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A WONDERFUL LEGACY

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

You will all have received recently some information about our Capital Campaign for the Joan Freeman Science and Technology Centre. I know that many of you will know something of Joan Freeman, but I wanted to tell her story here, as I did at Speech Night last year. I want to do this partly, of course, because of the Capital Campaign but more so because I think her story (one which started over 80 years ago) resonates with us and reminds us of the spirit of SCEGGS which continues untouched to this day.

Joan Freeman was born in 1918 in Perth, an only child. When her family returned to Sydney from a year in New Zealand, Joan started at SCEGGS in 4th class in 1927. She did very well, coming first in her class each year.

In 1930, with Australia hit hard by the depression, Joan's father lost his job. Her mother took over a small Kindergarten in Vaucluse, but it soon became clear that the family could no longer afford to send Joan to SCEGGS.

This is how Joan described it:

My mother had to go to Miss Wilkinson with a heavy heart to explain the situation. What a transformation there was in her when she returned from that interview! Miss Wilkinson had decided quite spontaneously that, in view of the promise I was showing, and the possible good publicity I might bring to the School, they could not afford to let me go. My mother was a very proud person, to whom the idea of charity was totally repugnant, but Miss Wilkinson, with her great capacity for understanding and tact, was able to persuade her that, from a purely business point of view, it would be a worthwhile investment on the school's part to keep me on without fees.

Joan settled on an ambition (extraordinary for a schoolgirl before WWI), to become a Physicist. Since Physics was not taught at SCEGGS and was then a prerequisite for Science study at University, Mrs Freeman took Joan - eleven, shy, wearing a school uniform and barely five feet tall - to evening Physics classes at Sydney Technical College with the male engineering apprentices. Apparently this was all clandestine - Joan had to be hidden in a cupboard when the inspectors came around! In 1935, Joan sat for the Leaving Certificate and, in a first for a Girls’ Grammar School, came first in all of NSW, with four first class honours and two As. She won the James Atkin Scholarship for topping the state, the John West Medal, the Graham Medal and the Fairfax Prize. At SCEGGS she was Dux, winner of the Maths prize three years in a row, a prefect and joint Catherine Selby Memorial Prize winner.

Miss Wilkinson was so elated that she declared a special holiday for the school to celebrate her achievement! Joan said it was one of the most thrilling moments in her life - barely matched by the award of the Rutherford Medal of the Institute of Physics in Britain some 40 years later.

Joan went on to Sydney University and obtained a double first in Physics and Mathematics. She was only the fourth woman to graduate in Physics. Since it was not possible to study for a PhD at an Australian University then, in 1946 she won a Commonwealth Scholarship to study Nuclear Physics at Newnham College in Cambridge and at the world famous Cavendish Laboratory.

In 1949 she gained her PhD and went to work at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, in the Nuclear Physics division, where she remained for the rest of her career. She and her colleague, Roger Blin-Stoyle, won the Rutherford Medal and Prize from the British Institute of Physics in 1976. Joan was the first and still is the only woman to have won this distinguished prize, and the second Australian (Sir Mark Oliphant was a previous winner). In 1991 she published her autobiography A Passion for Physics (there are two copies - one in our school library in which she has written “with all good wishes to all the members of my beloved SCEGGS”). She died in 1998, and left a significant bequest to the school to be used “partly as a science prize or scholarship and partly for the purposes which the Old Girls’ Union considers appropriate for the benefit of the School and its students.”

She was interviewed for our Archives when she visited SCEGGS in 1993. She told this lovely, whimsical story about her mentor and first love, whom she met at college. He was the School Chaplain of the time and he was also on the School Council. She used to see him every Saturday walking past her house in Old South Head Road, heading towards South Head Cemetery to tend the grave of Catherine Selby, his aunt. One Saturday morning she plucked up the courage to speak to him as he went by and to offer him some flowers from her garden. After that, she used to watch for him and give him flowers when she could. He took an interest in Joan and you can imagine his delight when she won the Catherine Selby Memorial Prize (which had been his gift to the school)! She says “he was a most gentle, thoughtful and human man whom I remember with great affection and I believe he contributed much to the welfare of the school.”

And about the school she said:

“It was emphasised at school that everyone was good at something - whether it be intellectual endeavour, practical abilities, sport, creative and artistic pursuits... or particular qualities of unfussiness, tolerance, humanity and so on. All such attributes were equally encouraged and respected. It was up to me to realise my particular talents and to take the opportunities given to me by SCEGGS.”

I wish there were more time to tell you more of her story. But I wanted to share some of it here, because it celebrates someone who was very gifted academically, it demonstrates the delight that one can take in another’s achievements, it displays Joan’s lifelong love for and involvement in her school and it makes clear her wish to repay to the school the gift she felt she had received.

Of course a lot has changed since Joan Freeman’s time in the area of education in Science and Technology. Science was vitally important to the society of Joan’s time, but Science was for the few, not the many. Here at SCEGGS now, (as was the case when Joan Freeman was here) we want our girls to have the best education, in literature, in history and art, in music and drama. But nowadays, of course, it is also essential for every young person to have an excellent scientific and mathematical education. A clever country is also a scientifically educated country. We live in an intensely scientific and technological age and it is important for SCEGGS girls to have a role in that contemporary society. We need students who are educated classically and who know how to think scientifically. Harvard, for example, in its most recent review of its Core Curriculum deemed that from 2002 all students must study science because, they say “an educated person should have an informed acquaintance with the mathematical and experimental methods of physical and biological sciences”.

In its 250th year, Columbia University, too, states that the study of science is essential - in their words “both to introduce students to the exciting ideas at the forefront of scientific research, as well as to inculcate in them the habits of mind common to a scientific approach to the world.”

Our society will have to confront issues such as biotechnology, stem cell research, nuclear energy, global warming, alternative energy and water resources and so on. Each person must have the ability to make an educated assessment of the implications of advances in science and technology and to make judgements for themselves.

SCEGGS girls need the facilities in these areas to support the best education possible - to be able to participate in collaborative group work, to experiment and study theory, and to seamlessly integrate science and technology. Our teachers need the flexibility to be able to do those sort of different activities and when the girls need it, lesson by lesson. The Joan Freeman Science and Technology Centre will allow the facilities to do this. I look forward to talking to you more about our latest project over the next eighteen months of our Capital Campaign. I hope you will all support us.

Jenny Allum
Head of School
A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE SCEGGS OGU

FROM THE PRESIDENT

IT’S HARD TO believe that another year has passed already! The OGU continues to support the school in a variety of ways as well as having organised and helped with many events during the past year. Our annual donation to the School was used to purchase an electronic whiteboard and digital camera for the primary school and, I am told, is in great demand among the classes.

Our annual Ascension Day Service and lunch is always an enjoyable day. I personally find it interesting hearing anecdotes from different areas indicates how strong the SCEGGS community is always of value as well as being most enjoyable.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is always a highlight of the year and the OGU committee once more invited members of the School Board to join them for drinks prior to the service. The opportunity to get together with other groups in the SCEGGS community is always of value as well as being most enjoyable.

Apart from Class reunions, OGU reunions were held in Canberra, Melbourne, Southern Highlands, Newcastle and the Gold Coast. That Old Girls enjoy getting together in so many different areas indicates how strong the culture and tradition of a SCEGGS education has been and continues to be.

The relationship between the School and its former students is much valued by both parties. Over the years Old Girls have generously supported the School and in September 2006 the School held a special function to thank them for their generous contributions to the School.

Last year the OGU undertook the compilation of a SCEGGS cookbook, “ Tried Tested Tasted” was published in November 2006. It has been a great success and I would like to thank all the Old Girls who submitted recipes. Along with contributions from past and present staff members, current members of the parent body and the School Board, their selection of delicious recipes has resulted in a very practical and delicious cookbook. Thank you to Stuart Cumming, a former parent and current member of the SCEGGS Trust whose company produced it. Thanks also to Sally Keast (1998) who did a wonderful job on its design. I know many people received one as a Christmas gift and I hope they have enjoyed trying out some new dishes since then. If you don’t have one, they will be available on Back to SCEGGS Day.

Sady the committee, the OGU and SCEGGS community lost one of its staunchest supporters last year. Gay Russell (FM0) passed away in November 2006 and it was particularly moving that one of our Vice- Presidents, Judy Caldwell (ROGAN 1962) was able to officiate at her funeral service. Gay was a very active member of the OGU committee, having been Secretary from 1977 - 1982 and Treasurer from 1983 - 1988. A keen golfer, Gay had also been instrumental in organising OGU Golf Days in earlier years. On a more superficial level, Gay’s renowned shorthand will be sorely missed, especially at the former OGU Festival on Forbes, an occasion when she always made a generous quantity to sell.

On a happier note, during the year the committee of the Old Girls’ Union voted unanimously to appoint Rosemary Humphrey (1973) to the position of Honorary Life Vice-President of the OGU. The OGU committee were sure that all Old Girls would know Rosemary and the unerring and selfless work she does for the School, and the Old Girls Union in particular. No request is ever too much trouble for her, and no detail in the organisation of School functions is ever overlooked. Her responsibilities are always carried out with the utmost but enthusiastic manner which is a credit to her. The last honorary Vice- President of the OGU was Miss Ivy Underwood (VANDERWIRD 1934) and I am sure you would all agree, along with the OGU Committee that Rosemary is a most worthy successor.

During the year three new members were voted on the committee Kate Barraloough (Caldwell 1986) and Lyn Caldwell (1964), Camilla Sheridan (Homer 1965) and we welcome their input. I must acknowledge the members of the OGU committee for their ongoing support and enthusiasm, and in particular Kaye Morrison (Mahler 1964), our secretary, Lenore Preshaw (CLYDE- SMITH 1965), our Treasurer and Joy Bull (Ellis 1965) who manages our memorabilia for their hard work. Thank you also to Judy Caldwell (ROGAN 1962), one of our Vice- Presidents, who in my absence presented the OGU badges to the class of 2006 at their final assembly. She was ably assisted by her granddaughter, Sophie BARRACLOUGH (Year 4).

Congratulations are also due to Judy upon her nomination to the SCEGGS Board as a Church Nominee. Marilyn Cook (BROWN 1965), the Alumni Co-ordinator and one of our Vice- Presidents, has worked with her usual efficiency and enthusiasm to ensure that all our OGU activities take place with a minimum of fuss but always with great success. Thank you Marilyn. Thanks also must go to Andrew Rowley (Director of Development), Carol Evans (School Registrar), Rosemary Humphrey (Assistant School Co-ordinator), and Evan Liddell (Assistant Business Manager) for all their support and assistance to the OGU and especially the OGU Committee.

Finally, I must thank Jenny Allum for her much valued support of and input to the OGU. The OGU, and particularly the OGU committee, greatly appreciate the time and effort she spends ensuring that the OGU is well informed about school events and developments in addition to assisting with their various endeavours and attending reunions.

With the opening last year of the Diana Bowman Performing Arts Centre the school is now looking forward to the building of the Joan Freeman Science and Technology Centre. Back to SCEGGS Day this year will reflect this “scientific” theme by welcoming several renowned scientific Old Girls to share their ideas with us. This year we will also be having a chapel service prior to the ceremony.

I look forward to seeing you at Back to SCEGGS Day on July 21st and at other SCEGGS functions during the coming year, especially the Festival on Forbes on August 19th.

Denise Sneddon (Hestelow 1965)

THE MARGOT ANTHONY (BUDD) MUSIC DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

AS MUSIC AT SCEGGS continues to develop and participation by the girls continues to increase, one of our most cherished Old Girls, Margot Anthony AM (BUDD 1948), thought it would be a wonderful idea if we could give our girls something else that would help enrich their musical experiences at SCEGGS. The Margot Anthony (Budd) Music Development Scholarship has been created to do just that.

The Award will be made available to two girls from Years 8 to 11 who are participating in our Elective Music Programme. Both awards, to the value of $1,500 each, will be given annually by Ms Allum after consultation with Dr Chadwick, our Head of Music. Students who are awarded the scholarship could use it to facilitate involvement with a school-based or community music ensemble and self initiated music-related activities undertaken in their own time such as an involvement in a youth orchestra, composition, learning additional instruments for interest or attending concerts for enjoyment.

The scholarship is so exciting for SCEGGS as it can be applied to a variety of musical experiences at SCEGGS and the wider musical community. Students who are awarded the scholarship could use it to facilitate involvement with a special music education programme (e.g. Sydney Children’s Choir), participation in a special musical event, master class or workshop, travel to attend a festival or concert event (e.g. Womad Festival, tour with a youth orchestra) or undertake classes for a short period in a specialist area such as music composition.

Margot was an outstanding SCEGGS girl who was actively involved in the life of the School as a School organist, Beck House Captain and a Prefect. She has maintained a passionate interest in Music and the Arts and is very proud that her granddaughter is currently at SCEGGS. We also wish to recognise her wonderful commitment to the School through the SCEGGS Darlinghurst Scholarship Fund. This Fund has been set and has gained tax deductible status with the Australian Taxation Office so donors can now make tax deductible donations to the Schools’ Scholarship programmes. If you would like further information regarding this please contact Andrew Rowley, Director of Development on 9339 9427.
ROBERT “SNOW” SWIFT:
Son of our First Pupil and Barham Fellow

SCEGGS HOSTED A very special visitor last July when the son of our first pupil Mary WATSON, Mr Robert “Snow” Swift, joined us for a morning filled with memories and memorabilia.

Mary was the first and only pupil when SCEGGS commenced operations on the 17th July, 1895. Within a week other pupils had started to increase the population but Mary’s relationship to the school was a very special one which lasted throughout her life. As a student she participated in a wide range of co-curricular activities, including her favourite sport, Rowing. She was an excellent student and became the first Dux of the School. After leaving SCEGGS she married and had three children - all sons - but she still found time for SCEGGS, joining the School Board and often attending functions such as Prize Giving Day. Mary shared her deep love of SCEGGS with her sons and Snow’s affection for his mother’s old School was clearly apparent during his visit. Snow himself had a brief experience of a SCEGGS education in his early life at the Bowral branch School. He has also kept in touch with the modern SCEGGS through the education of two of his granddaughters - Olympia SWIFT (Class of 1995) and Aysha LEY (Class of 2003).

Snow came in July to view a compilation of his mother’s memories that he had donated to the Archives of the School. The collection is a very special link between the School’s beginning and all the students who have passed through our doors since. Snow spoke with Ms Allum of his mother’s treasured memories of SCEGGS and was very proud of his mother’s involvement in the School.

It is very fitting that Mary’s memories have been preserved through Snow and his granddaughters, Olympia and Aysha, who accompanied their grandfather on his visit. SCEGGS is particularly honoured that Snow has joined our Barham Fellowship Bequest Programme.

We were very privileged to be able to celebrate Mary’s contribution to the School with her relatives and we thank Snow for his commitment to SCEGGS. If you are interested in joining the Barham Fellowship Bequest Programme please don’t hesitate to contact Marilyn Cook (Alumni Co-Ordinator) or Andrew Rowley (Director of Development) on 9339 9427.

Andrew Rowley
Director of Development

NEWS

ARMIDALE LUNCHEON 2007

ON SATURDAY 17 March, in typically magnificent Armidale autumn weather, 30 Old Girls gathered for a luncheon reunion at the tea house of Saumarez Homestead, a National Trust property on the outskirts of Armidale. We were delighted that Ms Jenny Allum was able to attend, with her husband Professor Terry Gagen, Andrew Rowley - Director of Development and Marilyn Cook - Alumni Relations Coordinator.

Old Girls travelled from Queensland, Sydney, Inverell, Tamworth, Scone, Manilla, Barraba, Gloucester, Walcha and Uralla. Unfortunately the average age of attending Old Girls was going to be about 60, the youngest Old Girl leaving School in 1982. This situation changed somewhat on the morning of the reunion with the fortuitous meeting in the shopping mall of Ms Allum and an Old Girl, Simone SHANNESSY, (studying Primary Education at UNE) who left in 2003. We hope our next reunion will attract a few more ‘young’ Old Girls.

Ms Allum addressed the group with an update of the school and of the vast array of character developing activities available to girls attending SCEGGS. Everyone chatted happily and loudly and enjoyed themselves thoroughly!

Trish Johnstone (HEATH 1958)
EACH SEPTEMBER WE look forward to a luncheon where our Old SCEGGS Girls meet. What a happy day we have renewing old friendships and making new ones. From “new” Old Girls to “very old” Old Girls, it does not matter as age is immaterial. The highlight of the day is when our Head of School, Jenny Allum, addresses us and we learn about the exceptional achievements that seem to occur each year.

We do appreciate the members of the SCEGGS team who join us each year. This year Andrew Rowley was also able to tell us about the progress of the latest School developments.

During lunch it was suggested that we meet for a casual lunch before next year. We chose a restaurant at Gundaroo, a township near Canberra. We made a booking, hopefully for twelve people. What a pleasant surprise when over twenty people wished to attend. Another SCEGGS day to enjoy.

Helen Campbell (MAY 1948)

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS’ REPORT

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Helen Campbell (MAY 1948)

THE MELBOURNE BRANCH once again held a Foundation Day Luncheon and a Christmas Cocktail party. This time the venue for the Luncheon was an old world hotel in Port Melbourne. This was most successful, particularly the finale of School songs using the Hotel Piano and the OGU Choir! Judith Cohen provided the venue for the successful Christmas Cocktail Party for members and their partners.

Our Branch continues to fund School Prizes for Speech Night and was also able to give a donation to “Very Special Kids” who are terminally ill. We continue to have close links with the School as Marilyn Cook, the Alumni Relations Co-ordinator and Andrew the Director of Development attended both Functions and Denise Snedden the President of the OGU joined us for the Foundation Luncheon. Our congratulations to Andrew and his wife on their recent marriage.

I attended both Ascension Day and Back to SCEGGS Day with my personal and branch hats. We look forward to our usual Branch Functions in 2007 including the Melbourne May SPAN Cocktail Party to be organised by SCEGGS and hope to welcome new members.

Wendy Aiken (SCOTT 1955)

MELBOURNE BRANCH REPORT

President: Cita Mieog (KUIKEN 1956)
Secretary: Philippa Bannister (PINNOCK 1950)
Treasurer: Wendy Aiken (SCOTT 1955)

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Wendy Aiken (SCOTT 1955)

NEWCASTLE & DISTRICTS’ REPORT

TWENTY TWO OLD Girls from our district, together with husbands, gathered together at Customs House in Newcastle on Tuesday 6th March for our 7th Annual Luncheon.

We were delighted to welcome Marilyn Cook and Andrew Rowley, and were very interested to hear the latest news from SCEGGS from Andrew.

This year we welcomed some new members, and we all enjoyed a delightful lunch with Hunter Valley Wines.

Old Girls travelled from Norfolk Island, Nelsons Bay, Barrington, Scone, Windella Downs, Newcastle, Fishing Point and Bannells Bay on Lake Macquarie, Mcmasters Beach, Pretty Beach, Avoca, Gosford, Kincumber and Sydney to be with us.

Unfortunately two of the Old Girls, who regularly attended our Luncheons passed away during 2006. Joan Van Gelder (BALDWIN 1938) lived at Kincumber. After leaving School Joan studied Nursing and later studied Italian, Chaucer and Middle English, she also greatly enjoyed painting and needlework.

Dr Jeanne COLLISON (1945) from Salamander Bay was honoured in the Australia Day Awards in 2006 as an Officer of the Order of Australia for her contribution to Cardiac Anaesthesia. They were both greatly missed by everyone at our Luncheon.

If you have recently moved to live in our area, do let Marilyn Cook know your address so that you can receive an invitation to our next luncheon at Customs House on Tuesday 4th March, 2008.

I will be travelling on the Newcastle train to the Back to SCEGGS Day on Saturday 21st July, 2007. Do give me a call on (02) 4973 1942 if you would like to join me.

Meg Scott (MYERS 1957)
The Queensland Branch of the SCEGGS Old Girls’ Union had a quiet 2006 but is looking forward to a busier 2007. We are planning to organise a pleasant casual gathering of Old Girls at my home in Ascot in July and really look forward to seeing as many people as possible. It is also very nice that the SCEGGS Alumni Relations Co-Ordinator, Marilyn Cook and the Director of Development, Andrew Rowley will join us for the occasion. They will be telling us all about the latest exciting developments at SCEGGS and be bringing some wonderful old film footage to view. We are keen to make sure everyone is included and invited to functions. So I am encouraging all SCEGGS girls living in Queensland to please contact us to ensure that we have your current address. If you know of anyone who hasn’t heard from us in a while please ask them to contact Marilyn Cook either by email marilyn@sceggs.nsw.edu.au or by phone (02) 9333 1133.

Last year I flew to Sydney for Ascension Day - the 50th Anniversary of my leaving SCEGGS which I began in 1949 and later boarded at SCEGGS Moss Vale from 1950-51. The reunion was beautifully organised and greatly enjoyed by all of the 1956 School leavers.

Jennifer Caro (ARNOTT 1956)
President, The Queensland Branch
Phone (07) 326 25148 or Email caro@gl.com.au

The Gold Coast Girls have done it again. At their 8th bi-annual Breakfast on Sunday 6th May 2007 they turned on a magnificent morning, the warm sun filtering over the picturesque Palms Meadows Golf Course where 19 of them gathered to enjoy food, chatter and catching up with old and new friends. We enjoyed having Marilyn Cook and Andrew Rowley from SCEGGS join us. They certainly know how to enjoy Breakfast with the function ending after midday. Anyone wanting to attend in the future can contact Lynne Shaw on lynnes@bigpond.net.au or by phone during business hours 07 5535 7618.

Lynne Shaw (1971)
DR GOLDBHAMMER

DR HELEN GOLDBHAMMER was the Science mistress at SCEGGS from 1952 until 1973. Small and dynamic, she exuded passion and energy. She loved teaching, she loved organic chemistry, she loved detective stories, literature, bridge and Israel. Her disinterest in Physics was striking in a Science teacher.

She had come to Australia as a Jewish refugee escaping the Nazis in Vienna, where she had completed her Doctorate of Science at the University of Vienna. As well as working at SCEGGS she worked as an industrial chemist for Recketts.

Her impact on her pupils was in inverse proportion to her size and has lasted well beyond her lifetime. She had an acute grasp of her pupils intellectual and emotional needs and all her students in Chemistry achieved high results. She conveyed not just a passion for organic chemistry but also a vivid interest in the cultural heritage and loved to talk about anything she did.

Her generosity, humour and support meant that generations of girls she had taught remained friends with her long after they had left school, relying on her for advice and inspired by her engagement with life, which lasted right up to her death.

In her seventies she went to live in Israel, which had been her lifetime goal. To her dismay, her stay there proved too difficult. Although she was fluent in several languages (German, French English and Polish) she found it impossible to master Hebrew. The life in Israel as it was then was too hard for her at a time when she was already having health problems. She returned to Australia and characteristically never complained of the disappointment.

As she grew older and more frail, and her physical world contracted to her flat, her intellectual interests continued to expand. She developed an interest in cricket, read widely and deeply about the Thirty Year War (amongst her other reading), listened to the ABC and rang them to engage in debate about what she perceived as their awful left wing sympathies.

Like many other teachers at SCEGGS in the sixties and seventies, she was a role model not just for the subject she taught but in her own passion and excellence in her profession. The memory of her courage and intelligence and humour continue to inspire those of us who knew her.

Emily PENDER (1972)
10 YEAR REUNION
CLASS OF 1996

ON SATURDAY 4 November 2006, the Class of 1986 gathered for a reunion lunch at the School - some for the first time since leaving 20 years ago! Out of a Year 12 class of 74, we had an amazing 46 girls and 16 teachers attend.

To a classic 80s sound track, which ranged from Bananarama’s ‘Venus’ to Pseudo Echo’s ‘Funky Town’ we reminisced about a time when we were all wearing very large shoulder pads à la ‘Dynasty’ and drooling over Bruce Willis (with hair) in ‘Moonlighting’ and Tom Cruise in ‘Top Gun’.

When we sat the HSC it was a mark out of 500. Our year began with the explosion of the Space Shuttle ‘Challenger’, we had some light relief mid-year when Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson and soon after we finished our exams, the Iran-Contra Affair began.

With such auspicious beginnings it’s no wonder the Class of 1986 went on to do great things both personally and professionally. Everyone had a story to tell and it was wonderful to catch up. We quickly discovered that we were still the wonderfully diverse and talented group that we had been at school and that our years at SCEGGS had equipped us to deal remarkably well with life’s challenges.

With our lights shining very brightly indeed, we again passed out the gates of SCEGGS, promising to return bigger and better for our 30th!

Larissa COOK (1986)
MARY MONTROSE GRAHAM was a well loved Head of SCEGGS Moss Vale, former teacher and student at SCEGGS Darlinghurst who maintained a lifelong interest in both schools and her former pupils and school friends.

Miss Graham attended SCEGGS Darlinghurst from 1937 to 1942. She was a prefect in 1941 and senior prefect in 1942. House Captain of Beck and won the Catherine Selby Prize for Helpfulness and Efficiency. Miss Wilkinson said “she played her full part in the whole life of the school - work - sport - administration. A cheerful girl, she was always at hand when we needed her.” Miss Graham recalled “that from the very first day I just found myself caught up in the spirit of the school and wanting to take part in everything.”

At 18 she joined the W.R.A.S. and served in Sydney and Townsville until the end of WWIII. She had various jobs in the W.R.A.S. and ended up organising the education services.

Miss Graham graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney and a Diploma in Education in Melbourne. On graduating she commenced her teaching career at SCEGGS Darlinghurst in 1948, teaching Latin, Ancient History and Scripture. She also successfully taught classical Greek when staff shortages arose, although only a beginner herself.

In 1952, at age 27, she was appointed Head of SCEGGS Moss Vale (with effect beginning in 1953). She was offered the job without advertisement due to her “ability and record as a teacher.” At the time Moss Vale had 120 students and a staff of 12 to 14. She remained at Moss Vale until 1959 when she left to marry Mr Robert (Bob) Blomfield. By this stage SCEGGS Moss Vale had grown to 176 pupils, 49 of whom were day girls. Her first act as Head of Moss Vale, in line with her strong Christian beliefs, was to set up a School chapel in a former double classroom. Two new houses were formed, Smith and Steel, named after previous Heads. In 1956 the School celebrated its 50th anniversary and a new Assembly Hall was completed and opened.

After her marriage, Miss Graham did not return to formal teaching. She did however continue to use her gifts as a teacher teaching Scripture at Willoughby Girls High School and working from home with children with learning difficulties. She completed further study in 1970 and 1982 to support this work updating her Diploma of Education to a Bachelor of Education. She is survived by her husband Mr Bob Blomfield, her two sons Bill and Tim, and her daughter Meg Towns (Class of 1980).

Mary Graham was one of the most avid overseas travelers of her time. In 1960 she conducted an archaeological dig in Pakistan. In 1962 she conducted a research trip to Guatemala and took her first solo trip to China in 1970. In 1975 she conducted the first solo trip of a woman to the Himalayas and received a “Diploma of Honour” for her contributions to research on the culture and history of Nepal. She is survived by her two sons Bill and Tim, and her daughter Meg Towns (Class of 1980).

Recollections

“I remained close to Mary Blomfield throughout most of her life. Mary was perhaps my greatest mentor and inspirer. When I was a somewhat recalcitrant new girl in 1955, and had not really settled by Easter, Mary, at my request to drop History and study Latin instead, undertook to teach me Latin from after Easter that year until the end of term 2 so I could catch up on the 18 months my classmates had been studying it. It was entirely due to her and to Dorothy Hall, whom I was then able to enter, that in all subsequent exams I topped the class and went on to study it successfully throughout my university days. The remarkable thing about Mary’s input was that it meant seeing me in her sitting room in Howard House at 6:40 each morning and studying with her until the breakfast bell at 7:40! This she did for one and half terms on weekday morning. Of course I grew to love and respect her.”

Frances Awcock (HILLS, SCEGGS MV 1955-58)

“As Headmistress, a very regal lady. Perhaps a bit manic on the hockey field in the School versus Staff hockey match. Extremely strict about table manners: tea to be served only twice - after all, we’re not mixing cement. Never put elbows on the table. Do not eat until all have been served.”

Ann Hardy (ROBERTS, SCEGGS MV 1955-58)

“I was 11 when I was introduced to this pleasant lady. I was kind of a mischievous child so discipline was kind of good for me. I remember her always having a wonderful smile when she greeted you even though I was always in trouble with one thing or another.”

Robbie Bauer (SCEGGS MV)

“I really looked forward to her classes, particularly in Ancient History. She was so compelling I remember one day I forgot to carry out my important responsibility of ringing the School bell at the end of the lesson. I will always remember her with affection for the kind and gentle manner she showed to me and my peers. I was important to me at SCEGGS as someone who truly followed the school motto of “Let your light shine.”

Janette Osborne (CLARKE 1952)

THE OLD GIRLS’ SCHOLARSHIP

The Old Girls’ Union Scholarship is awarded to a girl whose mother or grandmother attended SCEGGS Darlinghurst. The Scholarship covers the final two years of secondary schooling and is awarded to a girl who can contribute positively to the School.

The Scholarship, which covers full tuition fees, is intended to assist a student whose family is facing financial hardship in the payment of fees. The Old Girls’ Union Scholar will be expected to make a significant contribution to the School in one or more areas.

The Selection Committee will take into account:
- Education background and performance
- Involvement in co-curricular activities
- Personal qualities and character
- Commitment to the life of SCEGGS
- Financial circumstances of the family

Applications and more information for the 2009 Scholarship can be obtained by telephone on our Registrar Ms Carroll Evans on (02) 9332 1133. Applications will close by mid-March, 2009.

At the School, Carol Service Jenny Allum was presented by the Head Girl, Rebecca Wilson, with a maple box carved with the school crest. The School community seemed to derive much pleasure in finding such a suitable present for Jenny and in actually keeping it a surprise. As Jenny’s powers of observation are well known, it was decided that the only safe place to keep the present during the service was under her seat. Jenny had prohibited any gifts to mark her 10th anniversary. When accepting her present she said she didn’t realise the prohibition needed to be repeated every year.

The box was made by Mary Morrison, a boarder from Mullimbay, who attended the school from 1916 to 1915. After leaving school Mary Morrison worked as a missionary in the north of Western Australia in the 1930s. In the 1940s she married a miner and lived in Hughenden, Central Queensland. She died in 1982, aged approximately 84.

Woodcarving was taught in many girls’ Schools from the late 19th century and was introduced to the SCEGGS’s boarders in 1900. Lux, September 1900, reported that “Miss Langely takes to the box as a natural artist. Thanks to her enthusiastic and are generally seen busy carving every spare hour they have.” It was only through an unrelated but serendipitous search on the internet that this box came to light. A similar box has been in use for many years in the School Chapel.

Prudence Heath School Archivist says to remember “you too can do it.”

1900, reported that ‘Miss Langely takes the box as a natural artist. Thanks to her enthusiastic...
### OUR FIRST EVENTS AS OFFICIAL SCEGGS OLD GIRLS: RECEIVING OUR BADGES AND THE YEAR 13 COCKTAIL PARTY

A BADGE IS usually a symbol for something great - an acknowledgment of an achievement or an important position or committee you are part of. Upon leaving SCEGGS last year, me and my 100 - odd peers and friends received the most special badge of all, our Old Girl's Badge. The badges were handed out during our final assembly, as a symbol of the school's appreciation of our achievements, and hence our inclusion into the Old Girl's Committee, a group which we are a member of till "death do us part".

Every other year when we have sat through the Year 12 final assembly I have been bored by the monotonous roll call, however when it was finally my turn, it was so much more special than I could have ever imagined. Not only were we fortunate enough to attend SCEGGS, we instantly realised that we were now part of something special that we would be able to relate to, and appreciate for the rest of our lives; being an Old Girl.

Only a couple of months after receiving our badges, our first official Old Girl's invitation arrived in the mail for the Year 13 Cocktail Party. The evening included everything we had imagined: talk of the future, reunions of the past, recounts of funny stories, and of course, wine and champagne. It was a great opportunity to catch up with the girls we had promised to stay in contact with, but sadly hadn't, and successfully prepped the majority of the Class of 2006 for the many upcoming Old Girl's events. Thank you to Marilyn Cook, Ms Allum and the entire Old Girls’ Union as SCEGGS I look forward to the many Old Girl’s events that the future holds!

Rebecca WILSON (2006)

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### THE CLASS OF 2006: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Where students have not reported their activities for 2007, we have recorded their latest offer HECS fund university place where we have known it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>COURSE UNDERTAKEN</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<td>Kase Landau</td>
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LENORE AND JOAN met on their first day as SCEGGS together in 1944 and now 63 years later are still the best of friends. Their paths have gone in different directions but they have always kept in touch, and catching up on events and happenings in their lives.

Lenore has led a diverse and interesting life. She has a daughter and two grand-children who inspired her to write a book, with a foreword by Nancy Bird Walton. Lenore held a private pilots licence for 58 years before being forced to give it up. She has a daughter and two grandchildren. She worked for four years looking after accounts and passenger files for an Italian Shipping Company before returning to Australia. 

Joan after leaving school completed a course in Commercial Law and Dancing and has had a fantastic time dancing in the Queensland Ballet and on television with the Queensland Ballet and on channels 7 and 9 during seniors week. It is a special treat to be on the official time-keeper with the NSW Ladies Amateur Swimming Club. Old Girl Margaret (HAZARD 1944) was secretary/treasurer of the NSW Ladies Amateur Swimming Club and a delegate to the NSW Ladies Amateur Swimming Club. Old Girl Margaret Whelan (DOVEY 1937) was the Patroness and was very helpful. Joan moved to Queensland and then back to NSW where she worked for four years looking after accounts and passenger files for an Italian Shipping Company before returning to Queensland.

At 60 Joan decided to take up tap dancing and has had a fantastic time dancing with the Queensland Ballet and on channels 7 and 9 during seniors week. It was a special treat to be on the official time-keeper with the NSW Ladies Amateur Swimming Club. Old Girl Margaret (HAZARD 1944) was secretary/treasurer of the NSW Ladies Amateur Swimming Club and a delegate to the NSW Ladies Amateur Swimming Club. Old Girl Margaret Whelan (DOVEY 1937) was the Patroness and was very helpful. Joan moved to Queensland and then back to NSW where she worked for four years looking after accounts and passenger files for an Italian Shipping Company before returning to Queensland.

Joan says that after seventeen years of being deterred she turned to singing and but they have always kept in touch, and catching up on events and happenings in their lives.

Lenore and Joan met on their first day as SCEGGS together in 1944 and now 63 years later are still the best of friends. Their paths have gone in different directions but they have always kept in touch, and catching up on events and happenings in their lives.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

FREDA DU FAUR

ON DECEMBER 3, 2006, on the 96th anniversary of Freda Du Faur’s ascent of Mt Cook, a gathering was held to unveil a memorial stone in Freda’s honour and to provide a marker for her grave at Manly Cemetery. Jenny Allum attended, representing SCEGGS.

Freda was one of the first students at SCEGGS Darlinghurst attending from 1896-98. In 1910 she was the first woman to climb Mt Cook and until 1913 continued to make many first ascents and notable climbs. Climbing in leather hobnailed boots, carrying heavy equipment, wearing a modified skirt, and in defiance of accepted conventions, these remain very remarkable feats.

Current SCEGGS’s parent, Sally Irwin, and author of Between Heaven and Earth: The Life of a Mountaineer, Freda du Faur spoke at the ceremony about The Life of a Mountaineer, Freda du Faur.

Jenny Allum attended, representing SCEGGS. Jenny Allum attended, representing SCEGGS.

THE OLD GIRLS’ Union’s beautiful display cabinets in the hall near the Chapel stairs get used throughout the year for both archival displays and current students’ work.

Last year the archival displays commemorated 80 years since the School Chapel was built. Another display was on by both a New Zealand television crew on Freda du Faur’s original climb of Mt Cook and is a sign of her continued emphasis on the stained glass windows.

THE OLD GIRLS’ Union’s beautiful display cabinets in the hall near the Chapel stairs get used throughout the year for both archival displays and current students’ work.

Students and the Archives

LESSONS WERE DEVELOPED for each of Years 7, 9 and 10 in conjunction with the History Department with the School grounds or spare archival material being used to support the history curriculum. As the new archivist I was very interested in how much pride the girls had in their school and interest in its past. Many of the girls had extensive knowledge of the School’s history and this was conveyed by these students to others during the course of these lessons.

IN THE ARCHIVES

DURING THE YEAR Vanessa Finney, the archivist since 2000, left SCEGGS to take up a position at the Australian Museum. Highlights of Vanessa’s time here included the Oral History Day where Year 9 students interviewed Old Girls about their School days and the influence of SCEGGS on their life and many exhibitions such as the sports women of SCEGGS series now on permanent display in the Sports Hall.

In developing this display, I realised that sadly the archives does not have any photos of Miss Bowman in front of these windows. If anyone does have such a photo I would be very grateful if I could arrange to take a copy of it for the School archive.

The current display is on Joan Freeman and her career. The CSIRO and the UK Atomic Energy Authority have both been very generous in their support, giving permission and supplying photographs for the School’s use.

DONATIONS

WE ARE PARTICULARLY grateful for the many very generous donations given to the SCEGGS archives by Old Girls and their families. I particularly look forward to the mail each day in case some treasure has been sent to the archives.

Perhaps the most surprising donation during the year, given its age and rarity, was a letter from Miss Badham, to Mrs Lilian King about her very talented daughters at SCEGGS generously donated by Mrs Goldfinch (Margaret KING, 1940).

While the archives has a few letters written by Miss Badham, it is the only one I know of which is written in her professional role as the ‘Lady Principal’.

CURRENT SCEGGS’s parent, Sally Irwin, and author of Between Heaven and Earth: The Life of a Mountaineer, Freda du Faur spoke at the ceremony about The Life of a Mountaineer, Freda du Faur.

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The Graphic Designers, including Ms Katrina Collins’ design for the Luceat Lux Vestra window. If anyone does have such a photo I would be very grateful if I could arrange to take a copy of it for the School archive.

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PRUDENCE HEATH

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PRUDENCE HEATH

Archivist
WHAT A TRULY splendid occasion - Ascension Day 2007. On a beautiful sunny day over 170 SCEGGS Old Girls gathered in the Chapel for this very special service led by our School Chaplain, Reverend Garry Lee-Lindsay.

The service was especially significant with the dedication of a plaque to Old Girl Mary GRAHAM (1941) who over a long association with SCEGGS was a Prefect, Beck House Captain, Parent and the much loved Head of SCEGGS Moss Vale from 1953 to 1959. Many members of her family and ex-students attended the service as did fellow colleague Miss Kathleen McCredie who was head of SCEGGS Wollongong and Abbotsleigh. It was delightful that many current SCEGGS girls participated in the service and the choral work of our junior Cantare group was particularly appreciated.

After the service our Old Girls enjoyed some pre-lunch drinks in the sun before moving into the Barbara Chisholm Assembly Hall for a lovely luncheon. It was wonderful to see so many from the Class of 1947 celebrating their 60 year reunion and the large number from the Class of 1957 at their first Ascension Day.

Over lunch, the Old Girls were entertained by current Year 10 students who performed an energetic aerobics presentation. They were also interested to hear Ms Allum’s report on the latest happenings at SCEGGS and were delighted when the Joan Freeman Science Scholar, Olivia Charlton from Year 12, spoke so eloquently about her experiences at SCEGGS and her love of Science.

A memorable moment was the presentation of Barham Fellows’ Badges to Marian Clarke (ASPINALL 1940) and Helen Campbell (MAY 1949). It was also very moving when Pat Hutcherson (TRINDALL 1939) accepted a Barham Fellows’ Badge for Gay RUSSELL (1940) who sadly passed away late last year.

A rousing finale of “Breeze from the Harbour Blowing” rounded the day off beautifully and as they departed it was evident our Old Girls had had a terrific day.
HELEN DALLIMORE (1989)
ON THE PATH OF THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Those who knew her at school would remember her as Helen GRIBBLE, but she changed her name for the stage to her mother’s maiden name because “Helen Gribble is ridiculous, no offence Dad”.

Helen is thrilled to have landed the lead role of the Good Witch Glinda in the British Production of the hit Broadway musical Wicked, which opened in London in September last year.

But for Helen, it’s been a long and, at times, tough road to the end of this rainbow.

With years of singing studies behind her, Helen first made her name playing “Miss Adelaide” in Guys and Dolls while still at NIDA, where she studied acting after leaving SCEGGS. She was subsequently cast by the Sydney Theatre Company in a number of their productions, including David Edgar’s Pentecost, Andrew Upton’s The Hanging Man and Gale Edwards’ Up for Grabs, in which she created the central role of “Simone”, later played in the West End by Madonna. More recently, she was part of the ensemble that opened the company’s Sydney Theatre, with the musical The Republic of Myopia and the play Harbour.

Helen simultaneously enjoyed a career in film and television, playing leading roles in the movies The Extra and Mr Accident, the TV movies Secret Bridesmaid’s Business and Day of the Roses and guest roles on All Saints, Water Rats, Home and Away, Flipper and GP.

But for all her local successes, Helen made the life changing decision at age 33 to throw away her job security and her safe Sydney life, and head for London. This cast her back again to playing the role of the struggling, aspiring actress - working in restaurants and pubs whilst attending auditions that mostly went nowhere. She was poor, deeply in debt and lonely and, after a year of struggling to survive and at the point of thinking she would return to Sydney, she landed the role of a lifetime as Glinda, the Good Witch.

Wicked is a prequel to the Wizard of Oz, the classic 1939 movie, and has been running for over two years in the US. It is a blockbuster production with over 350 costumes, 75 wigs and a tonne of dry ice used every week. It transports audiences to a spectacular fantasy world of wizardry, witchcraft, sorcery and spells to tell the captivating untold story of an extraordinary friendship between two girls: the blond and popular Glinda, the Good Witch of the North, and the misunderstood green girl, Elphaba, whose destiny is to become the Wicked Witch of the West.

“I don’t see myself as the ditzy popular lightweight. I see myself as a ditzy, straight-talking down-to-earth rebel”. She has given Glinda a bitchy, private schoolgirl touch, perhaps conjured from a background which she says she did not entirely fit into. She was not one of the “blond and beautiful girls” at school but she studied them from afar.

Helen says of the play, “I get to make them laugh, make them cry, sing a high song and a low song, and wear lots of fabulous dresses and several crowns and tiaras. What more can a girl want?”

Helen is thrilled by her lead role and reversal of fortune, not to mention the pounds in her pocket. She is contracted to Wicked for a year and only time will tell whether the Yellow Brick Road will eventually lead her back to Australia. By all accounts, the show has continued to receive rave reviews, but we hope that Helen’s acting success will not be lost to Sydney audiences forever.

BACK TO SCEGGS DAY
2006

AS ALWAYS, THE stunning floral arrangements made a bright backdrop, in St. Peter’s for yet another happy occasion. It was particularly pleasant to catch up with old friends including Jane Stone (ALSOPI), Bridget McVicar (SEARLE), Erenie Crones (YANNIOTIS), June Mason (MARTIN), Jackie Dicker (EVANS), and Denise Sneddon (HESTELOW), and of course the members of the O.G.U. doing a valiant job on their stall!

Tanya Costello (COLEMAN 1974), our guest speaker, was a highlight with a personable and light hearted account of her School years and ensuing career, and she obviously enjoyed making it a family affair with her mother Mrs Coleman, sister Ursula Dubosarsky (COLEMAN 1978) and niece Maisie DUBOSARKSY (2005) in attendance also.

Another great success!

Nina Gage (WHYTE 1965)
BIRTHS

Eleanor PURCELL (1976) twins, a girl Ella and a boy Tom
Jodie Wiggins (PAGE 1983) a daughter, Paige Eileen
Tessa MORRIS (1985) a girl, Polly Matilda Grindrod
Tanya Moreno (FELETTO 1990) twins boys, Alexander and Benjamin
Nicole Armstrong (BRADFORD 1990), a girl Nellie Lisbeth Bradford-Armstrong
Tanya Monro (FELETTO 1990) twins boys, Alexander and Benjamin
Nicolle Armstrong (BRADFORD 1990), a girl Nellie Lisbeth Bradford-Armstrong
Sophie Kerr (READ 1991) a daughter, Matilda Belle
Elise Lange (BUFFONI 1992) a girl, Sydney Grace Lange
Melanie Morson (BOYD 1994) a boy, Tristan Jack
Julia Hollis (HIRD 1995) a girl, Annette Michelle

MARRIAGES

Lauren EDWARDS (1998) to Tristan Mailey

ENGAGEMENTS

Lauren EDWARDS (1998) to Tristan Mailey

DEATH OF OLD GIRL

Margaret Sheppard (BARKING 1926) mother of Roslyn Tugwell (SHEPPARD 1952)
Shelia Rowe (MACKENZIE 1928)
Helen Page (LOFTUS 1930)
Viva Hunt (SLACK-SMITH 1931)
Nancy Thompson (COX 1932)
Zola Caswell (EMANUEL 1934)
Blanche McLellan (HAYDON 1937)
Gene McA@mail (MURCHISON 1937) mother of Sandy Lawson (McASKILL 1960)
Elisabeth Stanell (MARCELLO 1937) mother of Vivienne Jeweller (STAMELL 1970)
Del Pufett AM (1938) mother of Del PURCELL (1975) and Eleanor PURCELL (1976)
Gay RUSSELL (1940)
Mary Blomfield (GRAHAM 1941)
Mary Goddard (LLOYD 1942)
Margaret McKenzie (DEWAR 1942)
Griselda Carson (OGILVIE 1943)
Pamela Davison (LEDGER 1944)
Patricia Pickering (SWAIN 1944)
Anne Atkinson (BUCKLE) (1944)
Joanne COLLISON (1945)
Helen Brittain (SCOTT 1945)
Lesley Kilpatrick (1946)
Margaret Mahoney (ABIGAIL 1947) twin sister of Elizabeth Howe (ABIGAIL 1947)
Meg Goldingham (RUTHERFORD 1948) sister of Mary Manning (RUTHERFORD 1941)
and Marcia Johnson (RUTHERFORD 1946)
Meredith Brownlee (WALLACE 1952)
Sue Youngman (HARGRAVE 1953) sister of Rosemary Rich (HARGRAVE 1956)

DEATH OF HUSBAND

Philippa Thorn (YOUNG 1954)
Jane Stone (ALSOP 1964)
Joye Ryerson (LOOTHERINGTON 1933)

DEATH OF MOTHER

Susanna SHORT (1961)
Sue Rae (WOOD 1968)
Melanie CLARK (1991)

DEATH OF FATHER

Blanche D’ALPUGET (1960)
Lyndall BOUCHER (1968)
Helen Wallace (BOUCHER 1962)
Susan Ryerson (1962)
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of SCEGGS Old Girls’ Union Inc. which will be held on Saturday 21 July, 2007 at 10:30am in the School Dining Room.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
2. Business arising from the Minutes
3. President’s Report
4. Treasurer’s Report
5. Election of the Committee
6. Appointment of the Honorary Auditor
7. General Business

NOMINATIONS FOR THE OLD GIRLS’ UNION COMMITTEE

I (name) ____________________________________ (School name) ________________________________

wish to nominate __________________________________ (School name) ________________________________

for election to the Old Girls’ Union Committee ______________________________________________________

Seconded by: ____________________________________ (School name) ________________________________

I agree to be nominated (Signature) ________________________________________________________________

Any member of the Old Girls’ Union is eligible to nominate or be nominated for election to the Old Girls’ Union Committee. Members may nominate themselves and nominations are to be seconded by another member. Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by Monday 16th July, 2007.