I remember the "Tempest" in a hall in Margaret Street when the scenery fell. We saw Vivian Leigh and Laurence Olivier, 
one memorable morning I was greeted with her beaming smile and a big hug! Her happy news was "The School is safe!"

Miss Chisholm led by example. She was firm but fair. Chapel began each school day at SCEGGS.
We can now announce that Claudia Karvan (Class of 1989) will be our special guest at Back to SCEGGS Day.

Start organising your tables now to hear Claudia discuss her career!

Back to SCEGGS Day – Saturday, 26 July at 12.00pm in the SCEGGS Great Hall

For further information ring Marilyn Cook on 9332 1133 or email marilyn@sceggs.nsw.edu.au
FROM THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL

2008 is a special year for me. This is my thirteenth year at SCEGGS. The girls who were in Kindergarten when I started as Head of SCEGGS are now in Year 12 – ready to take their place in the world as confident, articulate and compassionate young women. So it is with a sense of reflection and deep love for SCEGGS that I look back over the past year and write this column for you. SCEGGS is a special place – a vibrant learning environment with a very special atmosphere and ethos. The students of today have so many wonderful opportunities, achieve so many things and I want to share some of them with you.

Our 2007 HSC results were outstanding. 34% of students received a UAI over 95 and 50% received a UAI over 90. Isn’t that a fantastic effort?

Seven of our girls from Years 9 and 10 were selected for the Sydney University Science Gifted and Talented Discovery Program, three students from Year 12 were pre-selected for OnStage for their Group Drama Performance and the Major Works of thirteen Visual Arts students were pre-selected for ArtExpress. A number of girls studying Economics, Business Studies and Geography went on a study tour to Shanghai and brought back a great deal of information to assist in their studies for the HSC. Four Year 11 students attended the Global Young Leaders’ Conference held at the United Nations in New York during the July school holidays.

We held some great Drama performances including a major production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream; our History Debating Team were runners-up in the state-wide Les Gordon History Debating Competition, and girls can study after school artistic pursuits as wide ranging as Make you own MTV course to Life Drawing.

Our Musicians are well catered for – featured Jane Rutter herself. Imagine sharing the stage with Jane Rutter! In Sport, SCEGGS offers an extensive range of sporting opportunities for all students in Years K-12. Students are able to choose from competitive and non-competitive activities. Activities range from Touch Football, Indoor Soccer, a variety of Snow Sports to the traditional Gymnastics and Hockey.

What hasn’t changed about SCEGGS is the ethos. We conducted our biennial survey of parents again last year, and they said of the school:

“Academic excellence – the expectation that all girls will achieve in all areas they enjoy”

I think you will agree that SCEGGS is a great school and we are all very proud to be part of the school community. One of the things which is really wonderful about the school is the support we receive from our Old Girls. You all contribute in so many ways – from donations to our Scholarship Fund or our Primary Snow Sports team placing 1st in the Inter-Schools’ competition and, at an individual level, Samantha Marshall competing in the recent National Swimming Championships which were the selection trials for the Beijing Olympics and being placed 4th in the 200m Breaststroke. Not bad for a 15 year old!

Strong sense of ‘esprit de corps’ from Head of School down – all working towards similar goal/purpose”

“The girls are very caring (most of the time) and polite towards each other. SCEGGS doesn’t have an ‘eastern suburbs princess’ feel about it”

“Academic development of all students, not just the star performers”

The survey has provided us with both a terrific affirmation of what we do at SCEGGS as well as some very worthwhile avenues for us to continue to improve and develop the education we offer to our girls.

If you would like further information about the school or you would like to come and visit, please give us a ring. You might also like to join us for Ascension Day, Back to SCEGGS Day or one of our SPAN events. Old Girls are always welcome at SCEGGS!

Jenny Allum
Head of School
The OGU has had another busy year. Reunions were held in New Zealand, Melbourne, Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Canberra and Braidwood as well as the many Class Reunions held at the school and in other Sydney venues. This year the Old Girls’ Union annual donation to the school was used to purchase dataloggers for the Science Department. (I’m not even sure what they are! How school has changed from our days.)

Back to SCEGGS Day last July had a Science theme in keeping with the development of the planned Joan Freeman Science and Technology Centre. Julie MCCROSSIN (1971) led a discussion with Elizabeth ELLIOTT (1974), Jennie Brand Miller (PEARCE 1970) and Tanya Monro (FELETTO 1970) and her husband Geoffrey generously open their beautiful home at Braidwood for a lunch in their garden. The weather was exceptional and the large number of guests thoroughly enjoyed the welcoming ambience, food and entertainment as well hearing from Jenny Allum about the current happenings at SCEGGS.

This year’s Ascension Day Chapel Service and lunch had over 100 Old Girls from as far away as New Guinea come together to meet up with friends. One highlight of the day was a preview of excerpts from the school’s production of Les Misérables.

The death of Barbara Chisholm, or “Chips” as many of us fondly remember her, brought together many old girls at a memorial service in the Great Hall last September. It was a beautiful tribute to her and having members of her family present made it all the more special. Although those of us who were at the school in Miss Chisholm’s time knew what a strong and principled woman she was, the memories shared with us by Miss Chisholm’s niece Julian Jensen (MORRIS 1962) and Jenny Allum were very enlightening, both about Miss Chisholm herself and also about what SCEGGS was like when she assumed its leadership. Julie McCROSSIN’s (1971) recollections also brought some smiles to the faces of many ex-students.

Those of us who were Miss Chisholm’s girls are very lucky to have been educated under her leadership.

Last year Pat Hutcherson (TRINDAL 1939) and Frances RORDAN (1954) retired from the OGU Committee. Pat’s contributions to the SCEGGS community, especially the Old Girls’ Union are, I’m sure, well known to all of you. For more years than can be remembered she hosted a Spring Luncheon for Old Girls at her home. Thank you so much Pat for your untiring efforts. This year we welcomed Joanne ANGELIDES (1971) to the Committee.

The work of the OGU Committee is very much a team effort. I greatly appreciate the support given to me by Lenore Preshaw (CYLDE-SMITH 1965) our treasurer, Kaye Morrison (MAHLER 1962) our secretary, and Joy Bull (ELLIS 1964) who manages our memorabilia, and by all the OGU committee who are always ready to help at various functions.

At the Ascension Day lunch on May 1st I mentioned how the bonds people have with the school are by no means limited to ex-students. After discovering that an old friend’s mother was a student in Miss Badham’s time and hearing his reminiscences about his mother’s schooldays, I realized how strong a connection other people also have to the school. I feel this is due to the fact that SCEGGS has, since its inception, always valued and included the wider school community in all of its activities. Today that tradition is even stronger.

The OGU is indebted to Marilyn Cook (BROWN 1965), the School’s hardworking Alumni Relations Co-ordinator and one of our Vice-Presidents, for her wonderful organization of our functions and never-ending enthusiasm for anything to do with SCEGGS Old Girls! In addition our thanks go to Andrew Roviley, Belinda Thompson, Rosemary Humphrey, Carrol Evans, Pru Heath and Kristy Ahearn for their practical assistance and support of the OGU.

We most sincerely thank Jenny Allum for all she does for Old Girls of the school. Her valued participation in and facilitation of our OGU activities are greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at some of the many school functions in the near future, especially at Back to SCEGGS Day in July.

Denise Sneddon
(HESTEWLO 1965)
President
The Old Girls’ Union
GREETINGS FROM THE SCEGGS TRUST

This year has been another huge year for the Trust and, on behalf of everyone at the School, I would like to thank the Old Girls for the wonderful support we have had from the entire SCEGGS Old Girls’ community.

The Trust has been very active in a number of areas which are highlighted here:

THE BEQUEST COMMITTEE

Since its launch in 2005, the Bequest Committee has been very actively promoting the “Barham Fellowship” Bequest Programme. The Barham Fellowship acknowledges those who have bequeathed, or intend to bequeath, money to the School through their Will. It is a wonderful initiative as it allows those who leave a bequest to the School to be acknowledged and celebrated whilst they are living.

We honour those who have done so by placing their names on a special honour board located in Barham and presenting them with a solid gold brooch. Every year at a special function held at Barham, the Barham Fellows are invited to celebrate their generous gifts, meet other Fellows and chat to Ms Allum and the Bequest Committee.

During the year there have been seven new notifications of intent to become a Barham Fellow, with donors coming from both the Old Girls and the broader SCEGGS community. It is with special thanks that we would like to acknowledge the generous bequest of the late Gay RUSSELL (1940).

THE JOAN FREEMAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Most Old Girls will be aware that in March of last year the Trust launched the capital campaign for the Joan Freeman Science and Technology Centre.

The response to the Campaign has been most encouraging, with generous and widespread support. The Trust made a conscious decision to conduct the Campaign in a manner in which everyone would be encouraged to contribute and that each contribution would be valued and appreciated. To date we have raised $4 million and, as you can see, we are very close to achieving our target of $5 million. The amount raised so far is significantly more than for previous campaigns.

Thank you to everyone who has made this possible. We look forward to seeing you at a function soon.

Andrew Rowley
Director of Development

SPAN
(SCEGGS PROFESSIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK)

SPAN provides Old Girls of the school with networking opportunities that enable them to renew old acquaintances and establish new connections, at both a social and professional level. Some very successful SPAN functions have been held in the past year and there is more to look forward to in 2008.

In November last year, SCEGGS girls were fortunate to participate in a master class conducted by Jane Rutter, Australia’s number one selling solo classical flautist, followed by a cabaret performance by Ms Rutter for SPAN members and those in the wider community.

In March 2008 SPAN was privileged to host a dinner with Clover Moore, MP and Lord Mayor of Sydney. All who attended were very interested to hear about her exciting new vision for the City of Sydney, “the city of villages”.

In late June our very own Julie MCCROSSIN will be hosting a lively panel discussion and quiz on the New Technology Challenge.

Later in the year SPAN hosts its Young Spanners cocktail party at an inner city pub, for girls who left in the last five years. 2008 will finish off with an exciting performance of the award winning Monsieur Camembert in Cabaret. Watch out for your next edition of the SPAN newsletter to book your tickets.

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During the year there have been seven new notifications of intent to become a Barham Fellow, with donors coming from both the Old Girls and the broader SCEGGS community. It is with special thanks that we would like to acknowledge the generous bequest of the late Gay RUSSELL (1940).
Our Foundation Day Luncheon will be held this year at the Langham Hotel in Southgate, Melbourne on Thursday 17th of July at 12.30pm. If anyone is visiting Melbourne at that time please join us. You can ring me, on 03 9589 4775 or Wendy Aiken (SCOTT 1955) on 03 9855 1043.

Cita Mieg (KUIKEN 1957)
President

On the 24th of November we held our Christmas Cocktail Party at the charming home of Pam Watkins (CAIRNS 1961) in Brighton with a larger group present – as always a very pleasant occasion. Pam had a piano which Janet Bell (HEATH 1955) found so we finished the evening with rousing renditions of the School Songs.

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Cita Mieg (KUIKEN 1957)
President
The Braidwood and District SCEGGS Old Girls Reunion was a wonderful opportunity for city and country 'old girls' to get together in a beautiful garden setting. Nina Gage (WHYTE 1965) and her husband Geoffrey, generously opened their home and garden to the 'old girls' (and some husbands) from the Braidwood/Canberra region. It was also very special to have a couple of young 'Old Girls' along.

The fantastic weather allowed us to wander around the extensive gardens, check out the vegetable garden, chooks and Angus cattle, or just chat together over drinks and delicious canapés before a super buffet lunch eaten at tables set out under the big old trees and in the gazebo.

Marilyn Cook always does a superb job in sending out invitations and helping on these occasions with support from members of the Old Girls' Committee.

It is always well appreciated when Jenny Allum is able to include these occasions into her busy schedule and Terry is also warmly welcomed. Of course everyone always wants to hear the good news stories about SCEGGS and Jenny proudly gave account of some of SCEGGS' successes. Many of us noted with pleasure that Jenny described her term at SCEGGS as half way there according to the years of previous heads of SCEGGS.

After lunch we were surprised and delighted to be entertained by a young and very talented student from Braidwood Central School. Madie sang a selection of songs from such artists as Julie London and the Dixie Chicks. Some of the Sydney girls extended the occasion by staying overnight in Braidwood.

We are very grateful to Nina and Geoffrey and hope the Braidwood reunion may become a regular event.

Judy Caldwell (ROGAN 1962)
REPORTS & REUNIONS

50 YEAR REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1957

2007 marked the fiftieth year since we left Darlinghurst. This called for another celebration, a tradition we have been following for thirty years. We selected the Hellenic Club in Elizabeth Street for the second time and again, they were charming and efficient. We had a beautiful cake featuring our School Crest. There were 36 attendees who gathered from all the states as well as USA and Canada.

Because we have been meeting for so long, we have forged new friendships beyond our school associations and the class divisions, boarder exclusiveness and whether one did one’s Leaving Certificate or not, we are now all very close. Who remembers such things? We keep our celebrations within city central and always make it convenient for those with difficulties especially now as we age. We always make sure the food is excellent as we are an experienced lot and alcohol is always offered but not eagerly sought. This year we had the misfortune of clashing with Miss Chisholm’s Memorial Service but SCEGGS helped us out by supplying a bus so we could partake of both events.

We sing the School songs lustily and always include Grace and Prayers led by one of us each time.

Those who went to Miss Chisholm’s Memorial Service thought it was an appropriate way to finish the day. Several had never been back to the school since 1957 and to say they were surprised was an understatement.

Jill Osborne (NANCARROW)

20 YEAR REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1987

The class of ’87 enjoyed a fabulous reunion evening back at SCEGGS. Drinks in the Courtyard put everyone at ease and conversation was soon buzzing as the girls started to catch up on years of news.

Jenny Allum was a very gracious and patient host, taking us on a fascinating tour of recent building works. For many of the girls it was the first time they had been back to the school since leaving 20 years ago. Those of us who only have sons were soon wishing we had daughters to send to SCEGGS one day, so impressive was the tour.

Our delicious dinner in the Teachers’ Dining Room and wine fuelled conversation was topped off by a slide show of younger versions of ourselves having lazy lunches in the sun on the senior school lawn, school excursions, and fancy dress days but strangely no shots of girls actually working in classrooms! A definite highlight was Sally Dominguez’s (COLEMAN) hilarious speech after dinner and Sara Holder’s heartfelt expression of her fondness for her days at SCEGGS and her classmates.

Finally a perfect reunion was capped off by cupcakes topped with SCEGGS-blue icing and later, SCEGGS-blue cocktails at the Lord Robert Hotel in Stanley Street.

A big thank you goes to Marilyn Cook who manages the Alumni activities.

Fiona Shakespeare (JOHNSTON)

25 YEAR REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1982

The Class of 1982 held their twenty-five year reunion at a restaurant in Paddington. Each attendee wore a name tag with their school house emblem on it and sat with their fellow house members for a trivia contest. Questions such as, “What is the name of the Assembly Hall?” and “Name the first Headmistress?”, proved quite tough after 25 years.

Barton was victorious and each member of its team took home a fabulous SCEGGS tea towel.

Special mentions go to Wendy Bower, who flew in from Hong Kong, and Lynette Wood, Melissa Hobbs, Susie Spittle and Eleanor O’Donnell, for travelling interstate for the event.

The day was a great success and we all look forward to when we meet again.

Melissa HALKERSTON
In 2008 we celebrate the arrival at SCEGGS of our first great-granddaughter of an Old Girl. Amelia McIntosh, who has started in Year 7, is the great-great granddaughter of Doris Burton (1902-1911) and Lilian Christian (1895-1896).

Doris Burton was a student at both SCEGGS Darlinghurst and for a short period at SCEGGS Bovora. Doris was interviewed for the Centenary History and in common with many fellow students she recalled the great affection with which she held Miss Badham. In 1913 Lux reports that Doris married Mr. Oswald Chapman at St John’s, Darlinghurst.

Lilian Christian was not only one of the first girls at SCEGGS but was also present with her mother at the official opening of the School at 65 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst, on the 17th of July 1895 along with fellow students Mary Watson, Anna Kirk and one of the Barton girls. Many years later our first pupil Mary Watson recalled the pleasure students had in rowing and that Lily Christian won the prize for being the prettiest oar.

At the outbreak of World War I, Lilian, became involved in the NSW Citizens’ War Chest Fund, one of many patriotic funds which were started in each of the states. It became the main co-ordinating body for most of these funds in NSW as well as also raising funds and providing goods. The focus of the War Chest was to look after the needs of the ‘fighting fit’; in this it complemented the work of the Red Cross, which looked after prisoners of war, the sick and injured. For instance, when the war broke out Lilian was asked in August 1914 to take on the complete control of the War Chest Depot and administer it as she deemed best. She was later described as ‘soon demonstrating a positive genius for such work… Admirably dowered to methodically map and plan, to foresee needs and prepare well in advance to cope with them, and to coordinate a multiplicity of details, she had the rare gift, also, of stimulating and encouraging all her associates to yield gladly of their best.’

The Depot was responsible for the collection and distribution of all goods to be delivered to the Australian Imperial Force. By 1919 over 95,000 cases of goods had been sent to Australian soldiers by the NSW War Chest and Battery Funds. Goods included food, clothing, cigarettes, sports equipment and other entertainments. The Depot also collected goods and raised the not inconceivable amount of £10,000 for the Belgian Clothing Relief Fund. Lilian played a significant role with the work of the War Chest for which she was eventually awarded a CBE and the Croix de Guerre (Belgium).

In 1919 Lilian married Mr F.G. Sargood, a fellow member of the War Chest Executive Committee in her role as Honorary Depot Superintendent. In 1919 Lilian became the first Old Girl President of the Old Girls’ Union. In 1920 Lilian became the first Old Girl representative on the School Council when the Synod altered the constitution of the School to permit a member of the Old Girls’ Union to be represented. During this time she donated the Lilian Sargood Bursary given expressly to help country people who could not afford the full fees, and whose daughters might not be advanced enough to win a scholarship.

Obviously there were many good reasons to name Christian House after Lilian, however there is some confusion in our records over whether Christian House was named for Mrs Lydia Christian or her daughter Lilian with most accounts saying the mother. The earliest record, Lux 1926, acknowledges them both:

“Christian and Barton, school girl names of the two first Old Girl Presidents of the Union – Christian also bringing memories of Mrs Lydia Christian and her sister Miss Skinner.”

Mrs Lydia Christian, Lilian’s mother, was an active member of the School Council from 1897 to 1918 and also for many years on the Board of the Royal Alexandra Children’s Hospital in Camperdown. Miss Maria Skinner, Mrs Christian’s sister, was the School’s matron from 1910 until her death in 1920. Her unfailing tact, wide sympathy and kindly consideration endeared herself to all.

We welcome Amelia and all the new SCEGGS students and wish them all the best in their School career as they begin to write the next chapters in the School’s history.
MEMORIES OF 
MISS BARBARA CHISHOLM

I taught at SCEGGS from 1950 to 1956 and again from 1962 to 1976 and was Head of SCEGGS Primary School from 1973 to 1976. I was a member of the SCEGGS Old Girls’ Union from 1970 to 1999.

As one of Miss Barbara Chisholm’s Old Girls from her first Alumnis year of 1947, my appointment to the Primary School staff of SCEGGS in 1950 meant a great deal to both of us. As I walked through the Green Gate on my first morning to teach 2nd form (4th class) girls, there was warm welcome from my former secondary school teachers and a wonderful feeling of ‘coming home’.

In order to have reached this stage of my teaching career two significant opportunities occurred:

1. In term 1, 1948, Miss Edith Roseby-Ball, the Headmistress of her small co-educational private school, Danebank at Hurstville, appointed me to assist her with the pre-school girls and boys aged three to five years. The next year I taught a composite 3rd and 4th class.

2. In 1948 I joined the Teachers’ Guild of NSW founded in 1892 which is the oldest teachers’ organisation in NSW. In 1949 after World War 2 the Guild offered a Teacher Training Diploma course for trainee teachers employed by private schools. First Miss Ball and then Miss Chisholm gave me every encouragement in this course from 1949 until my graduation in 1951.

Daily Chapel began each school day at SCEGGS. In the 1950s the chapel was a grand affair. Each class would process in, led by the form leader and Mr. Williams, the school organist, would play the national anthem. Miss Chisholm stood at attention and we stood respectably. I well remember being taught by Miss Cassim.

As Boarders and the Boarding Staff always shared coffee and their experiences in Miss Chisholm’s sitting room at the end of the school day.

In 1976 the school was facing the prospect of closing due to financial circumstances. Although Miss Chisholm was not usually a demonstrative person, one memorable morning I was greeted with her beaming smile and a big hug! Her happy news was “The School is saved!” Her sincere concern for all the school staff and every pupil had been her first priority. Her joy was plain for all to see, when it became clear that SCEGGS would continue to be a ‘light still shining’ indeed a testimony to Miss Barbara Chisholm’s thirty years of devoted service.

My time at SCEGGS started in 1946. World War II had ended and there was more money about. Miss Wilkinson was Head and she had been there when my mother Nancy Golby (PARKMAN 1930) came to SCEGGS. We younger Boarders looked forward to a new younger Head. When Miss Chisholm arrived we all thought she looked pretty and would hang from the balconies when she was going out to see what she was wearing.

Miss Chisholm brought new ideas, we were encouraged to wear sandals and leave our ties off during the summer around the School. Rationing finished and we even had summer and sports uniforms.

As Boarders we were taken to theatres in the city. I remember the “Tempest” in a hall in Margaret Street when the scenery fell. We saw Vivian Leigh and Laurence Olivier and other interesting actors at the cinema.

We were given a lot of freedom being allowed into the city. Miss Kathleen CHAMPION (1927) took us in by tram to David Jones to shop! A very good place to collect food for midnight feasts. With parents’ permission we could go to town to a film of our choice and I enjoyed a nienish tart from David Jones for lunch. It was ninepence for a cinema ticket and threepence for a tart.

Miss Chisholm encouraged tolerance of others. It was who suggested I teach. There were some marvellous guides at SCEGGS to help me. Mrs Danby, Miss Lowie, Miss Meyrink and then in the Senior School Miss Spencer, Miss HORROCKS (1900), Miss Ivy VANDERVORD (1924) Mrs Sharland, Mrs Davies and the very elegant Mrs Popov.

Being a Boarder, food was very important. Renee was the chef when I was a child and Miss Wigam was the housekeeper. I learnt to scrape butter paper for that last little bit when we had toast at the weekend.

Miss Chisholm tolerated me taking the class under her office when Bruce turned the lights out and they would scream – spooked! She enjoyed the girls racing around the school delivering pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. They may well have been dropped or licked before delivery to her desk.

It is interesting that Miss Chisholm put the school on its feet after the war and then again after the financial difficulties of 1976 staying on for an extra year to ensure the survival of her beloved SCEGGS.

Judy Halford (GOLSBY 1950)

My sister and I started in Kindergarten (a year apart) in 1958 and 1959. We were in a combined K/1 class taught by Miss Cassim.

We both remember daily chapel at St Peter’s and singing the national anthem. Miss Chisholm stood at attention and never sang. “Was she really the Queen?” we asked.

We always took a slice of birthday cake to her in her study which she received graciously. We never saw her eat (like the Queen?).

To us, SCEGGS was Miss Chisholm. Her values carried us through those years and out into the world after Year 12.

Deborah Aiken (VINE-HALL 1970) Judith McDonald (VINE-HALL 1972)
I recall with such joy and pleasure my days at SCEGGS Darlingtonhurst, not only as a student but also as a teacher. My first day at school was in February 1952 as a seven year old when I felt so nervous going to my new school in third class under Miss Minnie Vandervord as my teacher. As I entered the green gate for the first time and was taken to my classroom, I was met by a sea of faces I had never seen before in my life, but as there were so many girls in the same boat. I soon felt at home. After morning tea, our classroom door opened and in came this lovely young lady to take the role - she must have been thirty seven then - it was our new headmistress, Miss Chisholm. How wonderful she was! She had such a presence of Tall, slim, ethereal and kindly faced. We all loved her from day one.

I for one, grew to love and admire her so much over my years at school. She taught us so much about life and how to behave, treat, respect and help others and I shall never forget her guiding light as long as I live.

Miss Chisholm had such a strong and strict and did not tolerate any nonsense from us, nor that I believe she had huge problems, because we all respected and admired her so much, nobody really wanted to be too troublesome, with a few exceptions of course, and on today's standards even these girls weren't bad.

There are so many happy memories about Barbara Chisholm. I really don't know where to begin. Her wonderful smile, her lovely hands and nails, and her dogs who followed her wherever. Memories of her in study watching us whilst we were sitting on the lawn in front of the new building having lunch and when we waved, she would always wave back. Memories of her on speech days, and sports carnivals making speeches and handing out ribbons which we were all thrilled to receive especially from her, assemblies, chapel, where she never sang but always read the lesson, except when as senior girls we had a turn to read which was always quite daunting but fun.

Her door was always open to all of us. All you had to do was knock and she would say, "Come in, please sit down and what can I do for you today?" At first, one would be a little nervous, but not take very long to become relaxed. She was always ready to help with her sagely advise, be a little nervous, but would not take very long to become coherent.

Miss Chisholm had a wonderful support staff around her. Miss Spicer, otherwise known as "Spits" who, unlike Miss Chisholm who knew all seven hundred girls by their names, Miss Spicer was called everyone Girle, so to us we then referred to her as "Girle Spicer." Miss Vandervord was so wonderful and caring and gave such pastoral care to us all. Mrs Miller was so kind soft and caring, Miss King who drilled so much French into us I still haven’t forgotten it. Mrs Estlin of whom we were all terrified in Latin. Mrs Gorrod our Modern History teacher, Dr Goldhammer our Chemistry teacher and how could I ever forget Miss Flynn - Biology, who we enjoyed having after lunch as she would occasionally go to sleep, which we all loved of course. In fact, I could go on and on, but I must recall my primary school days with the beautiful Miss Thomson (4th Class) who became Mrs Bowley the especially wonderful and caring Miss Love and dear Mrs Danby.

I was fortunate enough to return to SCEGGS after my school years to teach with these very special Primary School Teachers as well as Judy Goldby and they all taught me so much. It was such a pleasure to get up every morning to go to teach with these very special people, who were guided by, I believe, the most amazing headmistress in the world. How lucky we all were to have Barbara Chisholm as our guide, mentor, friend and headmistress.

She was a great friend of my family, so I was fortunate enough to have had many great times with her and grew to know her very well over the years. I remember particularly, a holiday to New Zealand where we visited her old school, Nga Tawa of which she was so proud and staying with her sister and niece. Her mother was so soft and lovely and after meeting her and the rest of the family, I understood why Barbara was so special, as they were such warm, lovely people.

I shall never forget my last day as a student when I stood on the stage in the Sydney Town Hall to make my final speech as the Catherine Selby Prize winner. I had been given so much support and help from Miss Chisholm, that I actually didn’t feel nervous, unlike my first day, but I had actually been at SCEGGS for ten years then and had certainly gained a great deal of confidence from that year seven old in 3rd class in 1952. All this was thanks to my wonderful headmistress, who had guided me through these very impressive school years. She taught us truly to let our light shine. “Luceat Lux Vestra.”

Vale Barbara Chisholm. You have let a wonderful impression on all of us and left such a wonderful legacy in our amazing school.

As I walked through the green gate for the last time as a student, I shall never forget your smiling face, your help and kindness, your care, your sympathetic understanding and most of all your friendship.

You were so special and the most wonderful headmistress any girl could have wished to have. Thank you for being my friend and helping me to “let my light shine.” I shall never forget you.

Margaret Clarke (PARTRIDGE 1961)
It is with great sadness that we must report that Suriyong Rojnavibul (Class of 1971) died on Friday 11 January 2008 after a long battle with a chronic disease of the connective tissue called scleroderma. This rare condition causes the body to overproduce collagen and leads to the hardening of the skin and ultimately damage to many parts of the body. Over the past 10 years Sue Roj, as we all called her, maintained her grace, courage and good humour. She was supported at all times, and in every way, by her loving husband, Adam Vaughan. She also spoke with great affection and respect about Prof Ron Penny who co-ordinated her complex care through many tough times.

Sue started at SCEGGS in 5th class and she was in Langley. Her Chinese parents had fled the communists to Thailand and they later lived in Hong Kong. Sue lived in Australia with her sisters, Sopi and Sipen, and her brother, Sakon. Sue Roj was the tallest girl in her class. She was never out of their proper order and colour. In her high school years, she excelled academically in everything she did, especially in Latin, maths and the sciences. She was also a fierce competitor on the hockey field. It was an alarming experience to see her running towards you with a big smile on her face and pigtails flying. When she played as goalie, her protective knee pads went up to her chin and she waddled when she walked, but her defence was ferocious. Sue was especially renowned for her love of cats. She graduated from the University of Sydney with a BSc (Bachelor of Science), majoring in pure maths and computer science. She was a brilliant IT expert, another person on earth quite like her. Her Chinese parents had fled the communists to Thailand and they later lived in Hong Kong. Sue lived in Australia with her sisters, Sopi and Sipen, and her brother, Sakon.

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2007 was the 25th anniversary of the SCEGGS Archives. Many thanks to all the School community who have supported the Archives during the last 25 years. It was one of the first girls’ schools to have an official archive and archivist, Mrs Mary Maltby. However, it could be argued that the Archives really started much earlier with Miss Wilkinson who actively collected, preserved and recorded the School’s history. From Miss Wilkinson’s records we can see that she collected reminiscences from the early Old Girls and staff and kept significant photographs. The results of this research were then published periodically in Lux and formed the basis of the first School history published in 1955. This early work combined with the key ‘official’ School records such as Lux and Council minutes as well the many generous donations from Old Girls and staff, ongoing oral histories and research make for a very interesting and comprehensive archival collection.

The School continues to be enriched by many generous donations to the Archives. Some highlights over the last year were:

- Beth Wilson (THORNTON 1957) donated film footage taken by her father, Mr J.C. Thornton, of Beth and her sister Judith’s school days and school friends. As well as including rare footage of Miss Chisholm, Miss Prosser and Miss Mason, we were all particularly taken with the flower pot race and clothing relays. It is such a lovely picture of simple and innocent fun.

- Mary Graham was a former student, teacher and parent at SCEGGS Darlinghurst and Head of SCEGGS Moss Vale. Mary’s son, Tim Blomfield, donated a number of her records connected to the School including some of her class plans for ancient history.

- Mary Wilkinson (Class of 1978) and Roberta LANDERS (Class of 1978), written and illustrated while they were in Year 9. The book was on loan in the library for many years and is now held in the archives with their later work “The mystery of the two Yogis”. Last year Ursula Dubosarsky (COLEMAN) gave a very interesting and entertaining talk to girls in Year 10 English on the process of writing and becoming an author based around her latest prize winning children’s novel ‘The red shoes.’

- We try to assist with these requests. Requests for information last year included:

  Information on the history of SCEGGS Wollongong for the Deputy Head of TIGS who wanted to communicate this part of her school’s history to students.

  Land use for the Bong Bong common, formerly part of SCEGGS Moss Vale and the original settlement in the Southern Highlands. The farm records and photograph collection were particularly useful.

The fate of historic house, Austermere, at SCEGGS Moss Vale. Our records were able to show the site of the house, what it looked like and gave some clue as to when it was demolished (not while the school owned it).

Long before the Archive was formerly established, members of the School community showed how they valued the School’s heritage and ethos by wanting to record it. That support and enthusiasm continues unabated today. Thank you once again to all those who have helped the Archive develop and grow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The 1952 excursion to Queensland with Miss Mary GRAHAM (Class of 1941) and Roberta LANDERS (Class of 1978), written and illustrated while they were in Year 9. The book was on loan in the library for many years and is now held in the archives with their later work “The mystery of the two Yogis”. Last year Ursula Dubosarsky (COLEMAN) gave a very interesting and entertaining talk to girls in Year 10 English on the process of writing and becoming an author based around her latest prize winning children’s novel ‘The red shoes.’

Ours is a school with a rich and fascinating history. To help connect current students to the larger SCEGGS community and to gain a greater understanding of the School’s values, as well as giving insight into the circumstances of individuals within a wider historical framework.

As usual we created archival displays for Ascension Day, Back to SCEGGS Day and for each of the Old Girl reunions. Should any Old Girls have photographs that they would like copied and included in a reunion slideshow then please contact me at School and this can be arranged. Displays in the Old Girls’ cabinets included Miss Chisholm and her time at SCEGGS, a display of student autobiographies from the 1910s and Barham during the 19th century.

It is not only the School community that uses the information held in the Archive. Through each year we receive external requests for help with research on a wide variety of topics. While confidentiality and privacy must always be considered,
As always, Ascension Day proved to be a wonderful gathering for all our Old Girls who left SCEGGS fifty years ago or more.

The Reverend Garry Lee-Lindsay, our school Chaplain, led a memorable Chapel service encompassing wonderful singing from our students in the Primary school. The Old Girls joined them at the end of the service to heartily sing 'Girls of the Grammar School.'

Drinks and luncheon followed providing a great opportunity for mingling, chatting and generally catching up. We had many Old Girls travel long distances to be with us, one from as far as New Guinea! It was also marvellous to have a Miss Badham Old Girl – Delphine Harty (STEPHENS 1928) – with us again this year. What an important link to the earliest history of SCEGGS.

There was plenty of entertainment. Ms Allum spoke about the School and showed the latest SCEGGS DVD. Everyone was absolutely delighted when our girls, and boys from Cranbrook, Scots and Newtown Performing Arts High, presented three stirring songs from our upcoming musical Les Miserables.

All who attended had a wonderful day and are looking forward to their next visit to SCEGGS.

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Who says Science is boring? Not anyone who attended The Sound of Science at Back to SCEGGS Day in July last year.

A delicious lunch was made all the more interesting when Julie McCrossin hosted a panel discussion with Old Girl scientists - Jennie Brand Miller (PEARCE 1970), Elizabeth ELLIOTT (1974) and Tanya Monro (FELETTO 1990).

All three, currently professors of their specialty at leading universities, spoke with passion about their work in Science, their goals and what an important role Science plays in society today. Topics covered such wide areas as applying Physics to everyday inventions, Paediatric Medicine and the GI diet. Julie McCrossin was her usual entertaining self and the panel discussion was vibrant, lively and really good fun.

Everyone who attended enjoyed a really great day back at SCEGGS.
JOAN MARA (CLASS OF 1963)

Joan Mara regards SCEGGS as a “precious community” within which she was highly valued and also a current member of staff. She admires the way in which the school embraces the strengths of each individual and supports them in becoming passionate, competent and resilient young women. These were clearly qualities Joan’s mother herself sensed as she observed SCEGGS girls as she travelled to work by tram from the eastern suburbs to the city every day. “So impressed was she that she ever had a daughter she would send her to SCEGGS,” explains Joan. A relocation to Stanwell Park on the south coast finally ended this dream until she noticed an advertisement for the recently formed SCEGGS Wollongong. Joan and her sister were therefore enrolled at Glennifer Brae in 1957. She recalls with great fondness her days over the next seven years as a SCEGGS girl, especially the sporting competitions between SCEGGS Darlinghurst and the Branch Schools.

Joan describes a particularly nurturing environment which also offered impressive role models in her time - a young Head of School, Kathleen McCredie and a “vibrant young graduate”, Diana Bowman. Joan partly credits these two inspirational women with her decision to pursue a career in teaching. The other part came from a love of science which began within - “I always wanted to teach. I loved my school and all it offered.” So after applying to study Primary teaching came the unexpected offer of a scholarship for Science which she accepted. “It was the time of the introduction of the Wyndham Scheme which made junior science compulsory and the state was desperately short of science teachers,” clarifies Joan.

After teaching for six years at Petersham Girls’ High School, Joan left the Department of Education to start a family. It was in 1980 that Diana Bowman approached Joan about teaching as a part time member of the Science Department at SCEGGS Darlinghurst. “Siva Markandu was a wonderful mentor as Head of Department and I will be forever grateful for his wise counsel and guidance in those early days. It was a sharp learning curve to quickly rise to the high expectations set by the school,” reflects Joan. She found such joy and satisfaction teaching Biology. In particular she valued camp programs and the co-ordination of a variety of school activities. A diverse day in her current role as Head of Student Welfare may encompass everything from addressing issues raised by Year Co-Ordinators and responding to concerns from parents, to liaising with members of the school executive and organising leadership training for young women.

SHARON COOK (CLASS OF 1976)

Sharon Cook has been the Chair of the Board of SCEGGS Darlinghurst since 2004. She is also a SCEGGS Old Girl and an astute, forthright and highly successful woman. Described by her peers as possessing “exceptional talent as a leader” and “remarkable vitality”, she is an internationally recognised leader in insurance law. A solicitor for 25 years and a partner for 17 years, she was not only one of the first part-time partners within a major law firm in Australia, but also has been recently appointed as the first female Managing Partner at Henry Davis York.

Success is something with which Sharon was well versed during her time at SCEGGS. She was not only an outstanding achiever academically, but also the school Swimming champion and Squash champion. It is probably only upon reflection and with further experience, Sharon concedes, that one can truly appreciate “how special a SCEGGS education is”. This has been further reinforced watching her daughter Eleanor (Class of 2007) and her peers leave the school as “unique, savvy and competent individuals who are willing to contribute and who are well prepared for tertiary studies”. Impressed by the quality and complete dedication of the staff, both during her time and currently, who nurture and extend each student according to her well identified strengths, she sees them as primarily responsible for the uniqueness of a SCEGGS girl. Sharon asserts that thisdistinctiveness is “about strength of character, social conscience and competence and about being confident, articulate and prepared to have your own views”.

After leaving SCEGGS, Sharon studied Arts Law at the University of Sydney and graduated with honours in 1990. She subsequently followed her natural interest in litigation to work in commercial, banking and finance, and property litigation with Mallesons in Sydney and London. Being true to her focused nature, she defined a more specialised interest in professional indemnity and insurance law. A challenge of being a solicitor she maintains is that it is “not enough to be intelligent and capable” and therefore necessary at an early stage to “identify a specific field and develop a client base to be favourably placed for being selected as a partner”. Impressed by her partners and clients, she also identified Henry Davis York as a firm “which had a reputation even in those days as being family friendly” and where she felt she “could make a difference and have some influence”.

The offer of a part-time partnership at Henry Davis York, an unusually progressive appointment in the 90s, not only confirmed Sharon’s thoughts and but also vindicated her diligent planning. She has continued to be a strong advocate of flexible work practices and has been instrumental in Henry Davis York receiving awards for their initiatives which encourage a balance between family and work.

Sharon is one of the most rewarding progressive appointments in the 90s, an unusual role in a major law firm, with women partners and clients, she also identified Henry Davis York as a firm “which had a reputation even in those days as being family friendly” and where she felt she “could make a difference and have some influence”. The offer of a part-time partnership at Henry Davis York, an unusually progressive appointment in the 90s, not only confirmed Sharon’s thoughts and but also vindicated her diligent planning. She has continued to be a strong advocate of flexible work practices and has been instrumental in Henry Davis York receiving awards for their initiatives which encourage a balance between family and work.

Impressively, nearly a quarter of their partners are female, four of whom work part time. Her appointment as the first female Managing Partner comes as a culmination of her talent achievements and well earned reputation. In 2006 and 2007 she was named as one of the World’s Leading Lawyers and last year named a Leading Individual in Insurance Law in Australia. This year Sharon was also named in the Australian Financial Review’s inaugural “Best Lawyers” list.

But it is Sharon’s role as Chair of the SCEGGS Darlinghurst Board that she selects as “one of the most rewarding things” she does. She values the “continued close connection with SCEGGS and the complete pleasure of being associated with a school that has, in my opinion, become more successful year after year”. She speaks with immense admiration and respect for Jenny Allum in whom “the Board have enormous confidence and there is not a single person here who would say anything different”.

Considering the spectrum of Sharon’s inspiring accomplishments and demanding roles, her response to the question of what she has found most challenging over the years was not unexpected. Without hesitation her decisive reply was motherhood. “I can generally control my working environment, but I can’t control the lives of my children,” she declares with a hint of amusement. She confesses that it was at times a “complete relief to come into work!” She also clarifies that “working part time is much harder than working full time because you try to be all things to all people. Women want to do everything perfectly and feel like they are failing at both”. She confides that part of the secret to her success is to “delegate like a man” and to have the invaluable support of her husband and mother, to both of whom she feels incredibly grateful.

In a recent interview with the Australian Financial Review’s Boss magazine, Sharon revealed that some of the best advice she has ever received is “to take full responsibility for one’s life. Things don’t generally just happen – you need to figure out what it is that you want and how you are going to achieve it”. Her most important achievement, both as a lawyer and a woman are testimony to her adherence to this advice. Sharon also describes SCEGGS as a school which “expected, without pomposity or pretension, that we would do something significant whether in a professional capacity or by contributing to the community”. And clearly this is precisely what she has done.
FOR THE DIARY

QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Branch of the Old Girls’ Union will hold their annual luncheon on Saturday 19th July at Tattersalls Club, Tattersalls Arcade, Queen Street Brisbane.

MELBOURNE

Melbourne AGM and Lunch will be held at The Langham Hotel in Southgate, Melbourne on Thursday 17th July at 12.30pm.

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

The Southern Districts Branch of the Old Girls’ Union will hold their annual luncheon at the Commonwealth Club, Canberra on Friday 19th September.

NEWCASTLE AND DISTRICTS

Will hold their luncheon at Customs House Hotel, Newcastle, in March next year.

BOWRAL AND DISTRICTS

A luncheon reunion will be held on Sunday 26th October at Southern Highland Wines, Sutton Forest.

REUNIONS

The Class of 1953 will celebrate their 55th Year Reunion on Friday 25th July.

The Class of 1958 will celebrate their 50 Year Reunion on Saturday 25th October at a luncheon in the School Dining Room.

A 45 Year Reunion for the Class of 1963 will be celebrated at Back to SCEGGS Day on Saturday 26th July.

The Class of 1968 will celebrate their 40 Year Reunion at a luncheon on Saturday 25th July.

A 25 Year Reunion for the Class of 1983 will be held at Back to SCEGGS Day.

The Class of 1998 will celebrate their 20 Year Reunion at the School on Saturday 16th August in the School Dining Room.

The Class of 1993 will celebrate their 15 year reunion at Back to SCEGGS Day.

An almost 20 Year Reunion for the Class of 1989 will be celebrated at Back to SCEGGS Day where they will hear join their classmate Claudia Karvan the Guest Speaker at a 1989 table.

A ten year reunion for the Class of 1998 will be held on Saturday 6th September. The evening will start at 6pm with champagne, nibbles and tour of the School then continue on at Forrester Hotel Surry Hills.
Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of SCEGGS Old Girls' Union Inc. which will be held on Saturday 26th July, 2008 at 10:30am in the School Dining Room.

Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by Friday 18th July, 2008. Nominations to be sent to:
Mrs Denise Sneddon, President Old Girls' Union 215 Forbes Street, Darlinghurst 2010.

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 Friday 18th July, 2008.

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. Motion to change section 18.5 of the Constitution from “Any 12 members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee” to any 10 members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee
8. Motion to increase the Life Membership of the Old Girls’ Union to $275