1997 through to 2007. For several years no awards were made, but they were re-established in 2011, when we recognised the achievements of six former students. From 2012 to 2018 three awards have been made each year and recipients' names appear on an Honours Board in the Administration Building. Recipients are selected by the OGA Committee and honoured at a special School Assembly in June each year and criteria for selection includes:

- Exceptional and outstanding individual achievement, contribution or service in a significant area of New Zealand or world life
- As well as having already achieved, should be likely to continue to achieve, and receive wide recognition for the work they have contributed to New Zealand or the world in their sphere
- Will ideally have broken barriers and glass ceilings, expanded possibilities, and pushed boundaries and horizons on the national or international scene, for women specifically, in any field

On Tuesday 19th June, the OGA had the pleasure of honouring three past students as EGGS Founders. It is always wonderful to acknowledge special Old Girls who have achieved highly in their chosen fields and this year's recipients certainly fulfil the criteria, across three different domains. Each Founders Awards Assembly is an inspiring occasion and we thank the senior students involved in organising this occasion and presenting citations, as well as Tric Milner who works behind the scenes to ensure everything runs seamlessly. Thanks also to the School Cricket Team who provided the wonderful morning tea.



This year's recipients are:

DIANE MORCOM CNZM, CVO (EGGS 1960-64) For Outstanding Achievement in Public Service

Her long career began in public service as a Diplomatic Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) where she worked for 21 years, undertaking a variety of roles including four years as First Secretary at the NZ Embassy in Paris. In 2003 she became Secretary of the Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council in September 2003, supporting the Cabinet and providing advice to Ministers. She was responsible for the publication of the 2008 edition of the Cabinet Manual. When she stepped down from this role in 2008, Helen Clark – Prime Minister at the time – said she was “the embodiment of a dedicated public servant.” She also stated that “her leadership of the Cabinet Office team and her dedication and professionalism have contributed greatly to the functioning of governments over many years.” In 2008 she was made CNZM and received a CVO honour from the Queen. Diane has retained her links with the public sector as a consultant and she is Chair of the Administration Committee of the NZ Portrait Gallery. Diane is a leader, a manager, an organiser, a motivator, a communicator, an analyst and an all-round first-class administrator. In her address to the assembly, Diane reflected on her education and career path, which she says has been a series of fortunate events. She highlighted the many opportunities that are available for students today and encouraged the girls to be open and receptive to the people and the world around them.

FRANCES LOO (EGGS 1973-77) For Outstanding Achievement in Business & Community Service

Loving Economics at school, led to a successful career in the global financial industry. Her first position was as a Research Assistant at Buttle Wilson (now UBS Group) in Auckland. Held in high regard, she was given responsibility for the Forestry sector. She transferred to New York for four years and then to Sydney for three years. In 2004 she returned to Auckland for family reasons and a change of career. In order to indulge her huge love of reading, she purchased the tea shop in Mt Eden and changed it into a specialty retailer of teas and romance books – the Chapter Book and Tea Shop, which is just three doors along from the family fruit shop. Frances has been very involved in her community, through Rotary and the Mt Eden Village Business Association. She has also been a generous supporter and sponsor of various School and OGA events. Frances is a warm, humble, capable and generous person, dedicated to her family and her community. In her address, she encouraged students to read as much as they can, to embrace a high work ethic and to get involved as a volunteer within their community.

DAISY LAVEA-TIMO (EGGS 1996-2000) For Outstanding Achievement in the Arts (Poetry)

Daisy Lavea-Timo calls herself a Specialist-Generalist, a straddler of the cultural, community, education and government worlds. She is ever learning to navigate the tensions between all these fields. She taught English and Drama at Cashmere High School and was a Teaching Fellow at the University of Canterbury. Since 2014 she has been self-employed as a facilitator and producer, involved in projects like Leadership In Communities, helping companies create organisational vision, producing art exhibitions, community concerts and collaborations. Daisy also delivers professional development in NZ and Australia on engaging Pasifika learners and spoken word poetry workshops. She has been highly involved in Regenerate Christchurch and was the 2017 NZ Slam Poetry Champion & Canterbury Regional Slam Poetry Champion. In 2015 she launched ‘Brave’ her own original poetry show, with over 50 other artists involved in the collaboration. This year she is the guest international poet for the Queensland Poetry Festival and Cairns Arts Festival in August and September. Daisy is interested in governance and, among other positions, represents Canterbury on the NZ Rugby League Women's advisory board. She co-started Papanui Tigers Rugby league with her best friend in 2016; their team remains undefeated and players are being noticed at national level. Daisy uses all of her passions and gifts to share, sharpen and shape the world with. She is a teacher, a leader, a mentor, a facilitator, a communicator, a collaborator. She is a rugby league player, a wannabe rapper and a lover of poetry, a medium she uses at presentations and conventions in NZ and around the world. She is passionate about young people, social justice and women in leadership. In her address, Daisy led an interactive activity, honoured her peers, her heritage, and concluded with a moving and uplifting poem about transitioning from a place of fear to becoming unafraid.



COMMITTEE PROFILES

We profiled some of our OGA Committee members in the previous newsletter - we now bring you the rest.

Tric Milner

DP, Staff Representative and Honorary Member OGA



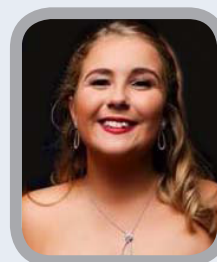
Long standing association with EGGS, currently one of the Deputy Principals, previously Learning Area Director of English. My daughter also attended EGGS. Ongoing passion for enabling high quality learning for young women and supporting strong links between the school and the OGA. Portfolios include supporting Arts and Culture, Community of schools (ACCoS) and Professional Development of staff.

Committees:

Staff at EGGS since 1989
OGA Cttee member since 2015
Centenary Cttee member 2015-2017

Lucie Chambers

Student Representative



Second generation student currently in year 13. My mother and sister were past students as well as many aunts and cousins as either old girls or current students. I have a huge passion for learning which is shown through my roles as a Learning Prefect for 2018 as well as having been on the library committee for the past 5 years. Previously involved in many areas across the four eggs such as Sheilah Winn Shakespeare competition, school productions & various different sports. Epsom has given me the opportunity to succeed in many different areas and I feel lucky to be a part of such an amazing school.

Committees:

Library Committee member since 2014
Learning Area Prefect

Rosemary Bellamy



Based at the University of Auckland since 2005 working principally on the laboratory teaching program in Plant Sciences. After leaving EGGS completed a BSc in Botany, gained a Teaching diploma and began teaching at EGGS in 1963. Taught Science and Biology off and on until 2001; resigned from the staff to study for a Masters degree in the genetics determining flowering time of plants. Currently has an interest in the heritage areas of the school grounds generated when a member of the Centenary Committee. Values the School highly and sometimes whimsically claims to have arrived in 1954 and have never quite left.

Committees:

At EGGS 1954-1958
Staff at EGGS 1963-2001
OGA Cttee as Staff Vice President during 1980s
Staff Rep on BOT during 1990s (9 years)

Margi Leech



An educator; enjoys supporting teachers of maths, mainly in the primary sector. Highlights are teaching in Mangere and Hawaii, as well as home-schooling daughters. Came to EGGS from Panmure School. Mother, aunt and several cousins attended. Happy to be at a school that promoted education for women and thankful for the teachers who were great role models. Enjoyed Shakespeare days, choirs and orchestra and being involved in all things musical. Daughter is an Old Girl, now at university. Enjoys giving back to a great school.

Committees:

At EGGS 1969-1973
OGA Committee member since 2015

Mary Hall



Scouting and Plunket volunteer roles since 1971. Involved in sports at Rep level and coaching (Hockey and Skiing). Also works for Plunket in Car Restraint Team; a national NZQA Assessor/Trainer for Land Transport in the Car Restraint Training field for retailers, Police and local councils. Auckland of the Year in 2004. In 2014 received the Minister of Health's Volunteer Award for 40 years' service in the Health field. Presented with the Otahuhu College Distinguished Old Students Award in 2016. Married with four grown-up children and six grandchildren.

Committees:

At EGGS 1966-1968
OGA Committee member since 1988

ANNUAL GENERAL MEEETING

Our 98th AGM was held on Monday 11th June where, along with business we also acknowledged this year's Honorary Members:

- Heather Ash, past teacher at EGGS and now a partner at Simpson Grierson specialising in environmental law
- Sarah Stenson, EGGS Deputy Principal, taking up the role of Principal at Kelston Girls College
- Christine Black (unable to attend) who retired as EGGS Archivist at the end of Term1

We also farewelled Fiona Cottam and Donna Corse-Scott, long-serving members of the OGA Committee who stepped down due to other commitments.

Fiona, who was a Deputy Principal at EGGS and is now Head of Senior School and Deputy Principal at St Cuthberts, joined the Committee in 2007 and has always been a voice of wisdom and reason. We'll really miss her clear-thinking and ability to make sense of just about anything and everything!

Donna, who joined in 2012, has done a brilliant job of organising the Graduation Dinner over the past two years. She has refined processes and introduced new touches and has done an overall fabulous job. We thank both Fiona and Donna for their input and will welcome them back any time.



Sally Blyth & Donna Corse-Scott



EGGS Alumnae Achieve their Ambitions in Law

Upon leaving Epsom Girls Grammar School a significant number of students have gone on to a successful profession in law. It is particularly noteworthy that eight female judges received their education at Epsom Girls, including the late Dame Augusta Wallace, NZ's first woman judge, appointed to the District Court in 1975.

On Wednesday 27th June 2018 a group of Alumnae working in law came together at the School to attend the "Women in Law" function, organised by the EGGS Old Girls Association, in association with Heather Ash and Dame Judith Potter. The idea behind it was to gather together EGGS alumnae who now work in the legal profession, as well as current students considering law as a career. Convivial and casual, it proved to be an incredibly inspiring evening for all.

Lawyer Heather Ash (Simpson Grierson) was MC for the event and presentations were made by six alumnae, all members of the Judiciary, both current and retired: Dame Judith Potter DNZM CBE, Retired High Court Judge; Heather Simpson, CNZM, Retired District Court Judge; Hannah Sargisson, Associate Judge; Vivienne Ullrich, QC, Retired Family Court Judge; Melanie Harland, Environment Court Judge; Sarah Reeves, Maori Land Court Judge. Chief District Court Judge Jan-Marie Doogue was overseas gave her apologies.

Each Judge gave a highly insightful and motivating speech, outlining their path to the bench. No two roads were the same and, at a time when more traditional careers were the norm for girls leaving school, these women set out to tread new ground. Some went straight into studying law, others had no initial ambition to become a lawyer but found themselves drawn to the profession after having studied languages, history and other arts subjects.

The grit, resolve and personal belief required to progress in the profession of law back in the day was evidenced by the six judges who spoke. It was all underpinned by a sense of passion and a calling they could not escape.

First up, Dame Judith spoke about Dame Augusta Wallace who sat in the District Court for nearly 15 years, in Auckland initially, followed by the Otahuhu District Court and the Papakura District Court. She survived a machete attack in the Otahuhu Youth Court in 1990 that led to a review of court security. Considered a little formidable and entirely dedicated, Gussie, as she was known, was a true breaker of glass ceilings.

Retired Judge Heather Simpson spoke of finding herself gravitating towards law by default and then working for a law firm in Thames, where she took responsibility for the litigation side of the practice. She loved it and, along the way, was encouraged to apply to the judiciary. She was appointed District Court Judge in 1987 with special designation to sit in the Youth Court. Heather is a member of the Baha'i Faith with a calm, engaging and self-effacing approach to life.

Judge Hannah Sargisson has been actively interested in women's issues in relation to the law. After partnership in a high profile legal firm for many years, Hannah was appointed a Master of the High Court in 2002 and became an Associate Judge of the High Court when the title changed in May 2004. She deals predominantly with pre-trial, company and insolvency matters and is justly dedicated to promoting women in law. Speaking with sincerity and assertion, Hannah provided much food for thought in terms of the legal profession past and future, and the place of women in it.

Judge Vivienne Ullrich, QC, is a retired Family Court Judge, a position that comes with challenges. Her career has been mostly in academia and litigation, covering family, employment and commercial law. Having been actively involved in Law Society Committees, she was a founding member of the Executive of the Family Law Section of the New Zealand Law Society. Referring to the Myers Briggs system, one of Vivienne's messages to the group was that, to be a judge, one needs to be a J (Judging) rather than a P (Perceiving) personality. Vivienne demonstrated why this makes perfect sense.

Judge Melanie Harland was admitted to the Bar in 1985. Although she continues to live in Hamilton for strong family reasons, she is based in the Environment Court in Auckland. Her work involves planning and resource management law as well as administrative law. Melanie, who is very easy company to be in, spoke with extreme conviction and passion and reiterated that everything is possible.

Judge Sarah Reeves was also admitted to the Bar in 1985 and appointed to the Maori Land Court in 2010. Based in Wellington, she hears cases throughout the South Island and Chatham Islands. She has practised in NZ, Rarotonga, Singapore and Hong Kong, specialising in commercial and property law. Before she was appointed she acted as the senior in-house counsel for the Auckland City Council. A highly engaging and energising woman.

The concluding speaker was Dame Judith Potter, who was the first woman elected to a District Law Society when she was elected to the Auckland Law Society in 1977. She then became President of the New Zealand Law Society in 1991, the first woman to do so and, at that time, the only woman amongst 28 men on the Council. Judith believes women who follow a career in law do so with a proper sense of purpose and a belief in: justice; equality before the law; access to justice; and that our judicial system exists to serve the community in which we live. Dame Judith is a remarkable woman with a streak of genuine magnificence and complete engagement that is apparent upon first meeting.



Julie Goodyer, Dame Judith Potter & Ro Bellamy

Important key messages from the evening, especially for young women aspiring to a career in law:

- It is belief and purpose that makes for excellent female lawyers and judges into the future, beyond personal goals and ambitions.
- Female lawyers can have relationships, children and strong family connections without compromising or jeopardising their dreams.
- Having a sound secondary education platform and a common bond with colleagues in the same profession is immensely valuable.
- A challenge or problem shared is often a problem spared – women are good at this, especially those working in law.
- Women can overcome the odds to succeed in a male-dominated profession; alumnae from EGGs have proved this time and time again.
- Get involved in your profession – be visible, be authentic, be confident; network, engage, learn.

Epsom Girls Grammar School has a long and proud history, documented in the book *Educating Women of Integrity*. Through times of change and challenge, and with a strong sense of community, girls educated at EGGs have gone on to excel in many fields. Written by Pauline Farra and published for the School's Centenary in 2017, the book covers 100 years of education at Epsom under 11 principals.

With many thanks to Julie Goodyer, Heather Ash, Dame Judith Potter for organising and sponsoring this highly successful and enlightening event. Thanks also to Fiona Ryan for her input, and to Alumnae Rebecca Salmond of Odyssey wines who donated and served her wonderful wine for the event.

By Sally Blyth



Judge Heather Simpson & Judge Melanie Harland



Judge Hannah Sargisson & Judge Vivienne Ullrich



Dame Judith Potter, Heather Ash & Lorraine Pound



FOCUS ON OLD GIRLS

Olwyn Anne Ovenden (née Capie) – From Schoolgirl to Salon Owner

Olwyn attended EGGs in 1958 and 1959. Whilst there, she enjoyed Sewing and Home Economics, where she recalls learning how to manage babies and was top of the class. She took a holiday job at David Mollieries Hairdressing salon in Mt Eden (now Mollieries beauty therapy clinic) and absolutely loved it. This impelled her to leave school to take up hairdressing, which she did in 1960 for three years.

Olwyn's father was Scottish and her mother a Kiwi – they had met on a boat and Olwyn was born in Durban, South Africa. When she was 18 she travelled to South Africa with her mother and spent a year there connecting with her birthplace. She loved it and became immersed in the world of theatrics and staging, learning about wigs, beauty, stage makeup etc. This sort of stuff was not available in New Zealand at the time and it opened up a whole new world for her. With her background in hairdressing, she was smitten.

Back in New Zealand, Olwyn met and married Colin in 1968 and set up her own hair salon in St Heliers (called Salon 26) which she ran successfully for many years and still enjoys. Olwyn went on to become a Professional Organiser, having trained in Hawaii through the National Association of Productivity and Organising Professionals (NAPO). This work has enabled her to help people bring order and efficiency to their lives and homes. She is a self-employed part-time NAPO and kindergarten helper. Even though she was only at EGGs for two years, it seems her accomplishments in both Home Sciences and hairdressing took her on a highly enjoyable path which she still derives pleasure from all these years later.

Unable to have children, she and Colin have travelled widely throughout their lives; in 1975 they spent six months overseas and they still travel today.

Olwyn lives in Auckland and attended the Morning Tea and 1958 Reunion Luncheon in April. She shared her story with me and was an absolute delight to talk with. – *Sally Blyth*

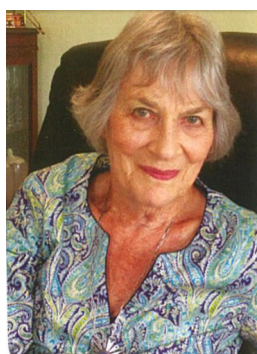


Ali'imua Sandra Alofiavae MNZM

Congratulations to Sandra (EGGS 1980s) who has been awarded a 2018 Blake Leader Award.

Read more about her achievements by following this link:

<https://sirpeterblaketrust.org/posts/2018/6/7/ali-imua-sandra-alofivae>



Dr Margaret Guthrie, CNZM - Gerontologist Ageing Fabulously

Margaret is a youthful 93yo who lives in Onehunga. She still drives, does her own housework, loves gardening and belongs to a number of medical societies and social clubs. Margaret believes mental and physical wellbeing are tied together and that keeping active and learning is important. Her medical career covers practising as a GP, working as a medical officer for the RNZAF, and as a medical superintendent. In the 1980s, Margaret worked for the Dept of Health looking into health services for older people; an area that was not receiving much attention at the time.

Margaret has written several books, including an autobiographical account of her life and work. *Different Stars for Different Times: Memoirs of a Woman Doctor* was published in 2014 and "tells the story of the outstanding life and career of a sensitive and thoughtful woman doctor."

Since the 1980s Margaret has been at the forefront of gerontology in NZ and in 1997 was awarded a Companion of the NZ Order of Merit in 1997 for her services this field. She remains actively involved in Age Concern and other organisations working in aged care. Plenty of challenges remain in this field of medicine and Margaret has gained many insights during her years of work, not least through her one ageing. Advocating that an active lifestyle and positive attitude can help people through the many challenges of getting old, she takes her own advice and continues to live a full and happy life.

You can read an article on Margaret which appeared in the May issue of the Onehunga Community News www.onehunga.co.nz

BE A SILVER ROAD CLUB DONOR



Become a Silver Road Club Donor to show your support for the OGA! An automatic payment of just \$10 a month goes towards helping us. As a registered charity we will send a donation receipt at the end of the year. Please contact us for more information to become a member of the Silver Road Club and show your pride to be an Old Girl!

Rebecca Salmond - Winemaker Extraordinaire (EGGS 1980-84)

Odyssey wines is owned by EGGS Alumna Rebecca Salmond. Rebecca's voyage into winemaking began at Massey University and concluded at Adelaide University's Roseworthy College in Australia, where she graduated with a degree in Biotechnology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Winemaking Science. Keen to explore the wider world of winemaking, Rebecca then travelled to and worked in some of the finest and most acclaimed wine and culinary regions of the world.

Rebecca launched her own label "Odyssey" in 1994, with small amounts of premium wines. Odyssey now owns 68 acres of land in Marlborough's Brancott Valley, with 25 acres currently under vine. All wines are high quality single vineyard artisanal wines made by Rebecca herself at a state of the art winery in Marlborough. In an aim to fully express the terroir of the vineyard, Odyssey is organic and Rebecca's winemaking practices lean towards 'natural' with minimal additives. Rebecca selects fruit from Marlborough and Gisborne to ensure optimum fruit quality in her wines and makes only subtle adjustments. She uses the finest French oaks.

Odyssey Wines has garnered a number of accolades and awards and the OGA takes pleasure in highlighting some of Rebecca's wines that are available by mail order. We had the privilege of sampling these at the recent Women in Law Function, outlined on P6 & 7. Take note - these wines are not on the supermarket shelves!

Odyssey Reserve Iliad Gisborne Chardonnay 2017 New Release 5 Stars

This is gorgeously expressed on the nose showing golden peach, baked fig, nougat, vanilla and roasted hazelnut characters. The palate is concentrated and generously weighted, displaying excellent depth and complexity, wonderfully framed by creamy texture and elegant acidity.

Odyssey Marlborough Pinot Noir 2015 5 Stars

From their vineyard at the top of the Brancott Valley, this stylish pinot shows fragrant aromas of red/black cherry, violet, mixed spice and subtle toasted almond notes.

The palate is ripe, rounded and silky, and delivers beautiful fine texture backed by polished tannins. Lovely infusion of attractive flavours and elegant savoury complexity.

Odyssey Wines are available via Mail Order: <http://odysseywines.co.nz/odyssey-shop/>

Testimonials:

"From one vintage to the next, Rebecca Salmond makes one of Gisborne's classiest wines. Very elegant, youthful and harmonious, it has concentrated stone fruit, grapefruit and slight spice flavours, finely integrated oak and a long, poised finish." M. Cooper

"Recognised early as a talented young winemaker, Rebecca struck out with her first Odyssey wines in 1994. The wines are limited production, premium, single vineyard expressions." Raymond Chan

The OGA encourages you to try these handcrafted and nicely affordable wines – and support Old Girl Rebecca Salmond.



ODYSSEY



Kathryn Seagrave – Thriving in the Wairarapa (EGGS 1969-73)

Kathryn was OGA President 2014/15 and Co-President with Sally 2015/2016. In August 2016 Kathryn and her husband Jeremy moved out of Auckland. She shares a brief update on life since leaving the city – sent to us from Spain where they are currently on holiday.

It took 48 hours to change our lives. Mind you, we had been toying with the idea of moving out of Auckland for an adventure. The plan was to find an historic house, close to a main Centre, for a renovation project.

Once we had decided that South Wairarapa was our search area, because of its proximity to Wellington, our online search started; 48 hours later we purchased our 1876 homestead. A lot of our friends thought we were mad, but everything felt right to us.

We've had such fun renovating the house and developing the garden. We are fortunate to have some beautiful old trees on our acre and a half section. Locals say that Sir Walter Buller, who wrote *Buller's Birds of NZ*, planted many of the trees on the section when he owned it. The last rooms in the house will be completed within the next few months. I have to admit that it will be good not to have any more scrim, jib or plaster dust.

An unexpected bonus has been moving into a vibrant artistic community and we are now involved in community arts projects. I am really enjoying being on the board of the Kokomai Cultural Festival and teaching violin and cello at several schools in Masterton.

For the two of us the move has been an exciting adventure and whilst we enjoy our trips back to Auckland, South Wairarapa is definitely home.

SUPPORTING ALUMNAE

Fiona Ryan – Lawyer with an Eye on the World

Fiona is an Alumnae (2004-2008) now working in law. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in History and Music) from the University of Auckland, both with First Class Honours. A University of Auckland Senior Scholar. Having graduated amongst the top students in her year, she now works as a Solicitor at Simpson Grierson, where she is growing her expertise in public and administrative law.

Fiona has recently accepted a place at New York University to further her studies ... she outlines her future goals.

As a student at EGGS I spent most of my time in the art block, the history department and the Raye Freedman Arts Centre. Following graduation from EGGS, I worked as the drama department assistant and as a freelance stage manager/front of house manager/technician/usher/anything else they needed at the RFAC, from 2009 to 2016 while I was at university (with a short OE somewhere in the middle). I have remained involved with the School as a member of the Arts Council and recently worked with a committee of Old Girls to establish a network of Alumnae who have gone on to join the legal profession.

As a law student, I developed a keen interest in public law and constitutional theory – in particular, international legal structures such as the European Union. This matched well with my studies in history, where I focused predominantly on nineteenth and twentieth century nationalism.

I was offered admission to some of the world's most prestigious law schools, including New York University, "Ivy League" Columbia University, the University of Chicago, the London School of Economics, the University of Edinburgh and Georgetown University. Each of these schools are home to leading scholars in my areas of interest and produce graduates who have gone on to become government ministers, judges, heads of government, leaders of international organisations and much more. I have accepted a spot at New York University due to the strength of its programme, the diversity of its student cohort and the access it provides to organisations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and the International Development Law Organisation.



As an LLM student, I will focus my courses on constitutional theory and international public law. Whilst I will be studying in a foreign jurisdiction, the purpose of my study abroad will be to consider, in particular, ways in which New Zealand can leverage foreign legal approaches to achieve a closer, more cooperative working relationship with our Pacific neighbours. I also intend to consider how our constitutional structure could be changed to better provide for the representation of tikanga Māori in our legal system, through the codification or other incorporation of the Treaty of Waitangi into our constitutional framework.

With that academic background, I intend to take opportunities to work with governments and international organisations on matters of international relations and trade, and constitutional development. I will first return to New Zealand to contribute to legal developments here before exploring opportunities abroad. An LLM will provide me with the training I need to excel in these areas, and a platform from which to launch the next stage in my career.

Fees for NYU (and most of the other law schools) are around \$90,000 - \$100,000 NZD for the full programme (being 9 months of study). Whilst I expect to be able to fund my living costs on my own, I will be dependent on loans and third-party funding for my fees. Unfortunately, even loans are difficult to come by without the ability to mortgage property, and so I am looking to raise between \$30,000 to \$50,000 over the coming year.

REGIONAL BRANCHES

We have active branches in Franklin and Tauranga. To find out more about Franklin branch, contact either Rita Peterson 09 238 6522 or Sonia Butcher 09 238 8252 (Co-Presidents). Tauranga branch have an annual lunch in October. For more information please contact Anne Mortensen, email agpowell@xtra.co.nz. We'd 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.

Olivia Jordan – Reaching for the Stars

Olivia is a very proud Old Girl of Epsom Girls (2010-2014). All her life she has been passionate about acting; youth drama productions, after-school theatre classes and singing lessons were all a big part of her childhood. She loved her drama and art classes at Epsom Girls Grammar and in her last year was the Drama Prefect. She shares her aspirations ...

I knew there was something special about acting when I was in the student-run production of Anne Frank at age 15. I felt unstoppable and powerful and completely in my element. I knew this was a feeling I was going to chase.

In year 12, I was in Melbourne for a holiday and I drove up to a town in Victoria called Ballarat. Up in that part of the world is a performing arts school that my singing teacher in Auckland had told me about. I was fortunate to have a tour of the school by a man who later became a huge mentor for me. On that day, Ross Hall, head acting teacher at Federation University, invited me back to spend a week at the university the following year. I took this opportunity with open arms, experiencing university life, and immersing myself into all the classes. I didn't want to come home after that week!

At the end of 7th form, I returned to Ballarat for a live audition. Two months later I was offered a place to do a Bachelor of Arts in Acting. Three years later I have my BA and can honestly say it was the best time of my life to date.

Last year I was encouraged by my lecturers to audition for the esteemed Royal Central School for Speech and Drama, University of London. This was a huge compliment and something I had only dreamt of. This school was ranked number one drama school for 2018/19 and has produced alumni such as Dame Judi Dench, Sir Laurence Olivier, Graham Norton, Dawn French and Andrew Garfield. I auditioned in Sydney in January of this year. Bearing in mind hundreds of people audition from all over the world, and sometimes audition year after year to try and get a place, I knew my chances were slim.

In February, I received an email from Amanda Brennan, head lecturer for the MA Acting for Screen Course. She requested a Skype interview and second audition. She told me there were candidates from Australia, New York and London to interview first before I would know if I had a place or not. Three weeks later I was so humbled and excited to have been offered a place at Central for the Masters course in Screen Acting.

My life has been a whirlwind since then. I have moved back to Auckland and am working and saving vigorously. I am applying for grants and scholarships and have set up a "givealittle" page in the hope that my wider community will be able to help me on my way. The link appears below. If you care to help me on my journey or know someone who could help I would be so grateful.

"Get Livvy to the Royal Central School For Speech and Drama." Or my name "Olivia Jordan."

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/get-livvy-to-the-royal-central-school-for-speech>



**If you are interested in supporting Fiona or Olivia,
please contact us oga@eggs.school.nz and we will put you in touch.**

"OLD GIRLS" OR "ALUMNAE"?

What we call ourselves is a topic for ongoing discussion and one that we covered at the June AGM, and where feelings are split. We have received some feedback, thank you. We would like to keep the dialogue going for now.

As the OGA approaches the grand old age of 100 (currently 97) and being aware that most of us are not so old (!), this is about whether we remain as the Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association (EGGSOGA) or move to naming ourselves the Epsom Girls Grammar School Alumnae Association (EGGSAA).

So, we ask that you consider your view, generate conversation amongst your 'Old Girl' friends, and feed back to us with your thoughts or feedback, for us to discuss and consider. We will keep you posted on this topic.

SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE - SEEKING LUNCHTIME SPEAKERS

The School welcomes Alumnae working in a wide variety of fields to come and talk to current students about their career. If you're interested in talking to the current students through the Thursday Lunchtime Talks programme, to share your professional journey and inspire the girls about life in your chosen field, please contact Philippa Leask, HoD Careers Dept, 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.

EPSOM HOUSE SCHOLARSHIP

This OGA Scholarship is available to a student in her first year at Epsom House. Since 2016, the Scholarship has been sponsored by Compass Group and we thank them for their ongoing support.

Interviews for the 2018 Scholarship have now been held and a decision will be made soon.

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



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/better 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 from the link below. All donations make a wonderful difference to EGGs and will be recognised.

[http://www.eggs.school.nz/uploaded/file/Donation%20Form\(5\).pdf](http://www.eggs.school.nz/uploaded/file/Donation%20Form(5).pdf)



EGGS OGA FILM EVENING FUNDRAISING EVENT

Monday 3rd September, 6.30pm, Rialto Newmarket

Leave No Trace

Directed by Debra Granik and starring NZ actress Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie in a stunning performance, this is a father/daughter tale that is both heart-warming and heart-breaking.

Come join us for a special private screening – and help raise funds for L Block.

More details to come – save the date in your diary!

REMEMBERING ALUMNAE

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

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

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

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

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

Norma was passionate about tapestry and embroidery. Widely travelled, she was hugely inspired by the Kimberley, Australia, and its spirituality, and this was reflected in a special piece she created in honour of her eldest daughter Sarah who died in 2010 of a brain tumour. She found needlework highly motivating and meditative.

Many people with Type 2 diabetes go undiagnosed and Norma’s message to many was to go and get yourself tested; if there is indication, you can modify your lifestyle. Awareness is everything. A fitting message from a strong woman who always thought of others and, despite her high profile life, always put family first.



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

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

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

Yvonne Freestone – Died 7th June 2018, aged 88. Yvonne taught at EGGs for many years through the 1970s and into the 1980s. She was HOD Maths for much of that time. Her daughters Janet and Marion attended EGGs (1970s).

FOCUS ON BONE HEALTH

As reported in previous newsletters, this is an exciting initiative between the Old Girls Assn, the School and three Alumnae involved in the area of bone health: Professor Jill Cornish (Dept of Medicine, Auckland University); Dr Susannah O’Sullivan (Endocrinologist); and Christine Gill (ED, Osteoporosis NZ). A number of meetings have taken place, with agreement about the importance of sharing information about good bone health at an early age. Chris Gill is investigating funding possibilities and we are also exploring collaborative options for how best to include information about osteoporosis and bone health into the curriculum through a pilot run at EGGs. We’ll share more information as the project progresses.

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.

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 schooldays who you have lost touch with. Stop thinking, get Googling! Or contact us!

A Serendipitous Reconnection (by Sally Blyth)

I was friendly with a girl called Karen at EGGS. We lost contact when we left School but I have often thought about her through the years. At times I tried to find her but she proved rather hard to track down. A few weeks ago I thought I'd have another Google and, Eureka, I found her. I couldn't locate any contact details or an email address, but I did manage to learn that she was living in Melbourne and working for a large company there.

It just so happened that I was going to Melbourne the following week and, what's more, my hotel was literally around the corner from the company HQ. How fortuitous!

So, on a sunny Tuesday morning in Melbourne, and with a little bit of trepidation, I rocked up to HQ reception.

"This is rather random," I began "but I'm looking for someone I haven't seen for 40 years and I believe she works here." I gave the receptionist the name, told her of the school connection and how much I was hoping this visit would bring two old school friends together. The entire reception team was listening in by now with intrigue and delight.

The receptionist rang Karen and told her I was in reception to see her.

"I'd better come down!" said Karen. And she did.

And there we both were, looking at each other 40 years after we last saw each other. It was quite surreal. Luckily, Karen was in between meetings, so she suggested coffee. Perfect. It's fair to say the chat never stopped. We reminisced, we updated, we remembered our late parents. We laughed at quirky stories that we recalled like yesterday, filling in each other's gaps. We share an ongoing love of creativity. We exchanged contact details. There were no awkward moments.

Conversation flowed easily until we had to part – Karen went off to her meeting and I skipped out into the Melbourne sunshine pinching myself. All the ducks had aligned perfectly for this unexpected rendezvous and I was elated. As Karen pointed out, it's hard to know how meeting up so many years later might go; some reconnections can end up being a one-off rather uncomfortable encounter, but this meeting was effortless and consolidated why we had become friends in the first place. I look forward to seeing her again, sooner rather than later.

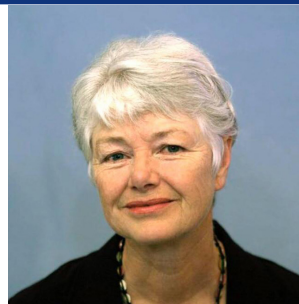
Meanwhile, I encourage all Old Girls to seek out former classmates – if you've been wondering what they've been up to, get going and try to find out!

If you'd like some help reconnecting with a former classmate, 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.



The Epsom Girls Grammar School
Foundation presents

Women in New Zealand Politics



Join our inspirational "Women in NZ Politics" Event and help raise funds for the L Block upgrade at the same time!

Special guest speakers Tessa Berger, Auckland Council Elected Member; Jeanette Fitzsimons, former co-leader of the Green Party; and Chlöe Swarbrick MP - all EGGS Alumnae – will talk openly about their journeys and experiences in politics on Monday 30th July, 6pm at the Raye Freedman Arts Centre.

Don't delay, buy your tickets today www.iticket.co.nz/events/.../jul/women-in-new-zealand-

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE WITH US?

If so, please contact us for further details. We produce three newsletters per year, all emailed and posted to our large and diverse database. A great opportunity to profile your business and brand to a group of wonderful women and their networks who may be looking for exactly what you are offering! We may be able to help to spread your good news along with our own. All content subject to Editor's approval.

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.

With this in mind, a small but enjoyable gathering of London based EGGS Alumnae hosted by OGA committee member Julie Goodyer was held in London on 10 July 2018. This was the second year we have met at BFI Stephen Street Kitchen in London as a gathering was also held there last year to toast the EGGS Centenary. Thanks to all those who came along.



Anne-Marie Wallis, Lakshini Mendis, Frances Neels, Catherine Allbury, Julie Goodyer, Joanna Reesby



Joanna Reesby - Media Mover and Shaker (EGGS 1973-76)

Joanna has spent 30 years living and working in the UK. She is a mover and shaker in the media realm and shares her journey ...

I left EGGS in 1976, age 16, to be an Exchange student in the USA and, glad to say, still have a number of very good friends from my school days, mostly living abroad, interestingly. I have lived in London for over 30 years now. Having gained a law degree in Auckland, I joined Bell Gully in Wellington for several years before leaving to do an LLM at Cambridge. I then worked in The City as a lawyer, before changing careers by joining Hasbro, the world's biggest toy company (whilst on my first maternity leave, very timely!) and moving to the commercial side of the business. I had a very happy eight years there, ending as their global SVP in entertainment. I then moved to join "19 Entertainment", a UK company in the music and TV world, and worked on the UK Pop Idol, American Idol etc as well as S Club 7 and other projects.

I now work as a head hunter in the media sector, running my own business, named Mission Bay as that is where my mother now lives. We work on assignments for large media players, all over the world and, needless to say, meet some fascinating people responsible for the TV shows, online video, books and so on that we all know and love. It is a very fast-changing world so keeps us all busy anticipating what might happen next. My children are young adults now, studying at University – one has been doing a year in Korea, studying bio-chemistry but is heading back to complete her master in the UK, and the other is doing computer sciences. I do return to NZ fairly often, the family beckons!

ARCHIVES

As Christine Black has now retired from the part-time position as Archivist, the School and OGA are jointly considering the best way to approach archives from this point forward. We have sought advice from Founder Diane Morcom (see P3), former Chair of the Archives Council, who has put us in touch with key staff within the Department of Internal Affairs. We'll be following up on this to ensure EGGS archives continue to be curated with care and with a view to the future. Thank you to Diane and the DIA for offering this guidance, it will be extremely valuable.

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. **Contact us via email: oga@eggs.school.nz**



**EGGS UNDER 17 - 4'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONS with
Stella Humberstone Hurley - Female Junior Coxswain of the Year**

Save the Date

Women In Politics..... Monday 30th July
 Film Evening Monday 3rd September
 Graduation Dinner Thursday 29th November
 OGA CENTENARY YEAR 100th Celebrations The year 2021

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



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