



Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association (Inc)



99th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 8th JUNE 2020

Dear Alumnae

We are pleased to attach the AGM Minutes and associated reports from our AGM held on Monday 8th June. The information in these reports will keep you up to date with OGA happenings for the 2019/20 year and what's in the pipeline.

As advised, our 2020 AGM was held via Zoom due to Covid-19 and was a great success. We had a wonderful turnout, with Old Girls attending from throughout New Zealand and around the world including Australia, Hawaii, Hong Kong.

Our focus moving forward is on the OGA 100 Years Centenary celebrations, set for Saturday 27th March 2021.

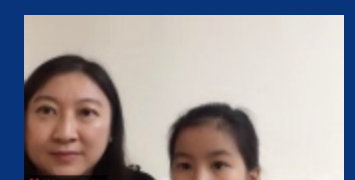
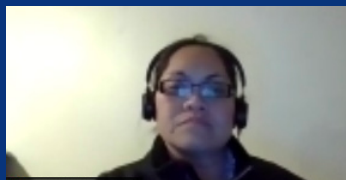
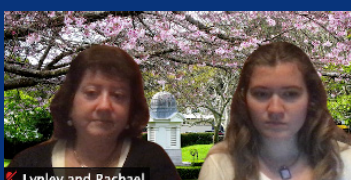
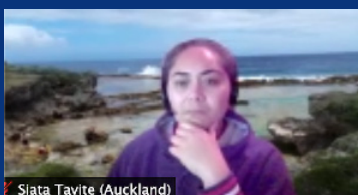
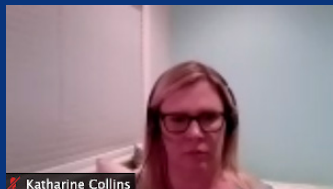
We hope you are all keeping well and enjoying Level 1.

Kind regards

Sally Blyth & Lynley Sheweiry

OGA Co-Presidents 2016-2020

A SELECTION OF ZOOM ATTENDEES:



Minutes of 99th Annual General Meeting

DATE	Monday 08 June 2020, 7pm
PRESENT	Sally Blyth (Omaha), Lynley Sheweiry, Julie Goodyer, Virginia Bishop, Katharine Collins, Annise Raea, Alice Raea, Rachael Banbury, Tric Milner, Michele Heywood, Mary Hall, Margi Leech, Lucie Chambers, Lorraine Pound (Principal), Chris Isles (Board Chair), Fiona Cottam, Kathryn Seagrave (South Wairarapa), Christine Black, Jill Mandeno, Marion Fell (Napier), Neville Ryan, Sue Templeton, Wendy Lin (Hong Kong), Jean Lang, Gay Roberts (Omaha), Leila Corban, Marie (Wellington), Judy Wilson, Madeline Gunn, Dr Margaret Guthrie, Marama O'Loughlin, Sue Templeton, Kris Tynan, Siata Tavite, Helen Laurenson, Kalvir Martin, Marina Batham (Hawaii), Marion Fell, Jenny Woods
APOLOGIES	Jeanette Smith, Ann Baster, Sue Bull, Frances Loo, Irene Byrne, Valda Cammell, Ehlin Young, Claudia Chaney, Margaret Martin (Sydney), Annette McGown, Elaine Rutherford, Catherine Allbury, Michelle Allbury, Jan Martin.

AGENDA ITEM	MINUTES
Introduction	Zoom navigation – Margi Leech
Welcome	Sally Blyth - Biggest turnout ever; people from around NZ and the world – all from our living rooms. A lot of pre-read; taking reports as read – thank you Lynley for combining into one document.
Minutes of Previous Meeting (98th AGM)	Held Monday, 10 June 2019. Moved Sally Blyth, Seconded Julie Goodyer Carried
Matters arising	OGA Centenary 2021 – OGA decision to change the date from Fri 26th March to Sat 27th March 2021.
Correspondence In/Out	Apologies - as noted. Moved Sally Blyth, seconded by Lynley Sheweiry. Carried
Treasurers Report	Treasurer's report taken as read. Key points to highlight - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main source of the year's fundraising was the Graduate Dinner (November 2019); • Overview of the Term Deposits, including the donation from the late Ro Bellamy; • A Special thanks to Kirsty Cooper for running the accounts; and to Chris Isles for reviewing accounts this year pro bono; incorporated into the Report provided; • Increased position reflects the successful Grad Dinner and other accounts. Attached as Annexure A, Pages 4 & 5. Moved: Julie Goodyer; seconded by Annise Raea. Carried. Noted the amount of work that goes into this area. Question raised by Siata Tavite regarding the review of accounts being pro-bono and whether there is an audit charge in the payments. Julie responded and Chris Isles advised to ensure accrual and capture an audit fee in year completed. Noted.
Silver Road Badges	Unable to physically hand out tonight but there is one for Donna Corse-Scott. Julie will arrange to get this to Donna.
Archivist's Report	Archivist's report taken as read. A busy year for Archives, captured in the Report. Key points to highlight - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gold key gifted to the School being mounted and framed, and Miss Loudoun's CBE Medal being restored. • Comment from Principal Lorraine Pound regarding a re-order of some of the art work and make it a feature wall. • Christine Black will be compiling a Memoir Book regarding the history of the OGA. Attached as Annexure B, Pages 7 & 8. Moved: Virginia Bishop; seconded by Julie Goodyer. Carried.

Principal's Report	<p>Principal's Report taken as read.</p> <p>Key points to highlight - Last few months dominated by Covid-19; Alert Level 1 will provide some good normality; looking forward to that.</p> <p>Attached as Annexure C, Pages 8 & 9.</p> <p>Moved: Lorraine Pound; seconded by Lucie Chambers. Carried</p>
Co-Presidents' Report	<p>Co-Presidents' Report taken as read.</p> <p>Key points - Had needed to cancel events due to Covid-19; looking forward to 2021 Centenary and putting efforts and energy into that;</p> <p>Attached as Annexure D, Pages 10 - 14.</p> <p>Moved: Sally Blyth; seconded by Margi Leech. Carried.</p>
Election of Officers and Committee	<p>Sally Blyth and Lynley Sheweiry: Co-Presidents; Julie Goodyer: Treasurer; Katharine Collins: Secretary; Patricia Milner & Michele Heywood: Staff Representatives; Mary Hall; Annise Raea; Rachael Banbury; Lucie Chambers; Claudia Chaney: Committee Members; Alice Raea: Student Representative.</p> <p>Resignations from Virginia Bishop and Margi Leech;</p> <p>Recognition of the huge amount of work by Virginia, as Secretary and all the other activities, including work with the School; Virginia read out her resignation message that she had sent to Sally and Lynley.</p> <p>Margi will be co-opted onto the Committee for Centenary help;</p> <p>Moved: Sally Blyth; seconded by Julie Goodyer. Carried.</p>
Approval of budget for next financial year	<p>Budget YE 31 March 2021 - presented by Julie Goodyer;</p> <p>Attached as Annexure E, Pages 6 & 7.</p> <p>Moved: Julie Goodyer; seconded by Lucie Chambers. Carried</p>
Appointment of Accountants to Review Financial Statements	<p>Julie Goodyer recommended that Chris Iles (Board of Trustees Chair) again review the accounts for the coming year; Chris noted his other School responsibilities; also he is a Chartered Accountant but not currently practising. Chris agreed to continue to review for a 3-year period, after which time recommends it revert to Crowe Howarth or other. Chris was thanked for his generous offer.</p> <p>Moved Julie Goodyer; seconded by Jill Mandeno. Carried.</p> <p>Chris also noted the keen intent of Board to continue relationships with the wider community and whether OGA would like to see some reporting from the Board, i.e. on what it is doing for the School, the School's strategic goals, to encourage more interaction. Sally welcomed the opportunity to include a report from the Board in papers for the 2021 AGM. There were also positive feedback comments (in the Zoom chat); general consensus. The Board took an action to put this together for the OGA.</p>
General Business	<p>OGA Centenary 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jill Mandeno asked about the impact of Covid-19 into the future and whether contingency plans were being taken into account in case it could not go ahead as planned in March; OGA will continue to review and consider a contingency. Christine Black is working on compiling a history of the OGA; will update further; the project is underway – combining ideas from the Committee, survey feedback, etc. Suggestion from Marina Batham for when listing the Old Girls to include maiden names as well as any married names (hard to find without). The Database does contain both maiden and married names where known. The Committee can assist people find classmates if a reunion is being organised. Need to bear in mind privacy issues of sharing information. <p>2020 AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Margi recommended using Zoom again for next year's AGM, to allow anyone to again join from anywhere. General consensus and agreement to do this.
Breakout session	<p>Moved into Zoom 'random' breakout rooms to chat for a few minutes in smaller groups – asked to share a memory from School days.</p>

Honorary Memberships	<p>Tric Milner read the citation for Jeanette Davidson. Additional comments of recognition from Gay Roberts.</p> <p>Julie Goodyer read the citation for Kalvir Martin. Additional comments of recognition from Margi Leech.</p> <p>Attached as Annexure F, Pages 14 - 17.</p> <p>Moved: Julie Goodyer; seconded by Lynley Sheweiry. Carried.</p> <p>Certificates and flowers will presented to both Jeanette and Kalvir.</p>
School Song	Virtual singing!
Meeting Concluded	Meeting concluded at 8:35pm.
Next Meeting	The 100th AGM date: Monday 14th June 2021 (tbc)

Treasurer's Report - 2020

Next year is the OGA's Centenary year and we started the 2019/2020 financial year in a strong position with \$15,000 seed funding set aside on term deposit for the centenary. We have also been working with the School on an archival project to digitise old class photos. When the seed funding term deposit came to term in February 2020, we withdrew \$5,000 plus the interest and set this aside for the OGA's contribution to his project. However, Covid issues have put this project on hold and the funds are now back on Term Deposit until the beginning of next year.

Our other major investment is the Hostel Scholarship fund which is invested through the EGGS Foundation in their Forsyth Barr investment fund. As at 31 March 2020 the amount of this fund was \$33,389 (down from \$36,121 in December 2019 due to Covid) but well up on 31/3/2019 when it was at 30,332. The sponsorship we have secured from the Epsom House caterer Compass Group for the OGA Hostel Scholarship again paid for the \$2,500 Hostel Scholarship for 2020 (payable in November 2019) so we did not have to withdraw this payment from the Scholarship capital fund.



OGA Treasurer Julie Goodyer

Sue Bull who was Epsom House Head Girl in 1960 has donated \$2,000 towards the cost of installing a new Honours Board in Epsom House to record the names of the hostel's head girls and deputy head girls from 1960 to 1999. They are recorded from 2000 onwards. We need to research the names and do some more fundraising, but we are hoping to have this Board in place for the OGA Centenary.

As our primary focus is on friend-raising, not all our events make a profit or even cover costs. Events that were funded by the OGA or just broke even included our 2019 Annual Morning Tea and 60 and 70 years on luncheon reunions in April; AGM in June; Founders Awards morning tea in June; two Women in Law events for students – a panel of Anna Adams and Olivia Zambuto in September aimed at senior students, and a speaker – Rachel Carter – at the Year 10 Careers Day; and our committee Christmas dinner in December.

In September 2019 the OGA paid over to the school its L block fundraising funds as a \$7,170 donation towards the renovation of L Block as a flexible learning space. This is now officially open and named the Judith Potter Centre.

The Graduation Dinner in 2019 was again well-attended and cost-cutting in several areas coupled with another small increase in the dinner price meant that the dinner made a significant profit of \$11,431 plus a further \$1,322 in memorabilia sales and \$418 profit on Grad ring sales. Sales of our traditional EGGS Lions, Pascoe's Silver charms and OGA key rings, as well as Graduation rings, remain popular. We presented three Graduation Scholarships of \$600 each at the dinner and presented the Head Prefect with a Graduation ring.

We are still holding on a term deposit \$1,000 plus interest donated from our Tongan alumnae in the EGGS Centenary year to go towards the planting of a Centennial tree which will be co-ordinated with the upgrade of the historic science Quad area to be completed at the end of this year.

As mentioned in the Co-Presidents' report, we have received significant donations in memory of Ro Bellamy to enable the Science Quad to be upgraded in time for the OGA Centenary. This is an OGA-funded project in the School's budget for the School's 2020 financial year.

We still made our regular donation of \$3,000 to the School towards School prizes and a further \$1,080 for our Old Girls Association Service Awards of \$30 each for the junior school tutor group leaders.

For the past two years we have not made our regular donation of \$3,000 to the School towards the cost of running the EGGS Archives as the archives went into recess at the end of Term 1 in 2018. However, as you have heard, a lot of work has been done by committee members in tidying up the archives. A committee member donated funds to repair and re-frame Miss Loudon's CBE and to frame an ornamental key that was presented to the school by the superintendent of education at the time of the opening of the Administration Building in 1960.

We still have eight Old Girls signed up to our Silver Road Donors Club. These generous Old Girls are forgoing the cost of a cup of coffee per week and donating a monthly amount of \$10 to \$20. All have now been running for over 12 months and many have been running for years. Past committee member Donna Corse-Scott made a one-off donation of \$120 in July 2019 to earn her Silver Road Club badge and this would have been presented to her at this AGM, but we will post it. These badges are presented to anyone who continues their Silver Road Club donations for 12 months or donates \$120 or more per annum.

Kirsty Cooper has been running our accounts through Xero for almost three years now and we have a good system going. The key is to code things correctly before they get loaded into Xero. For the first time this year Kirsty has produced the accounts out of Xero to form the basis for our Statement of Service Performance to be lodged with Charities Services. At the last AGM, EGGS Board of Trustees Chair Chris Iles offered to review our accounts on a pro bono basis and this has occurred this year. So, a big thank you to Kirsty and Chris for their help with the accounts.

We are into the 5th year of the new Charities format of filing a Statement of Service Performance. We must report on our actual performance as well as complete the budget for the current year and include the previous year's figures. I'm always happy to work with anyone who would like to learn the treasurer's role or take on any aspect of the role. The OGA owns the trustee company EGGSOGA Trustee Limited that is a trustee of the Endowment Trust that manages to Kathleen Mandeno Scholarships. Jill Mandeno has transferred a share portfolio to the Endowment Sub-trust, and it is well on the way to being self-sufficient in funding the Kathleen Mandeno scholarship and some of the Einstein prizes that Jill funds. Currently Sally Blyth and I are the directors of the trustee company. We are in the process of opening a bank account for this trust rather than having Jill's lawyers manage it through their trust account.

There is quite a bit of administration involved in managing the shares, arranging for accounts to be prepared and filing a Statement of Service Performance with the Charities Office for both the Head and Sub-Trusts. We have also kept in place a previous Trust established by Jill in case any bequests had been made to it. This trust has been renamed the EGGS Silver Road Trust to distinguish it from the current Head and Sub Endowment Trusts. This Trust also requires an SSP to be filed with the Charities Office. In summary, if you are looking at the OGA's Statement of Service Performance as reviewed by Chris Iles it shows that the OGA's total Bank accounts and cash at the end of the financial YE 31/3/2020 have gone up by \$62,363. This reflects our successful Graduation dinner and the donations that have been received (this financial year) for the Science Quad project which will take place at the end of this year.

I move that the Financial Statements and Statement of Service Performance for the year ended 31 March 2020 as reviewed by Chris Iles are accepted.

Julie Goodyer, Treasurer
Old Girls Association

Budget for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Income	YE 31/3/2021
Graduation Dinner Profit	10500
Donations General	500
Silver Road Club Payments	1000
Fundraising Events and Sponsorship	1500
Memorabilia Sales	1200
Interest	75
Compass Hostel Schol Sponsorship (1)	2500
Graduation Ring Sales	400
Profit on OGA Centenary Events	2500
	20175
Expenses	
School Prizes	3000
School OGA Service Awards (4)	1080
Hostel Scholarship (1)	2500
Graduation Scholarships x 3 (5)	1800
Newsletters x 3	400
Secretarial	400
Gifts	200
Archives Donations (3)	0
Other Expenses	200
	9580
Net Cash Flow	10595
Capital Commitments not included in Budget	
Term Deposit to 20 Feb 2020 3.63% (Seed Funding OGA Centenary) (2)	10000
Term Deposit of Tongan donations Centennial Tree (6)	1000
Term Deposit for OG funded project of Science Quad Upgrade (7)	78000
Term Deposit on account of Futurepic digitising of old class photos	5500
Term Deposit on account of Epsom House Honours Board 1960 to 1999 (8)	2000
EGGS OGA Centenary Celebration Events based on 500 guests at \$50 pp (9)	25000
Totals	121500

Budget Notes:

1. Compass has agreed to sponsor Hostel Scholarship for 7 years (2016 to 2021) so Hostel Schol Fund can be invested in a long term investment and OGA does not need to pay out on Scholarship. Need to renegotiate this sponsorship for 2022.
2. Term Deposit of \$6,000 was remaining Profit from 90th Jubilee and was been topped up by profit from 2018 Grad dinner to \$15,000. In 2020 \$5,500 was withdrawn and held for Futurepic project.
3. Paid in 2 instalments at beginning and end of year - Not paid in YE 31/3/2019 or YE 31/3/2020 as Archivist resigned end of Term 1 2018 and Archives still in recess so not budgeted for YE 31/3/2021
4. Varies depending on the number of Year 9 and 10 Tutor Groups in each year.
5. At 2019 Grad Dinner 3 scholarships were awarded but can award 3 to 4 at 2020 Grad dinner.

6. \$1,000 plus accruing interest held in Term Deposit Account for this. Aim to plant tree as part of Science Quad project.
7. Funded from Donations from R Bellamy's Estate, J Goodyer and EGGS Foundation on Term Deposit
8. Donation of \$2,000 from S Bull (but more fundraising required up to \$5,500)
9. EGGS OGA Centenary Celebration events to be held on Saturday 27 March 2021 will be costed on the basis of the ticket price covering the catering and event costs and is expected to be cash neutral or make a small profit

Archivist's Report - 2020



OGA Secretary Virginia Bishop

I am delighted to submit the Archivist's report for 2020.

Virginia Bishop, OGA Committee Secretary continued to oversee the Archives function until March 2020.

Archived material is currently stored in two locations within the school:

1. In a room located up the stairs in the International Student area (formerly the staff prep area).
2. In AC2 which is off the corridor in the single storey wing built in 1946.

Broadly, the items stored can be grouped into the following classifications which may be useful as a basis for categorising digital archiving (not limited to):

- Uniform items
- Badges
- Trophies and certificates
- Photographs
- Class and attendance registers
- Year books and Jubilee books
- Student handbooks
- Newspapers, magazine clippings and articles



- Crockery, glassware and tableware with EGGS insignia
- Books (e.g. hymn books, Bibles, textbooks and books awarded as prizes)

We are still researching options for the most efficient and effective way of storing our memorabilia digitally. We are hopeful to soon begin scanning some of the archived class, staff, sports, committee and music photos. As we prepare for the Old Girls Centenary in 2021 we are keen to explore how we can present our archived documents in a contemporary, secure and private way. We look forward to landing on an online or similar digital solution for this over the coming year. We are always delighted to receive ongoing donations of memorabilia. Of note, this year we have received some gorgeous items from Ro Bellamy (EGGS 1954 – 1958).

We were delighted to be able to restore two pieces of stored memorabilia:

Commander (CBE) Miss Agnes Lang Loudon – former headmistress Epsom Girls Grammar School. Her honour was announced in the 1948 King's Birthday Honours in New Zealand, celebrating the official birthday of King George VI. Miss Loudon was the second head mistress and received her medal in recognition of her tenure being some 17 years throughout WW2.

Interestingly, Ngaio Marsh was also honoured in the same 1948 Kings Birthday Honours (not an Old Girl however!).



We also mounted and framed a gold key that was handed over to the school in recognition of the opening of the administration block in 1960. The hall – co-located, was built adjacent and opened some six years later. This building still remains in full glory on site today (with the staffroom upstairs).



We continue to receive regular requests from former students and families researching genealogy, wanting to reconnect with former friends or classmates, or simply reminiscing of their time at EGGS. Many of these queries come via email and while it does take some time to conduct the research, there is plenty of reward when an old class photo or yearbook entry is found, or a connection made.

Our extensive database of contacts remains an important vehicle for the Old Girls membership and network. The database enables us to organise and manage our contact information and assists us as a start point with research requests.

We have begun to segment and order this information to become more effective at communicating with our audience. We have extensively grown our membership in the past year to around 6,000 alumnae. It is essential that the information for individuals is current so please do ensure to keep us updated on any changes such as your address and email at oga@eggs.school.nz.

The former Archivist, Christine Black has kindly offered to curate a book of the OGA history in readiness for the Old Girls Centenary in 2021. Held in the Archives are box loads of minute books, letters, newsletters, photographs, event programmes and many other archived supporting items documenting the past 100 years of the Old Girls. Consolidating all of the OGA actions, events and general musings over this period into a book is a big task which will most certainly add value to the 100-year OGA celebration.

**Virginia Bishop, Secretary
Old Girls Association**

Principal's Report - 2020

Lynley and Sally, Co-Presidents of the Association, committee members and Old Girls – it gives me great pleasure to report on the past year to the Old Girls Association.

Student achievement last year saw a very good year for NZ Scholarship results with a total of 83, including 6 at Outstanding level. Scholarships were awarded across 23 subjects – an indication and endorsement of the depth of achievement, right across the curriculum, possible at EGGS. This number is well above that for most of the last decade and was bettered only in 2015 with a total of 84.

NCEA results were pleasing and comparative data supplied by NZQA for Decile 8-10 schools showed us to be well ahead of the comparison group.

It was also an extraordinary year for national representation in sports – 26 students. In the Young Sportsperson of the Year Awards Epsom had 9 finalists with Ella Wyllie (Cycling) and Sophia Morcom (Lacrosse) winning the Gold Award in their categories.

Last year saw the completion of the L Block redevelopment project and its re-emergence as the Judith Potter Centre. What a privilege it is to have alumnae who shine in the example of their life's work, in their personal values and in their firm belief in enhancing the educational experience for young women at this school. We are indebted to Dame Judith Potter for her generosity in making this project come to fruition. Many of you may have been at the Official Opening held at the end of February – a very happy occasion, and I would like to acknowledge again, the evocative speech that Dame Judith gave that



Principal Lorraine Pound

night, recalling her time in the building and the influence of a teacher on her future direction.

From the wonderful freshness of a new school year, we quickly moved towards the emerging Covid-19 situation and by Monday 23rd March the Prime Minister was announcing Level 3 and the move to Level 4 at midnight on the Wednesday and we were putting together the message for teachers to read out during the last period of the day which had just started. Students cleared their lockers, collected instruments and other gear, and went home that afternoon. By mid-afternoon on the Tuesday all Epsom House students had been collected. We had no students of essential workers attending and staff prepared for online learning.

Fortunately, we had asked for an earlier date for staff flu vaccine shots than the scheduled one, and this was all completed on the Wednesday, before the midnight lockdown, under the physical distancing and hygiene Level 3 requirements.

Lockdown saw teachers balancing a toddler on their hip, trying to help their six year old with their online learning, while also teaching 5 or 6 classes and engaging in Microsoft Teams or Google Meet for live camera sessions in their normal timetabled slots. Finance operated fully from home and Novopay was managed by the HR Team from home. Wednesday afternoon I closed the small wooden gate about 3.15pm, and that was that. Nobody was allowed onsite unless given authorisation by the Ministry of Education.

When the country moved to Alert Level 3 we were able to leave teachers and most support staff working from home still as we had just two students who needed to be onsite, and the senior leadership team undertook their supervision. It was really positive seeing families taking the 'if you can stay at home, do' approach encouraged at Alert Level 3.

By Monday 18th May we welcomed students back onsite, after beginning to acclimatise staff at the end of the previous week. Students and teachers have done a huge amount of learning over the lockdown period and things are looking and feeling different in classrooms now that we are back onsite. Feedback from students at each year level shows an expected vast range of experience during lockdown and the priority for everyone is to now work towards the best possible outcomes for all students. We are particularly aware of those who are aiming for their exit national qualification.

A consequence of Covid-19 has been a significant loss of income for the 2020 year as international students cancelled, as hireage bookings were cancelled across school facilities and Epsom House vacations, and as we expect financial hardship to have an impact on parent donations. Expenditure has been cut back but in order to meet our budget obligations we are going to need help this year and we are working with the OGA on this. This year we truly are in the first stage of the School motto.

Per Angusta Ad Augusta.
Lorraine Pound, Principal

Co-Presidents' Report - 2020

This is our fourth year sharing the role of Co-President and we are pleased to present our Co-Presidents' Report for 2019/2020.

Last year we were delighted with on one of the best AGM turnouts in some years (33 attendees). This year, due to Covid-19, we are doing it completely differently, via Zoom, and we're thrilled to confirm an even better response. At the time of writing this report, there are more than 45 people indicating attendance. Using Zoom has enabled people from throughout New Zealand and the world to attend, which is a lovely enhancement. We have people from as far afield as USA and Australia, as well as across New Zealand. We welcome you all!



Co-Presidents Sally Blyth & Lynley Sheweiry

COVID-19 IMPACT ON OGA

Like every other individual, business and organisation, the OGA was affected by lockdown and general restrictions.

Sadly, we had to cancel our Annual Reunion Morning Tea which had been scheduled for early April. We also had to postpone the Women In Law event planned for early May, although we hope this will take place next year. Our May Committee meeting was held a week later than usual, and via Zoom. It was purposeful and productive – and without the need to battle peak time Epsom traffic!

THE OGA COMMITTEE

We appreciate all the work done by our Committee members. Virginia Bishop has done a huge amount of work, especially in Archives and with the database. She has been our Secretary but, due to her personal workload and other commitments, she is stepping down. Katharine Collins has offered to take on the role, for which we are very grateful. Thanks Katharine. Julie Goodyer, as Treasurer, puts in a huge amount of time and effort overseeing the accounts and various trusts. It's always exacting, sometimes tricky, often invisible and largely thankless work to ensure everything is in order. It is vital work, with many layers to tend to due to the nature of our organisation, and we acknowledge the hours of input. Julie is ably assisted by Kirsty Cooper – thank you to both. And huge thanks also to Chris Iles, Chair of the EGGS Board of Trustees, who has reviewed our accounts for us pro bono.

EVENTS & GENERAL

The second half of 2019 was exceptionally busy, particularly with sorting the Archives. Thanks to Virginia and Lynley who did the bulk of this work. Scoping work has been undertaken on the next phase, i.e. digitising all the photos. However, because of funding constraints due to Covid, this project is on hold for the present time. Officers of the Committee attended the Blessing and the Opening of the new Judith Potter Centre (formerly L-Block); an excellent flexible learning space being enjoyed by both students and teachers.

We organised for some young and more experienced Old Girl lawyers to speak to current students on a couple of occasions towards the end of last year, including at the Year 10 Careers Day.

The first half of 2020 has been mellow, with the disappointment of having to cancel various events due to Covid-19. Whilst the OGA hasn't held any official events this year due to Covid-19, we do have our eyes on 2021, the year of our Centenary.

OGA CENTENARY 2021

The date for this has been confirmed as Saturday 27th March. We'd like to thank all those who completed the survey that was sent out, this provided helpful information as we move forward with Centenary plans.

There will be a series of events throughout the day, at the School, and planning is under way. We're keeping it simple and, along with School Tours, the highlights will be a Morning Tea, a Sherry Hour and a Cocktail Evening. Attend one, attend them all. We encourage everyone to come along and connect.

An OGA History booklet is being produced for the occasion and this is being compiled by past Archivist, Christine Black; it has been her Covid-19 project! Thanks to Christine for the work being done on this important record of our past. More information to come ...

FOUNDERS AWARDS ASSEMBLY

This was set for Tuesday 15th June but, alas, due to Covid-19 restrictions, 2020 will be a year when we don't honour any alumnae with Founders Awards. The gap that will exist on our Founders Board at Year 2020 will forever serve as a poignant reminder of the Covid pandemic and all it entailed.

We will, instead, honour more alumnae with Founders Awards next year in 2021, our Centenary year.

COMMUNICATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Our ever-growing membership sits at 6,000. The database has had a lot of attention, ensuring contact details are up to date. Neville Ryan has overseen the database for many years, as a volunteer, and we thank Neville for this important work.

Please be sure to let us know of any new contact details, or the passing of any Old Girls, so our records are fully up to date. Updates need to be done at the school, so there have been some limitations around actioning updates over recent months. Please bear with us!

Our OGA Newsletter continues to deliver articles about Old Girls near and far, as well as news about current happenings within the School and the OGA. We send out email updates and interim newsletters, as well as run a Facebook page. We're a little out of synch due to Covid, and alas can't report on any events we've held, but we aim to keep members informed about important and newsworthy stories – the Facebook page is a good way to keep up to date, so do check in on that.

HERITAGE GARDEN PROJECT

In memory of the late Rosemary (Ro) Bellamy, Old Girl and teacher at EGGs, we're really pleased this garden project is moving to the next stage.

Ro had a love of gardening and a strong interest in the gardens at the School. Her vision was that the Science Quad be restored in a manner and style that reflects the time and spirit of the early days of the School.

The trustees of her family trust have donated \$50k to the OGA towards meeting this goal.

There has also been a generous private donation of \$25k made.

A landscape design has been developed, quotes and suppliers sought and the project is moving towards next steps so that work can get under way in the latter part of the year. There will also be extra daffodils planted under the trees opposite the Admin Building in Ro's memory, to add some spring colour.

If you would like to contribute towards this wonderful project, please contact us.

It is going to be a fitting memorial to Ro.



Rosemary Bellamy

GRADUATION DINNER

The 2019 Graduation Dinner for Year 13 leavers was held at Ellerslie Events Centre on 3rd December. Our guest speaker was EGGs Founder Dr Michele Cox. Michele was unable to attend the Founders Assembly in 2016, when she was honoured as a Founder, as she was living and working in Switzerland at the time. It was therefore a great privilege to have her join us on this special evening to address the girls and their guests. Her speech was enlightening and heartfelt, and very much enjoyed by students and parents alike.

Each year, the OGA awards special Scholarships of \$600 each to girls who have shown qualities such as kindness and consideration for others, honesty, reliability and abilities at a range of activities such as sports, or art and cultural activities, as well as academic work. This year we awarded three Scholarships. The girls are chosen by the Year 13 Deans and do not know who they are until announced on the night, so this adds an element of anticipation and intrigue.



Members of the 2019 OGA Committee

L to R: Julie Goodyer (Treasurer), Tric Milner (DP & Staff Rep), Mary Hall, Sally Blyth (Co-President), Lynley Sheweiry (Co-President), Alice Raea (Student Rep), Annise Raea, Kathryn Collins, Virginia Bishop (Secretary), Rachael Banbury.

This year's event was organised by Committee member Annise Raea, in association with the Year 13 Deans. Thank you, Annise, for bringing it all together so brilliantly, with help from others on the committee. Thanks to Rachael Banbury who oversees the technical side of things.

Grad Dinner is always a grand occasion and a highlight on the calendar and the 2019 dinner was no exception. Not only is it a memorable evening, when the girls and their families celebrate the end of their high school education, it also raises much-needed funds for the OGA so that we can continue to give back. This year's Grad Dinner is sure to be another memorable occasion. We had to shift the date from that originally scheduled due to changes in the NCEA timetable, but that is all sorted. Annise will again oversee the event.

BRANCHES

TAURANGA:

The Bay of Plenty Tauranga Branches' Annual Luncheon was held on 2nd October 2019 at the Pacific Coast Retirement Village in Papamoa.

It was an enjoyable occasion which Julie Goodyer attended on behalf of the OGA.

Thanks to Anne Mortensen for overseeing the Tauranga branch and this event.

Ladies attending the Franklin Branch Christmas Dinner



FRANKLIN:

The Franklin Branch held its annual Christmas Dinner in Pukekohe on Monday 2nd December 2019. Julie Goodyer attended. Even though the branch has officially closed as its own entity, a dinner is still held locally so everyone can stay connected.

KATHLEEN MANDENO SCHOLARSHIP

This Scholarship was established to assist EGGS students to study for a Science degree at a New Zealand University and is funded by Jill Mandeno (EGGS Founder 2013), in memory of her mother Kathleen, who was an Old Girl of the School. It was first awarded in 1994 and is intended to encourage students to enter the science community and contribute to innovation and research. Emma Fisk, one of our 2019 Founders Award recipients, was the very first recipient of this Scholarship and has proved a very worthy one.

The 2020 recipient is Cindy Chang who graduated from EGGS in 2019. Cindy is undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering degree at The University of Auckland and hopes to specialise in Chemical and Material Engineering, or Mechanics. We wish Cindy all the best for her studies.

EPSOM HOUSE SCHOLARSHIP

Every year, the OGA offers a Scholarship to an Epsom House student. Established by Sally Dalzell, former Associate Principal of Epsom House, and first awarded in 2009, this Scholarship has been generously sponsored by Compass Group, who do the catering at Epsom House, since 2016 for a 7-year term and we thank them for their ongoing support. The 2020 recipient (awarded in 2019) is Makayla Randall, who was presented with her Scholarship at Enrolment Day last year.

Makayla, who comes from Te Kopuru, near Dargaville, had settled well into life at Epsom House before Covid-19 disrupted things. We welcomed Makayla to our March committee meeting so she could meet us all and get a feel for what we get up to. She is keen to be involved in any way she can.

In collaboration with Epsom House staff, we reviewed the criteria and processes around the Scholarship application and selection processes.

Interviews for the 2021 recipient (to be awarded in 2020) took place during the week of 2nd June and a decision will be made in due course.



Lynley, Makayla & Sally

OBITUARIES

It is inevitable that we lose Old Girls and dear friends every year. We aim to keep up to date with deaths of Old Girls through death notices and private notifications, and these are recorded in the OGA Section of the School website, as well as in the Newsletter. If you have information about the passing of an Old Girl, please let us know and we will acknowledge them and update our records in our database. As mentioned, this has been somewhat compromised due to not being able to get on site at the school to update our database, but as restrictions ease, updating our records will resume.

PRIZEGIVING

School prizegiving is split into two – Senior (an evening occasion) and Junior (held at a morning Assembly). In addition to the awarding of prizes, there is always fabulous singing and music by students. They are lovely occasions. This year Virginia Bishop and Julie Goodyer attended the Prizegiving occasions on behalf of the OGA to present the Special Awards.



THANKS

Our Committee members ensure the OGA keeps ticking along.

We'd like to formally acknowledge Virginia Bishop's contribution to the Committee, the role of Secretary and all her work on archives and membership.

It's been a strange year, but we hope that reconnections will happen again ...

Thanks to all Old Girls, near and far, for your support and encouragement – we always enjoy hearing from you and meeting up with you.

We look forward to a fabulous year ahead, with a focus on celebrating 100 years – and hopefully with Covid-19 well behind us.

Per Angusta Ad Augusta

Sally Blyth & Lynley Sheweiry

EGGS OGA Co-Presidents 2016-2020

Honorary Memberships - 2020

Jeanette Davidson

Jeanette started teaching at Epsom Girls Grammar School in 1979 and remained teaching there until May 1986 when she left to have her first child. She was persuaded to come back part time the following year by Gae Griffiths and stayed teaching part time until 1996 when she returned to fulltime teaching. Jeanette taught science area subjects including biology, human biology and general science until she retired at the end of 2019. So, Jeanette can count an impressive 40 years of teaching at EGGS including 14 years as a Dean.

Jeanette has a huge amount of teaching experience and is a teacher whom others always looked up to. She was heavily involved with NZQA over the years in an assessment role for NCEA and the external examinations.

Jeanette has always been very clear in her teaching and would produce amazing resources for the science area, especially for junior science and human biology. Many of her resources are still used in the science department. She was also responsible for the human biology course for many years – in fact this was her baby. A strength of Jeanette's was ensuring that her students understood the language of science. Jeanette's notes were always meticulous, and her lessons were always mindful of all students, including those who needed a clear structure and vocabulary.

Back in the late 1990s when computers were just beginning to be used more widely in schools Jeanette was already familiar with them and was good at formatting documents well before there were all the programs available that did everything for you. Jeanette just seemed to know all about it already and shared her knowledge with others in the department.

Jeanette was always good at formative things and paid great attention to detail. Everything had to be just perfect. Jeanette is a strong advocate of the power of highlighters for studying and general organisation. Jo O'Donnell recalls that years ago when they shared a tutor class in the days before on-line attendance entries, Jeanette had a complicated (but very detailed and accurate) system in her roll book and she was not impressed when one day Jo apparently highlighted something in the wrong colour!

One thing the girls also admired was how Jeanette taught them all to bring coloured highlighters to class and mark up their notes in different colours to review them more easily.

Jeanette has always been very patient and kind with her students. Often, she would have her door closed at lunchtime working with her human biology students doing one-on-one catch up or revision sessions with individual students. Jeanette's passion for teaching went beyond it just being a job. Jeanette was always 100% devoted to her students and colleagues.

Jeanette attended many school events that her students were involved in, which meant she could always be seen at concerts, theatre productions, Wearable Arts, etc. where she would congratulate her girls on their great performances.

As a Dean, Jeanette got herself really involved in the job. She was very particular about systems and doing the right thing. Staff in her department would get growled at if someone left coloured paper in the photocopier. If things got too loud in the corridor, or another office, she would firmly shut her door or theirs. Marama O'Loughlin who was co-dean with Jeanette for 13 years says she was a wonderful person to have as a co-dean. She was always reliable and if jobs were divided up between deans Jeanette would always have her bit done in good time. She was proactive, a great communicator and had a wonderful empathy with her students. She always went above and beyond what was required of the job and had a firmness that enabled her to push things forward and encourage others to 'toe the line'. Even though she was very busy as a Dean, she always made sure she attended the science learning area meetings and was always well prepared to fully participate in these. She never missed a meeting.

Jeanette also never hesitated to ask for support from her co-dean or from the counselling department or student support team if she needed further support with a student or family.

Jeanette could never be tempted to break the rules or be led astray. She was always so well-behaved and reportedly thought she was being 'naughty' if she even had a coffee after work!

Her perceptive and detailed feedback (often before other staff even realised they needed it) was always so helpful. Jeanette was always looking for ways in which she could help rather than passing the problem on to others.



Jeanette is also a devoted wife, mother of two daughters and grandmother. She and her husband are avid trampers who are both passionate about nature and all types of flora and fauna. They have been to many countries on their tramping trips including to Patagonia.

Jeanette, even though this is our first virtual AGM and you cannot be here in person tonight (and we were wondering whether we could even get you into the meeting remotely) it is our great pleasure to honour you this evening, as an Honorary Member of Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association.

Kalvir Martin

Kalvir started teaching at Epsom Girls Grammar School in 1993 as a social sciences teacher primarily teaching business studies and legal studies and the like. She is still on the staff today after 27 years. She quickly progressed into the position of Dean at quite an early stage in her teaching career and is among the longest serving deans in the role at EGGs. Her appointment as Dean resulted in her being given the nickname "Dean Martin".

Making a few enquiries about Kalvir from her colleagues reveals that she:

- has been in sole charge of Legal Studies for a number of years and developed the course in recent years incorporating changes to the programme to reflect learning needs of students. Kalvir has often taught some of the more challenging students in this subject and is always so positive and encouraging about them; they are all "gorgeous" to her;
- introduced the Year 13 Business Management course to the school and has been in sole charge of it ever since. She has overseen changes and developments in the course to reflect the needs of students; this incorporates the Young Enterprise Scheme ("YES") through which many successful businesses have been undertaken. Students who have been unenthusiastic in other subjects have loved being a part of YES. It has given many students the chance to be in charge of a team of girls who otherwise may not have had any other leadership roles in the school. The course has also created pathways for students by connecting them with real world businesses;
- has strong connections to AUT and its staff, developing relationships with them as well as encouraging students to further their business careers by attending AUT or similar establishments;
- has developed strong relationships with students taking the Business Management courses over the years and has maintained communication with many students who have now continued with business after leaving education;
- has great rapport with students who often struggle with schoolwork and will seek her out for chats to help them cope. She can work with students of all abilities.
- is a very accessible teacher in every way and students feel that she is always on their learning team. She manages to work alongside students while retaining an appropriate teacher persona; she draws students into their learning in an effortless way so that they feel the learning hasn't been an arduous process for them;
- is a strong teacher of junior business studies and is able to tell all those lovely business stories to students who just love listening to real business experiences;
- is firm and fair as a Dean; she knows all her students so well and they love her as she permeates aroha;



- was one of the staff who went with the first school trip to China and was always available for students 24/7. Indeed, they saw her as a mother figure and were comfortable and reassured in her presence and she willingly participated in all events;
- is a loyal and loved staff member of the Business Department at EGGS, has great wisdom and offers wonderful advice to those who seek it;
- is a great friend and colleague to have and also a superb wife, mother and grandmother;
- was often the subject of Steve Norwell's rather un-PC jokes but always delighted in his teasing;
- travels from a rural area to school each day and is always on time and immaculately presented – ageless, beautiful and with a true sense of style and colour;
- is always dignified in her manner with colleagues and students, always stoic and professional, and concerned about other people rather than herself;
- is “so lovely, kind and thoughtful”. As a Dean she knows her students so well and cares deeply for each and every one of them. She always sees the best in everyone.

Kalvir is recognised as a good communicator and is an excellent negotiator. As a Dean Kalvir has an endless store of knowledge on the procedures for deans and what to do in different situations. If you want to know how to do something Kalvir is the one to ask. She has helped initiate a number of new deans into the role over the years, continuing to coach and support them once they became deans. She always has the time to support teachers if they have a problem.

Kalvir is a “go to” person for anyone needing help solving almost any problem relating to a student and, if she doesn't know the answer, she is willing to ask for help herself. She has a good working relationship with the counselling team and student support team and will often approach them for help in dealing with a student or with parents. One of her traits is having the utmost patience and she has dealt patiently with many difficult situations involving students and their families.

Kalvir even though this is our first virtual AGM and you cannot be here in person tonight it is our great pleasure to honour you this evening, as an Honorary Member of Epsom Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association.



Flowers presented to Virginia Bishop on Thursday night in appreciation for her commitment to the OGA for the past 6 years.

She is resigning from the OGA as she has returned to full time work, is a Board of Trustees representative, Chairperson of the Property & Finance sub-committee and a Foundation Trustee for EGGS.

