IMPORTANT DIARY DATE FOR SCEGGS OLD GIRLS
BACK TO SCEGGS DAY 2011

Saturday 23rd July

Enjoy lunch in the SCEGGS Great Hall with our special Guest Speaker Blanche d’Alpuget (1960) who will be sharing stories of her extraordinary career and life.

Come and join us for what promises to be a very special day at SCEGGS.

There will be an opportunity to tour the school and hear about the first stage of the Joan Freeman Science Art & Technology Centre.

Keep an eye out for your invitation but for early bookings and enquiries please contact:

Marilyn Cook  Alumni Relations
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THE OLD GIRLS’ UNION COMMITTEE

Patron:  Ms Jenny Allum
          Honorary Member of the Old Girls’ Union
President: Judy Caldwell (ROGAN 1962)
Treasurer: Jessica SINGER (1984)
Secretary: Kaye Morrison (MAHLER 1964)
Vice Presidents: Joy Bull (ELLIS 1965),
          Marilyn Cook (BROWN 1965)
          Denise Sneddon (HESTELOW 1965)
Honorary Life
          Vice President: Rosemary HUMPHREY (1973)

OLD GIRLS’ NOMINEES
ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

Sharon Cook (BARTLETT 1976)
          Chair of the School Board
Elizabeth BUTCHER (1955)
Committee: Catherine Barracough
          (Caldwell 1986)
Pamela Coul (HALL 1953)
Joy Crowther (MULLINS 1955)
Beverley EVERETT-MCLEAN
          (1954)
Margaret Herman (MACLAY 1962)
Camilla Sheridan (HOMER 1965)
Rosalind Blair (CARPENTER 1962)
Kirsty CAMPBELL (1984)
Gabby Porteous (THOMAS 1984)
Gillian Rozenberg (LIVERMORE 1961)
Joanne WHITEMAN (1979)
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          Alumni Relations
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Her first job after returning from Oxford was in the State Library – about the pinnacle
to which a woman could
aspire in those days of limited
occupations for women. One
cannot regret the passing of
such times.

I think Grace was a real
Sceggs girl – a person who
wanted to live life to the full, to
take advantage of opportunities
given to her, and to contribute to
student life too. To do the best
she could with the talents she
was given. And I want that for
each of you girls here tonight.

The Sceggs Trust and the
P and F have been raising money
for our new Scholarship Fund,
and we have enough money
in that now to create a new
Scholarship for 2012, which
we are going to call the Grace
Newbery Scholarship. A half
scholarship, means tested, for
a student who, we think, brings
a diversity to our school and
has something to contribute –
whatever that might be. I don’t
see the successful recipient of
these scholarships as necessarily
"the best" at something, except
perhaps in being themselves
and striving for the highest they
can reach. There will be more
such Scholarships each year, and
my thought at this stage is that
they will be named after other
leading Old Girls. Those women
bring enduring values of this
school which are worth noting
and celebrating and I want all
our girls, Scholarship holders and
others, to strive to make the best
of their potential as the great
role models of the past did.

I would particularly like
to thank the Trust, for their
support in backing this vision
for Sceggs, for valuing diversity
as much as we always have, and
working hard to achieve that in
practical terms.

Jenny Allum
Head of School

FROM
THE HEAD
OF THE
SCHOOL

The following is part of the text
of my Speech Night Speech from
2010. I think the Grace Newbery
story is such an inspiring and
interesting one that I wanted to
share it with you all. And I think
many of you might be interested
in the additional scholarships
which we are going to offer at
SCEGGS. So I hope you enjoy
this story.

Jenny Allum
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Tonight, I wanted to tell
you a story – about one of our
Old Girls, Grace Newbery from
the Class of 1912. She was at
SCEGGS from 1909 to 1912 as a
Boarder. That is nearly exactly
100 years ago – 100 years ago
she would have been in about
Year 9. She won many prizes at
SCEGGS including Dux in both
1911 and 1912, as well as prizes
for music, tennis and boating!
She appeared in a dramatic
production at SCEGGS of The
Trachiniae of Sophocles. An
account in Lux says: The play was preceded by a
scene in the Original Greek, the
part of Queen Deianeira being
taken by Grace Newbery...

She spoke slowly, with very
clear enunciation, making her
voice carry to every part of the
hall; the appreciation of the
audience was shown by special
requests being made both nights
for a repetition of the scene...

She was, in my opinion, a
great “all-rounder” – good
academically, in her co-curricular
activities; as a person. She
enjoyed contributing to the
student activities open to her –
Music, Drama, Sport. It seems to
me that she was an interesting
person, thoughtful, able to
express her ideas clearly. After
SCEGGS, Grace went to Women’s
College to study Classics at
Sydney University. She was
active in student affairs, and
also secretary of the Sydney
University Women’s Sports
Association. She was the only
first class honours in her year
in Classics. She later went to
Oxford to study, and gained two
degrees there. (Women were
only entitled to be awarded full
degrees from Oxford in 1920.)
It must have taken real courage
and commitment to travel all
that way to Oxford then.

...and the Old Girls showed their
appreciation by presenting her
with a bouquet of sweet peas...

Her first job after returning
from Oxford was in the State
Library – about the pinnacle
to which a woman could
aspire in those days of limited
occupations for women. One
cannot regret the passing of
such times.

I think Grace was a real
SCEGGS girl – a person who
wanted to live life to the full, to
take advantage of opportunities
given to her, and to contribute to
student life too. To do the best
she could with the talents she
was given. And I want that for
each of you girls here tonight.

The Sceggs Trust and the
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working hard to achieve that in
practical terms.

Jenny Allum

Grace (middle) performing in The Trachiniae of Sophocles

Grace (middle) performing in The Trachiniae of Sophocles
At this meeting the following Members were elected to the Committee of the SCEGGS OGU:

- Catherine Barraclough, Rosalind Blair, Joy Bull, Elizabeth Butcher, Judy Caldwell, Kirsty Campbell, Marilyn Cook, Sharon Cook, Pam Coulth, Joy Crowther, Beverley Everett-McQueen, Margaret Herman, Kaye Morrisson, Gabrielle Porteous, Gillian Rozenberg, Camilla Sheridan, Denise Sneddon and Joanne Whiteman.

The Office Bearers for 2010/2011 were elected at the August Meeting of the OGU Committee and are listed below:

- **President**
  - Judy Caldwell (ROGAN 1962)
  - Vice President
  - Joy Bull (ELLIS 1965)
  - Marilyn Cook (BROWN 1965)
  - Denise Sneddon (HESTEWOL 1965)

- **Treasurer**

- **Secretary**
  - Kaye Morrison (MAHLER 1964)

- **Public Officer**
  - Marilyn Cook (BROWN 1965)

In addition to meeting four times per year, the OGU participates in various School events such as \_helping at Assent Day and the SCEGGS Fair, participating in SPAN events and contributing to prizes awarded at Speech Night. The OGU Committee was delighted to receive letters of thanks from the Year 12 girls who received prizes at Speech Night in 2010. The girls expressed immense appreciation for a SCEGGS education and the encouragement and guidance they received from their teachers at SCEGGS.

At the end of the year, OGU Badges were handed out by the President, Judy Caldwell to the Year 12 girls at their final assembly. The first official event in 2011 for the new Old Girls was the Year 13 cocktail party hosted by the OGU. It was a very successful evening with about 70 girls attending as well as some staff.

During the past year, the SCEGGS OGU Committee has met on August 10, October 19, December 1, February 22 and May 3. Agenda items include reports from Head of School Jenny Allum, Marilyn Cook, Alumni Relations Coordinator and Gaby Porteous SCEGGS OGU representative on the NSW National Council of Women.

The SCEGGS Old Girls’ Union includes Old Girls from the SCEGGS Branch Schools of Moss Vale, Wollongong (Gleniffer Brae) and Redlands. On Sunday, July 18, SCEGGS Old Girls and friends gathered at Gleniffer Brae to celebrate the launch of Marcia Cameron’s book \_The School on the Hill: SCEGGS Gleniffer Brae 1955-1975\_.

On Sunday August 15, Old Girls gathered inOrange at the home of Ellen Fisher (YOUNG 1965) and her husband Charlie where they were treated to a performance by the SCEGGS Concert Band followed by a delicious lunch. On Sunday October 17, a Champagne High Tea was held for Old Girls and friends in the beautiful grounds of Rathven House courtesy of Robin Boin (CRIPPS 1951) and her husband Terry. Again, guests were treated to a musical performance by current SCEGGS girls.

Reunions were also held in Canberra on Friday September 24 and in Newcastle on Tuesday March 1. Later in the year, on Saturday 5th November a lunch will be held at the home of Judy Caldwell (ROGAN 1962) and her husband Keith at Gloucester.

After the December Meeting, the OGU Committee hosted an informal gathering for members of the School Board and Senior Staff, prior to attending the Festival of Lessons and Carols in the SCEGGS Great Hall. It is a great way to celebrate the Advent Season together and to give thanks to God for another great SCEGGS year.

Ascension Day is always a special occasion for Old Girls who left School 50 years ago, or more. On Thursday June 2, Old Girls gathered for a Chapel Service followed by luncheon in the SCEGGS Great Hall. Success may be measured by the noise level of laughter and conversation as stories are told (and retold) and friendships renewed.

Year Reunions and District Reunions continue to be joyful occasions for celebration and remembering.

In the latter part of 2010, Reunions were celebrated by the Class of 1960 (50 years); 70 (40 years); 80 (30 years); 90 (20 years) and 2004 (10 years). Reunions have been planned in 2011 for the classes of 1961, 71, 81 and 2001 and 2006.

District Reunions have included the districts of Melbourne, Brisbane, Southern Districts, Newcastle and Districts and Perth.

The OGU Committee wishes to thank our Head of School Jenny Allum for her regular attendance at OGU Meetings and Functions, her reports on life in the SCEGGS community and her enthusiastic support and encouragement. Thanks also to so many others who support the SCEGGS Old Girls, including Rosemary Humphreys (1973 School Coordinator) Carrol Evans (Registrar), Joy England (Director of Development), Prue Heath (Archivist) Angela Crowther (Assistant to the Development and Alumni Office), Kristy Ahearn (Accountant), and Sue Pyenbug (Business Manager) and Selina who caters superbly for the OGU Committee Lunch and Evening Meetings. Also, thanks to Marilyn Cook who works so effectively and efficiently in her role as Alumni Relations Coordinator. And thanks, of course, to all the members of the Old Girls’ Committee who give of their time and skills to contribute to a cohesive Committee that effectively and joyfully supports the goals of the SCEGGS Old Girls’ Union.

Coming events are the annual ‘Back to SCEGGS Day’ which will be held in the Great Hall on Saturday, July 23 with Blanche d’Alpuget as the Guest Speaker, and the SCEGGS Fair on Sunday, August 21. Please consider supporting the long tradition of Old Girls who, with support from some husbands, serve on the Devonshire Tea stall and the memorabilia stall.

It is a great privilege and joy to be a SCEGGS Old Girl and we look forward to future events at the School, and at other venues, where Old Girls may continue to enjoy those special relations we treasure with the SCEGGS community.
A SHORT HISTORY OF FUNDRAISING AT SCEGGGS

With those words the founding headmistress, Miss Edith Badham, first started fundraising for a number of different projects for SCEGGGS. Her vision to have a hospital away from the main building was the first of many building projects undertaken in the last 100 years which have been energetically and willingly supported by the Old Girls. In the early 1900s, Old Girls made financial gifts but could also forward “Stamps” in lieu of cash and they would be exchanged by the Post Office for a cash amount of the same value. Other fundraising efforts in the 1900s included a series of lectures on topics such as: Miss Grey “On the Value of Culture in Foreign Travel” Mrs Hodges “A Most Entertaining Lecture on the Canary Islands” Miss Badham “On Voltaire” The Rev. Canon Hey Sharp “A sketch of Huxley’s Life.”

A range of lectures to appeal to a wide audience! The building of the hospital commenced in 1907 and the opening was celebrated with a “Pageant and Fancy Fair” which raised more funds for the hospital.

The Old Girls also established an annual appeal in order to provide a prize to current girls from the Old Girls. The first Old Girls’ Prize was awarded in 1903 to Ettie Wallach for English Literature. Prizes from the Old Girls’ Union continue to be presented at the Annual Speech Night and are a very practical and affectionate way of demonstrating the interest of the Old Girls in the present girls.

In 1913, Miss Badham talked about her desire for an endowment fund to enable girls who couldn’t afford the fees to attend SCEGGGS. In January 1914, Ruth Amos took up Miss Badham’s proposal for an endowment and aimed to raise £500 for an Old Girls’ Scholarship. By April, £49 had been raised. A list of names of donors and amount of donations was published in Lux. By July, £80/13/6 had been raised. An Old Girl suggested that monies could be paid over a number of years, a “certain sum each year until the full amount has been paid”.

By October 1914, World War I had started and for the following years until the end of the turbulent period, the Old Girls turned their attention and efforts to fundraising for the War through the establishment of a School Patriotic Fund. Funds were raised for, among others, Belgian Women and Children, Field hospitals, the Soldiers’ Tobacco Fund and the Missions. In 1916, a course of lectures in First Aid, Domestic Sick Nursing and Sick-room Cookery were all held at School with the proceeds being given to the War Chest.

In 1918, the Old Girls’ Committee resolved to collect money to endow a bed at Graythwaite Hospital for permanently incapacitated soldiers. Later on a cot fund was established at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children (now Weston Children’s Hospital) which continues to be supported by the Old Girls today.

Once fundraising for the war effort ended, the Old Girls’ Union turned their attention back to fundraising for Scholarships and Bursaries. In addition, in 1920 the Old Girls resolved to raise funds to build the Chapel at SCEGGGS, Miss Badham’s greatest wish. In September, a concert was held to start the fundraising which was supported by the Old Girls, and those who were unable to attend sent donations. It was recognised that it would take some years to raise a considerable sum of money but they did it!

Fundraising for Scholarships and Bursaries continued and the first girl to be awarded an Old Girls’ Union Scholarship in 1921, was Violet Norwood Jones, the orphaned daughter of an Old Girl, Lily Norwood Jones (BUBB 1904): “We offer our congratulations to Violet Norwood Jones (daughter of Lily Bubb), the first participator of our Bursary fund. Violet has been most successful in her school work winning several prizes. We hope she will continue her good work.” (OGU Committee.)

In later years, other fundraisers were undertaken to assist with the Dorothy Wilkinson Memorial Library and the swimming pool. An example of one such fundraiser was the Trocadero ball (one of many popular balls where SCEGGGS girls made their “debut”) held annually to raise money for a range of projects for SCEGGGS.

New branches of the OGU were formed in Queensland (1955) and Victoria (1959), and they in turn gave prizes for Speech Day. The Canberra branch was formed in 1960.

In 1964, the whole SCEGGGS community was approached to raise funds for a new building. Through a variety of dances, balls and open days the Old Girls rose to the challenge. “For the Old Girls’ Union, the past year has been different from most years. For the first time in the history of the School, Old Girls have been asked to work for and to give to our School in a combined effort to raise £75,000 for a new building. With the parents, friends of the School and Old Girls the response has been extremely good and it is very satisfying to learn of the numbers of Old Girls who have given or promised to give over a period of five years.”

We owe much to the many Old Girls who volunteered to be members of the Appeal Committee which met every week at the School... They worked very hard, it was not always easy, but interesting and at many times enjoyable.” Dorothy Bremner (SHIPLEY 1937) President OGU.

In the 1970s the Old Girls were invaluable in their support to save SCEGGGS. In danger of closing, SCEGGGS Old Girls and others in the community worked extraordinarily hard with passion and vigour to save their beloved School. Once again, they did it!

History shows that Old Girls have been instrumental in assisting with funds since the early 1900s and it is a testament to their love of the School that they have continued to support the more recent buildings: the Diana Bowman Performing Arts Centre, the Barbara Chisholm Primary School, Wilkinson Senior Study Centre and the Joan Freeman Science, Art and Technology Centre as well as continuing to support the Old Girls’ Union prizes, the Old Girls’ Union Scholarship and the SCEGGGS Scholarship Fund.

Thank you to all Old Girls for your unstinting and generous support for the School which is being continued through the “Shining Light” Program. It is, without doubt, the generosity of past generations of Old Girls which has made possible the School that SCEGGGS is today.

“Our Union has always been a happy and strong association.” Dorothy Bremner (SHIPLEY 1937) President OGU.

Joy England
Director of Development

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“When we meet, I wish to discuss with you all a scheme – not a bazaar – for trying to collect some money for a hospital room for the school, please do not let this intimation frighten you away.”

Miss Badham 1905
Reports & Reunions

Sceggs Southern Districts Ogu 2011 Report

A delightful, happy and chatty group of Old Girls gathered for our Annual Luncheon in Canberra on Friday, 24th September 2010. We were very happy to welcome Marilyn Cook and her husband, Constantine Tilacos, along with Joy England from Sceggs.

Everyone was interested to hear about the “Back to Sceggs Day” on Friday, 23rd July when I was presented with my Barham Fellows badge by Margaret Whitlam (Dovey 1937). Along with photos, and recalling my school-day memories I remarked that although the School has become ‘State of the Art’, it still has a respectful aura about it, combining the old with the new and remains true to its history and proud heritage. The link remains, and any Old Girl who walks through the Sceggs Green Gate would still cherish that feeling.

We concluded the luncheon with the School Song and presented a cheque to the School for the Scholarship Fund.

We are really looking forward to our tour in April of The National Arboretum in Canberra which is still under construction and is a work in progress. This will be followed by a luncheon on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. It should be an interesting and delightful day.

Our Annual Luncheon and AGM this year will be held on Saturday, 24th September. We do hope more Old Girls will be able to attend who have otherwise been restricted due to work commitments.

Canberra comes to life in September with Floriade, National Gallery exhibitions and other events across the city. Perhaps some Old Girls may consider this and attend our Saturday luncheon on the 24th as well. Everyone is most welcome. Marilyn Cook would be more than happy to give you further information.

Once again a delightful lunch to celebrate Foundation Day was held at the R.A.C.V. City Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne on 17th July 2010. The pleasant hours finished with the singing of the School songs, accompanied by Janet Bell (Heath 1955) on the Club’s Grand Piano. As always, Marilyn Cook, our Alumni Relations Coordinator was a welcome guest. She brought with her the latest video of the School for our up-date.

A few weeks before our Luncheon, we attended the Requiem Eucharist at St John’s Toorak, to celebrate the Life of Phillipa Bannister (Pinnock 1950). Phillipa had been one of the most dedicated member of our Branch, serving for many years as Secretary – always caring and thinking of others. Many of us have been recipients of her kindness and concern. We are very happy that Colin, Phillipa’s husband, wishes to continue his association with us. He has many friends amongst us.

We were delighted to welcome Marilyn Cook and Joy England, who travelled up to Newcastle for the day to be with us and we always enjoy hearing the latest news of Sceggs.

Newcastle Hunter Central & North Coast District Branch Reports

Our 11th Old Girls’ Luncheon was held on Tuesday, 1st March in the Waterboard Room at Customs House Hotel on the waterfront in Newcastle.

This year we welcomed 23 guests and enjoyed a leisurely lunch with our local Hunter Valley Wines.

Our luncheon is a wonderful way for Old Girls in our area to catch up with friends and to make new friends in this region.

Customs House Hotel is a very convenient location with on-site parking, and it is across the road from the Newcastle train station.

We were delighted to welcome Marilyn Cook and Joy England, who travelled up to Newcastle for the day to be with us and we always enjoy hearing the latest news of Sceggs.

Newcastle Luncheon

Melbourne Branch Report

Old Girls travelled from Barrington, Dunagig, Salamander Bay, Windells Downs, Newcastle, Pretty Beach, Berkeley Vale, Barrington, Donnels Bay, Fishing Point and Sydney to be with us.

We were pleased to welcome those girls and their partners who have not attended before and look forward to seeing them again next year.

We are looking forward to Ascension Day and to “Back to Sceggs Day” later on in the year.

If you have recently moved to live in our area, do let Marilyn Cook know your new address so that you can receive an invitation to our next luncheon at Customs House Hotel on Saturday, 3rd March 2012.

Meg Scott (Myers 1957)

Melbourne Branch Report

Once again a delightful lunch to celebrate Foundation Day was held at the R.A.C.V. City Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne on 17th November 2010, at the home of Roz and Rob Milne (Nuttall 1963) was again a very happy affair. The Milne’s are excellent hosts and make everyone feel very welcome.

Our Foundation Day Luncheon will be held at the R.A.C.V. City Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne, on Saturday, 16th July 2011 at 12pm. Invitations will be sent out by the School in Sydney to all Old Girls whose addresses are known.

If you have recently moved to live in our area, do let Marilyn Cook know your new address so that you can receive an invitation to our next luncheon at Customs House Hotel on Saturday, 3rd March 2012.

Meg Scott (Myers 1957)
A sunny but rather chilly day in August saw Jenny Allum join over 50 Old Girls and partners for lunch at Ellen and Charlie Fisher’s (YOUNG 1965) lovely home, “Rosemont”. A highlight of the day was being entertained by the SCEGGs Combined Band in the beautiful garden. The SCEGGs Music Department had taken the girls (Years 7 to 12) to Dubbo to compete in the NSW Regional Bands’ Festival where they received a Silver Award in their section. Jenny shared with the guests the latest achievements and activities at SCEGGs and thanked Ellen and Charlie for generously opening up their home to Old Girls. It is a wonderful opportunity for those who live in the surrounding rural areas who can’t always come to events at SCEGGs.

QUEENSLAND BRANCH REPORT

Report on the Annual General Meeting and Luncheon held at Tattersall’s Club, Brisbane on Saturday, 31st July 2010.

Welcome to all Old Girls and visitors. A warm welcome to Penny Campbell-Wilson (GREEN 1959) after many years living in North Queensland. Thank you to Ann Warboys, President of SCEGGs Moss Vale Old Girls, for travelling from Grafton, NSW to be with us and to all Old Girls who have travelled from the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Warwick. I apologise if I have missed anyone. I would like to thank the School for their interest in the Qld Branch and thanks also to Marilyn Cook, SCEGGs Alumni Relations, whose presentation and DVD of the proposed extensions to the School were appreciated by all present. It is always a pleasure to have Marilyn visit with us.

Election of officers took place as follows:

President
Sandy Svensen (CHARLES 1963)
Phone (07) 3353 2276

Vice President
Robin Wright
Phone (07) 3289 4024

Secretary
Lucy Crowley (WOOD 1952)
Phone (07) 4661 9992

Treasurer
Annette Marshall (WILKINSON 1965)
Phone (07) 5442 2361

Thank-you to the Committee for their continuing support. Due to the nature of our organization, the tasks of the office bearers are not onerous and I would welcome any Old Girls who would like to take a position on the Committee.

The 2011 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon will be held at Tattersall’s Club, Tattersall’s Arcade, Queen Street Mall, Brisbane on Saturday, 30th July at 11.30 am. All Old Girls and visitors will be warmly welcomed. Hope to see you there. Sandy Svensen (CHARLES 1963) President
50-YEAR REUNION
CLASS OF 1960

After much anticipation and planning, girls from all over Australia converged on the Green Gate (a bit disappointed that the real Green Gate was no longer there) in Forbes Street, Darlinghurst. The 50-year reunion was a very special occasion. As we put on our glasses to read each other’s name tags and peered into each other’s faces, we were able to recognise the young girls we were 50 years ago when we last were together. I did have an almost overwhelming desire to pull the rope and ring the School bell but I resisted. So much of the School had changed and developed but the Chapel, which was to me and many others, the heart of the School, had changed very little. It brought memories of Miss Spencer, her white bun bobbing, as she beat time on the end of the choir stall as we practiced hard for Morning Chapel and even harder for Open Services. The pride we felt when we graduated from “behind the organ” to actually sit in the choir stalls. The hours of our reunion could have been days as we tried to talk meaningfully to each other. I heard lots of stories but I know I’ve forgotten as many as I’ve remembered. In the end does that really matter? It was great to recognise each other with an old nickname (no one but an old SCEGGS girl calls me “Sinny” any more), and to feel the bond that bound us together by the fact that we spent perhaps the most formative years of our lives in the same surroundings.

There were only about six of us left at the Green Gate as the rain fell and we remembered we hadn’t sung the School Song. So we six gave a great rendition of Girls of the Grammar School and we parted maybe to gather again in five to ten years’ time.

Thanks to all who made this possible and let’s keep our lights shining as long as we can. ♥
Margaret Dekkers (SINCLAIR 1960)

30-YEAR REUNION - CLASS OF 1961

Thirty four girls from the Class of 1961 held a celebratory Luncheon for their 30th reunion on April 2nd at Neutral Bay, in the beautiful waterfront home of Helen (WADDINGTON) and her husband Colin. This occasion involved many months of planning by Helen (WADDINGTON), Dianne (EMERSON) and Maryellen Dufy (WATSON). The assistance throughout this process by Marilyn Cook, Alumni Relations, was invaluable and very much appreciated by one and all.

We were thrilled to have Jenny Allum and her husband join us; Jenny spoke about SCEGGS today and made a toast to the Class of ’61. On a sad note, Sue (TREVOR) couldn’t be with us. Sue spoke about SCEGGS today.

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We were thrilled to have Jenny Allum and her husband join us; Jenny spoke about SCEGGS today and made a toast to the Class of ’61. On a sad note, Sue (TREVOR) couldn’t be with us. Sue spoke about SCEGGS today.

On Saturday 6 November 2010, a very large and very noisy group of ex-students reunited at SCEGGS for a riotous luncheon.

About 40 from the class of about 100 were able to find time in their very busy lives to relive memories of their School days. It may be that time erases the bad memories but the majority of the stories were of friendship and adventure. There were many tales which had remained secret until that Saturday and many stories of naughtiness which revealed that it was not at all boring at SCEGGS in the 1960s.

There were girls (women) who had not been able to make previous reunions and others who had come to every one. There were girls who had survived natural disasters, illness and the death of loved ones. There were doctors, lawyers, artists, writers, actors but, more importantly, mothers, sisters, wives and even a few grandmothers.

Every time a group of students gets together it reinforces the very strong bonds which bind “Old Girls” of SCEGGS. There were many girls there whose friendships with the girls with whom they shared their teenage years were still as strong as ever.

Everyone was grateful for the wonderful organisation provided by Marilyn Cook and her staff for the opportunity to meet and talk over old times and there were heartfelt promises to keep in touch and meet again – not in ten years but much sooner.

Deborah Aitken (VINE-HALL 1970)

CLASS OF 1970
40-YEAR REUNION

On Saturday 6 November 2010, a very large and very noisy group of ex-students reunited at SCEGGS for a riotous luncheon. About 40 from the class of about 100 were able to find time in their very busy lives to relive memories of their School days. It may be that time erases the bad memories but the majority of the stories were of friendship and adventure. There were many tales which had remained secret until that Saturday and many stories of naughtiness which revealed that it was not at all boring at SCEGGS in the 1960s.

There were girls (women) who had not been able to make previous reunions and others who had come to every one. There were girls who had survived natural disasters, illness and the death of loved ones. There were doctors, lawyers, artists, writers, actors but, more importantly, mothers, sisters, wives and even a few grandmothers.

Every time a group of students gets together it reinforces the very strong bonds which bind “Old Girls” of SCEGGS. There were many girls there whose friendships with the girls with whom they shared their teenage years were still as strong as ever.

Everyone was grateful for the wonderful organisation provided by Marilyn Cook and her staff for the opportunity to meet and talk over old times and there were heartfelt promises to keep in touch and meet again – not in ten years but much sooner.

Deborah Aitken (VINE-HALL 1970)

BACK TO SCEGGS DAY 2010

The occasion started with the well-attended Annual General Meeting of the Old Girls’ Union. Having dispatched the formalities with the usual effortless efficiency, the real business of the evening commenced with a tour of the School, escorted by current students, followed by drinks and canapés in the courtyard, serenaded by the School Band. The two-course meal was served in the Dining Room, which is no doubt familiar to many as the former Boarders’ dining room and now as the venue for the famous Devonshire Teas served by the Old Girls at the Festival on Forbes. The entertainment continued with a screening of a film made by current students exploring Life in the Day of a SCEGGS Girl, and the opportunity to catch up and share many jokes and memories rounded off the evening.

Jessica SINGER (1984)
The Class of 1980 celebrated their 30-year reunion on Saturday 28th August.

About 50 girls gathered in the Courtyard for champagne and nibbles and then continued the celebration over lunch in the School Dining Room.

The day was a great success with plans to get together again in the near future.

It was the questions asked by all, “Where has the time gone?”. It is unfathomable to think that the Class of 1990 had completed our years at SCEGGS 20 years ago. Although the time had passed the connections had not. Instead of speaking of homework, fashion, sports activities and social events, the conversation now was our lives, family stories, careers and the memories of our days at school.

We commenced our evening with drinks and canapés in the Courtyard near the Green Door and upon entering the School, I felt the years melt away and a flashback of my childhood came rushing back with a sea of familiar faces and the reunited feeling you had upon returning from School Holidays.

Dinner was held at Sienna Marina in Woolloomooloo which was an enjoyable meal shared with old friends. Nicolle BRADFORD, who came from New York, took us back in time with stories and memories of our time shared. She also spoke of people who were unable to attend and the people who have passed away. A full range of emotions were felt by all.

It was an unforgettable evening and one that will live in my memory for years to come. I would like to thank Jenny Allum, whose presence was missed due to ill health, Marilyn Cook for all her assistance and direction in organising the function and all who attended to make the evening a night to remember. ♥

Paulette SARROFF (1990)

The Class of 2000 had an absolute hoot at their 10-year reunion.

Around 50 of us gathered for a catch up at the end of last year. We began chit-chatting over champagne and nibbles behind the Green Gate.

There were giggles aplenty and we shared stories from the last ten years. So many changes in individual lives, but as a group our dynamics had not really changed that much. At around 7pm we jumped on a bus and headed down to a studio in Surry Hills to enjoy more food, drinks, music, city views and, of course, more talking! Unfortunately not everyone from the year could make the Reunion due to work commitments and overseas travel, but those who could attend were enjoying the celebration till the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Thanks to all who made it a merry night! ♥

Jess COOK (2000)

Pianoforte

Marilyn Cook was delighted when Helen Baker (TAYLOR 1956) and her sister Patricia Magnussen (TAYLOR 1961) presented her with their mother’s Mary Taylor (PARKMAN 1932) Pianoforte Certificate. Mary attended SCEGGS as a Boarder from 1924 to 1932.

This very special Certificate will be kept in the Archives. Many Old Girls will remember Miss Horricks and Spencer and the rich musical legacy they left SCEGGS. ♥
David Stuart Clarke was the first Chair of the Board of Directors of SCEGGs Darlinghurst Limited, newly formed after the financial crisis of 1976. David died on 8th April 2011, aged 69, of cancer.

He commenced the appointment as Chair at SCEGGs on 8th December 1976 and continued until 30th April 1979. He was 34 at that time and even then was a big figure in financial circles in Sydney and beyond. He gave the School, wounded by poor financial decisions, theft, the threat of closure and consequent loss of students, the early recognition it needed in its efforts to re-establish. He was also there to support and endorse the mammoth effort of saving the School by Old Girls, parents, grandparents, staff, students, many other independent schools and friends of the School.

David was the husband of prominent Old Girl Margaret Partridge (1952 to 1963), a Catherine Selby Prize winner. Margaret was among the powerhouse of Old Girls who played such a vital part in saving SCEGGs. Margaret’s parents, Jack and Mary, were also significant in the campaign. Margaret continues to be active in, and a great supporter of, SCEGGs and for some newer reasons.

Barbara Chisholm was Head of School when, in September 1976, the Anglican Church communicated to the SCEGGs community that the School was to close. Barbara planned to retire at the end of that year after a great record of 30 years. However, Barbara stayed on for the ‘Save SCEGGs’ Campaign, playing a major part and deferring her retirement until the new Board, with David as Chair, found and appointed Diana Bowman as the new Head in January 1978. Diana’s success is well known to us all.

David and Diana worked together for 16 months. When the School was secure David stepped down for others to build on.

David was born in Sydney in January 1942. He attended Knox Grammar School, Sydney University, Harvard Business School for an MBA and by 1971 was Chief Executive of Hill Samuel Australia. In 1985 he and others formed Macquarie Bank from the separation of Hill Samuel from the UK parent. As Executive Chair he built Macquarie to become a major international bank. In 1992 he was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to business and the community. These services included significant work for the Salvation Army, Children’s Cancer Institute, Opera Australia, RAS Council and Rugby Union. Over one-thousand people attended David’s Memorial Service at The Great Hall at Sydney University on 2nd May, a huge tribute to the man. The School was represented by Jenny Allum and others.

David was married to Margaret from 1964 until the mid Nineties. They have two sons, Tim and Angus. Tim is married to Claudine Durack and they have two daughters at SCEGGs Primary in Years 6 and 3, so the Clarke and Partridge genes are still with us. Angus is married to Lucy Simmonds. They have two sons and live in London. Margaret is a proud grandmother of four as, of course, was David a proud grandfather.

There was a tremendous amount of work done, difficult decisions and sacrifices made by many people to save the School from ignominious closure. They, including many Old Girls, should be remembered too but this is not about them for the moment. This is to remember David Stuart Clarke for being there for us at the right time and commencing a new era for the school. SCEGGs now flourishes at the very top with the best leadership, governance and education for girls.

Thank you, David. *(By Sam Cullen AM)*

Sam Cullen
Honorary Member of the Old Girls’ Union 1992.

TO REMEMBER DAVID CLARKE

I was so pleased when my friend Sam Cullen agreed to make a request for him to write this tribute to David for the Old Girls’ Union Newsletter. Who better than the second Chair of the SCEGGs Darlinghurst Ltd Board to write about the first? As you can see from this article, David made such a significant contribution to the School at a critical time in its history. Sam, too, has made a significant contribution as Chair of the Board for 15 years (and Member for 17 years). Member of the Order of Australia for his services to SCEGGs, Barham Fellow, Honorary Member of the Old Girls’ Union, Sam and Jean are also the proud grandparents of Sophie and Grace Stuart-Jones, in Year 6 and Year 5 in our Primary School. Thank you, Sam.

Jenny Allum

**The Golden Day**

In April this year I’m publishing a novel called The Golden Day. It’s the story of a group of primary school girls whose teacher bizarrely goes missing on a school excursion – a kind of urban Picnic at Hanging Rock in reverse.

Ursula Dubosarsky (COLEMAN 1978)

It’s told essentially from the point of view of the eleven little girls, who spend their days under the protection of almost entirely female, private educational institution in inner-city Sydney in the late 1960s, at a time of overwhelming social changes both embraced and rejected by the various adults about them.

The reason I’m drawing attention to the book here is that I want to be clear about something, so that misunderstandings can be avoided! The Golden Day, despite its setting, is not an Old Girl’s memoir. I’m not a writer that disguises real life as fiction. None of the events that occur in the story ever happened, nor to anyone else. I was not even at SCEGGs in primary school in the 1960s – I didn’t arrive until Year 7 in 1973.

The Girls and the teacher in The Golden Day are not in any way portraits of real people, but strange mirror images of myself, my imagination and mostly sheer imagination. The missing teacher, Miss Renshaw, is a complete figment.

And yet... especially for readers who were at SCEGGs in the 1960s and 70s, I think there will be strong moments of recognition. Memories of SCEGGs are inextricably linked with its inner-city location, in contrast to the more respectable suburban surroundings of other Sydney private schools. In the 60s and 70s this was particularly the case – Darlinghurst then was not remotely for professional people with mortgages and an interest in Victorian architecture. It was famous for crime, corruption, poverty, prostitution, political controversy and counter-culture.

Here’s an evocative description of the area which I found on a blog devoted to memories of Sydney: “In the late ’60s Oxford Street became akin to Haight-Ashbury with hippies wandering up and down blues and jug band music drifting from the numerous wine bars and pubs. One could detect the scent of stained leather wafting from Frank’s Cafe, Indian clothing, tinkelets and paraphernalia were displayed for purchase in import stores...” *

This is the world of The Golden Day. Typically, we girls got off the bus at Taylor Square in our blue uniforms and blue bags, and made our way down Forbes Street, past the courthouse, the old gool, the Christian Science Reading Room, and the various shops or otherwise semi-conscious inhabitants of equally semi-derelict terraces, till we reached the safety of the Green Gate.

As I say, I did not attend primary school at SCEGGs, but arrived in Year 7 in 1973. In those days the primary school was tiny and I thought it was fascinating, not at all like the state primary schools I’d come from. To my 11-year-old eyes it seemed a mere handful of little girls trailing after their teacher, their shiny hair tied up with in equally shiny ribbons and all valiantly learning to play the violin. I think the seed of The Golden Day began to grow then, at least in my unconscious mind. It got a further push some years later when I saw Charles Blackman’s wonderful Floating Schoolgirl in the National Gallery in Canberra. It’s a painting of a schoolgirl in hat and tunic floating above the city in the darkness – the flying child may be frightened, but she’s also brimming with the joy of a secret life.

It was a different world in the 1960s, and SCEGGs, too, was a different place. Perhaps the novel can best be described as a creatively reimagined version of SCEGGs, a response to the experience of School, like a dream thirty years later. I feel relieved somehow to have written it. It’s a kind of a tribute, to the girls, the teachers, the parents, and the School itself and whatever makes up a School – stone, glass, wood, trees, paths, clouds of memories and the sounds of the footsteps of the future.

In The Golden Day the little girls write better, respond, exchange and grow – and then they’re gone, forever. This element of the story. It’s not remotely autobiographical! But as I say, you can take it from me – all of our teachers came home safe and sound in the end.

Ursula Dubosarsky (COLEMAN 1978) was a keen writer at Allen & Unwin, and has now written over 30 books for children and young adults, winning the NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards. She lives in Sydney with her husband and three children. Her daughter, Maxie, is also an Old Girl (Class of 2003). The Golden Day is published by Allen & Unwin, 2011. *http://a1960scontact-simplyng.blogspot.com/2008/05/taylor-square-photographs.html*
Freda Du Faur was the leading female mountaineer of her generation and the first woman to climb Mt Cook. Standing at 2,228 metres above sea level, Mt Kosciuszko is the highest mountain on mainland Australia. It is located in the Snowy Mountains in the southern section of the Kosciuszko National Park and walking is the only way to reach the summit.

Three groups of women set out early on Saturday morning 4 December 2010, taking different routes up the mountain (and not using the chair lift) and met on the summit at 2pm to celebrate the achievements of Freda and, indeed, to celebrate their own achievement of carrying a full pack (16-21kg) to the summit. The women camped out that night in the wilderness.

The event raised funds for the Australian Himalayan Foundation’s “Schools for the Himalaya” program.

The anniversary climb was led by Di Westaway, the founder of the women’s trek training group, “Wild Women on Top.” Westaway, a successful mountaineer herself, spoke to the women gathered on top of Mt Kosciuszko about Du Faur’s achievements. “Freda Du Faur was a courageous woman who challenged established norms and broke down barriers”, Westaway said. “She was way ahead of her time. She was also an incredible athlete and mountaineer who completed a Grand Traverse of Mt Cook 100 years ago. In addition to being the first woman to achieve this goal, Freda climbed peaks that were not repeated, even by men, until the 1980s. She was remarkable.”

Freda was one of the first students at SCEGGS, attending from 1896-98. She wrote about her mountain climbing adventures for Lux, including a gritty description of her difficult ascent of New Zealand’s third highest peak, Mt Dampier, in March 1912. A former SCEGGS parent, Sally Irwin, has written Du Faur’s life story, Between Heaven and Earth: The Life of a Mountaineer, Freda Du Faur 1882-1935.

Freda lived an unconventional life. When she climbed, she wore a skirt to just below the knee over knickerbockers and long puttees, and she shared a tent with her male guides. This was scandalous at the time. Her life-partner was Muriel Cadogan, who trained at the Dupain Institute of Physical Education in Sydney. The women experienced discrimination and, ultimately, mental health challenges. Freda Du Faur’s achievements as a mountaineer, however, brought her recognition internationally. “I was the first unmarried woman to climb in New Zealand and in consequence I received all the hard knocks,” Du Faur wrote, “until one day when I awoke more or less famous in the mountaineering world, after which I could and did do exactly as seemed to me best.”

On December 3, 2006, a memorial stone made of rock from Mt Cook was placed on her unmarked grave at Manly Cemetery. Jenny Allum attended, representing SCEGGS, and Sally Irwin spoke at the ceremony. A photograph of Freda Du Faur can be seen outside Ms Allum’s office.
Girls at SCEGGS have ‘trod the boards’ in plays and musicals throughout the School’s illustrious history. You might have seen the wonderful photographs from the early 1900s in the Dining Room of those first productions. Greek tragedy figured strongly in the early repertoire!

Inga Scarlett
Head of Drama

From the 1980s co-productions with neighbouring boys’ schools became a regular part of the Drama calendar, enabling our girls to produce a degree of realism in shows, by allowing them to play female roles opposite boys in the male roles. Students from Sydney Grammar School, Cranbrook School, The Scots College and Sydney Boys High School have regularly appeared in our plays and musicals. But the spirit of our girls playing across genders lives on in the wonderful tradition of the House Drama Festival, formerly known as ‘House Play Day’.

SCEGGS Drama has certainly moved on in the 21st century, but the adventurous spirit, creativity and amazing teamwork still characterise the shows we produce. 2011 is an exciting year for Drama events.

Using multi-media is now an integral part of the theatrical work we do at SCEGGS. Archival film footage, animation, projection and live performance was mixed in School Girl, a one night performance in May from an ensemble of performers and film makers. The girls have devised, filmed and edited this performance which looks at the enduring tradition of what it is to be ‘a SCEGGS girl’.

We love to showcase and encourage the work of our talented junior secondary students. An all-girl production of Toad of Toad Hall takes place in Term 3. Students from Years 7 to 9 will recreate the lovable animal characters from A.A. Milne’s adaptation of The Wind in the Willows. This play takes place in the historic St Peter’s Playhouse. Many of you will know that the building has a strong theatrical history: Patrick White’s first play was performed in what is now our Black Box Theatre, below the main space. Many of Sydney’s established actors and directors had their early stage experience in the ABC’s Studio 228 or in the Crossroads Theatre, both previous incarnations of the Playhouse. There are no doubt many theatrical “ghosts” who inhabit our wonderful space!

The two headline acts of 2011 will truly showcase just how far SCEGGS Drama has moved with the times, providing so many amazing opportunities for our girls to work in exciting professional theatre spaces with talented theatre professionals to mentor them.

In Term 2, Stephen Sondheim’s Into the Woods, a dark and disturbing fractured fairytale, will be performed in association with Sydney Grammar and Newington at the Seymour Centre. How fitting it is to return to the work of Sondheim – in 1985 SCEGGS showed great innovation by staging Stephen Sondheim’s complex and not often performed musical, Merrily We Roll Along with Cranbrook. Sally Dominguez (COLEMAN 1987), starred in the leading role.

Musicals have always been popular, allowing the girls the opportunity to showcase acting, singing and dancing skills. One of our memorable musicals was staged in 1984. SCEGGS combined with Sydney Boys High School to perform Cole Porter’s Kiss Me Kate. Written in 1948, this well-loved musical combines the story of Shakespeare’s The Taming of the Shrew in a modern tale.

Starring Tushka BERGEN (1986) as Lilly/Kate, the show featured an energetic dancing and singing chorus.

The iconic Cloudstreet, adapted by Nick Enright and Justin Manjo from Tim Winton’s much loved novel. Cloudstreet is our major drama production to be performed at Bay 17 at Carriageworks in Term 4. We are very excited to be performing in this cutting-edge performance space formerly part of The Eveleigh Rail Yards!

This will be an epic production which will reach out to many of our SCEGGS community beyond current students and their families. We would love to have any of our Old Girls as members of the audience for these wonderful productions this year. So, if you have ever trod the boards at SCEGGS in the past, or would like to see the breadth of talent of our current students, book a ticket to a show. You won’t be disappointed!

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Rathven was built around 1873 as a private home and then between 1927 and 1976 was the boarding house for Sydney Grammar School. Robin and Terry then lovingly restored Rathven to its former glory.

We were entertained by the SCEGGS strings group “Guarneri” and the amazing singing voice of Claudette FAUX (2010).

Champagne High Tea was enjoyed by the guests who were seated at tables and chairs on the lawns by the tennis court and pool. They very generously opened the House where we were able to see their beautiful collection of antiques and artworks.

A very special thank-you to Robin and Terry for making it such a successful day.
ARCHIVE REPORT

For the Archives, the highlight of the year was the School’s 115th anniversary celebrations. Many Old Girls will remember earlier historic Uniform Parades. Year 2 continued this tradition by presenting the Uniform Parade at the Foundation Day Assembly.

Year 2 teacher, Ruth McIntosh, and Primary School Librarian, Louise Cluff, set the tone arriving as staff ready to teach a lesson in the 1890s. Half of Year 2 presented the history of uniforms at SCEGGS to the entire School, while the other half with the help of daughters, granddaughters, and even great-great-granddaughters of Old Girls, modelled the various uniform styles. All the girls and many different staff worked together to make what seemed to be a very happy, light-hearted and, I hope, successful event.

Over the last year, two excellent histories of SCEGGS Wollongong have been published. Marcia Cameron’s in-depth history, SCEGGS Wollongong: The School on the Hill, SCEGGS Gleniffer Brae 1955-1975 was launched at the beautiful Gleniffer Brae site by Miss Janet McCredie and Jenny Allum. Complementing this book is one by Glenda Buck called The changing golf course of SCEGGS Wollongong: ‘Lowood’ of Wilkinton. Lowood was Casterton School, the model for ‘Lowood’ of Jane Eyre.

One day, soon after her return to Tasmania, she took over a junior class at her father’s school from a master who was ill. She found that she got on famously with the little boys and that she liked to teach. In 1912 she gained her Diploma of Education, in 1913 her BA, and in 1920 her MA, all from the University of Melbourne. After briefly teaching at the Church of England Grammar School in Melbourne, she returned in 1915 to Launceston where she set up her own school, the Church of England Girls’ Grammar School, Broadland House.

As soon as she arrived at SCEGGS, she set about improving the physical conditions of the School. Simple things like: a cloakroom for day girls; school uniforms; a mistresses’ common room; improved boarding facilities; and the introduction of electric lights. In 1925 the Gym building was finished and, in 1926, the Main Hall was refurbished as the Edith Hall. Miss Wilkinson also made an impact on the School in less tangible ways. She continued the School’s excellent academic record and, in 1926, introduced the House system. Sport, always an essential part of life at SCEGGS, became more organised and competitive during Miss Wilkinson’s time. For example, Sports’ Days started, inter-school competitions increased and the hockey club was reinstated, for she was a keen and enthusiastic player, and could often be found down on the field at Rushcutters Bay playing with and helping to coach the teams.

But perhaps the most lasting impression is the kindness, warmth and enthusiasm with which she ran the school. She soon acquired the nickname ‘Stick’, short for ‘Sticky Beak’, because of her eager inquisitiveness into every corner and concern of the School. It quickly became a term of endearment—because of ‘the personal interest she had in each girl’, and her characteristic of ‘sticking to her through thick and thin.’ For twenty-four years Miss Wilkinson was the Honorary Secretary of the Association of Headmistresses and it is perhaps this organisation’s summary that best captures her character:

By her genuine love of learning she maintained a high standard of scholarship in the school under her control; by her unselfish readiness to co-operate, she played an important part in forging links with all bodies connected with education; by her thoughtfulness and courtesy she created an atmosphere of goodwill wherever she moved.

SCEGGS was very lucky indeed to have a leader of such individuality, compassion and energy at such a formative time for the School and challenging period for the wider community.

SCEGGS OLD GIRLS’ UNION NEWS

DOROTHY WILKINSON

This year marks 90 years since our second Headmistress Dorothy Wilkinson (1922-1947), started at SCEGGS.

Born in Lancashire, England in 1883, Miss Wilkinson and her family migrated to Tasmania in 1889. Soon after, her father became Headmaster of the Launceston Church Grammar School. Miss Wilkinson returned to the UK for her secondary education at Casterton School, the model for ‘Lowood’ of Jane Eyre.

One day, soon after her return to Tasmania, she took over a junior class at her father’s school from a master who was ill. She found that she got on famously with the little boys and that she liked to teach. In 1912 she gained her Diploma of Education, in 1913 her BA, and in 1920 her MA, all from the University of Melbourne. After briefly teaching at the Church of England Grammar School in Melbourne, she returned in 1915 to Launceston where she set up her own school, the Church of England Girls’ Grammar School, Broadland House.

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Miss Wilkinson and the school cheering at a sports day in 1939
From the first Girl Guides meeting learning to tie reef knots, to activities such as hiking, tracking and fire lighting, many Old Girls will remember with fondness their involvement with 1a Darlinghurst (S.C.E.G.G.S.) Company.

Instigated by Miss Wilkinson within months of arriving at SCEGGS and launched by Old Girl and World War I heroine, Olive Kelso King (1898-1900), the Darlinghurst Company was one of the first registered Girl Guide Companies in NSW. It continued, depending on the availability of instructors, until the late 1960s.

Many Old Girls continued their involvement with the Girl Guide movement working as Guide volunteers in their own communities. Gladys Stafford (Class of 1920) helped run a Girl Guide Company in Taiping, Malaya where she had to contend with snakes and scorpions and “all kinds of unpleasant jungle dwellers.” Joan Stevenson’s (Class of 1925) contribution was recently celebrated in the Girl Guides’ 2010 Centenary Publication Leadership for Life: 100 Women, 100 Years in Guiding. The Association has kindly allowed us to reprint this short biography of Joan in this edition of the OGU Newsletter.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy some of these photos from the SCEGGS Archives of 1a Darlinghurst (S.C.E.G.G.S.) Company.

Joan Stevenson OAM 1924 – 2004

“Joan’s organisational ability and attention to detail, her initiative, her ability to get on well with people of all ages, her common sense approach and her bright personality made her a natural leader.”

Joan was a great advocate of Guiding. “As an instrument for the creation of good will and friendship between girls of any nations, the Girl Guide and Girl Scout movements have few rivals.” She played a leading role in international Guiding, and also made a major contribution nationally.

A Guide company, 1a Darlinghurst, was started at S.C.E.G.G.S. Darlinghurst in Sydney in 1921, one of the first Guide companies registered in New South Wales. Joan attended the School and joined this Company in 1937. The Company closed, and her next contact with Guiding was in 1947 when she was recruited during a visit by Lady Baden-Powell. Always a hard worker and willing to take on responsibility, Joan threw herself into the first of many Guiding roles when she reopened 1a Darlinghurst.

She was appointed State Guide Adviser while still in her twenties, gained training qualifications and was also a full-time trainer during this period. In 1956 she was chosen to train Leaders in India under an exchange scheme through WAGGGS (the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts). She joined the committee of Sangam, the Guide World Centre in India.

A Qantas employee, she brought to her international Guiding work her professional knowledge of the travel industry.

She was also State International Adviser, a State Council member, a member of the Australian Procedures Committee, and Chairman of the Irene Fairbairn Fund, established in 1955 to assist members under 35 years of age with travel to Guiding events both within Australia and internationally.

She was Assistant Australian International Commissioner from 1971-1975.

Enthusiastic, a good organiser and hard worker, Joan also contributed to the community as a member of the S.C.E.G.G.S. Board and as President of the Zonta Club of Sydney. She received the Emu Award of Guiding and was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to youth through Guides Australia and to women’s organisations.

Reprinted courtesy of the Girl Guides NSW & ACT from Girl Guides Australia: Leadership for Life: 100 Women, 100 Years in Guiding.
YEAR 13 COCKTAIL PARTY

A very special welcome was given by the President of the Old Girls’ Union Judy Caldwell to our newest Old Girls, the class of 2010.

Over 70 girls came through the Green Gate on Friday 4th February to experience their first SCEGGS Old Girls event. They were joined by Ms Jenny Allum and many of their Year 12 Teachers with whom they enjoyed reminiscing about their school life.

The evening was a great success, they enjoyed seeing their Year 12 DVD and hearing about each other’s plans for the future.

The girls are doing a wonderful mixture of post school activities including attending University, travelling, working, Gap Year and attending overseas universities. We wish them all the best for the future and look forward to seeing them at Old Girls’ events in the future. ♡
CLASS OF 2010

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

DAUGHTERS GRANDDAUGHTERS GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTERS LIST

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continued over
BIRTHS

Ann Walsh (1995) and her partner Mat Sevill a boy, Charlie Sevill and nephew for Lizzie Walsh (1960).

Katherine Ross-Pollock (ROSS 1994) and Graham a daughter, Izabella Anne. Niece for Annette Ross (2000).


Melanie Morris (ALPARSLAN 1999) and her husband Adam a girl, Chloe Morris.

ENGAGEMENTS

Katherine Bell (1992) to Stafford West


Amelia Newton-Pollock (ROSS 1994) and Graham a daughter, Izabella Anne. Niece for Annette Ross (2000).


Melanie Morris (ALPARSLAN 1999) and her husband Adam a girl, Chloe Morris.

ENGAGEMENTS

Katherine Bell (1992) to Stafford West


Melanie Morris (ALPARSLAN 1999) and her husband Adam a girl, Chloe Morris.

ENGAGEMENTS

Katherine Bell (1992) to Stafford West


Melanie Morris (ALPARSLAN 1999) and her husband Adam a girl, Chloe Morris.

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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 23rd July 2011 at 11.15am (Assemble in the Courtyard prior to the AGM).

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
2. Presidents’ Report
3. Treasurers’ Report
4. Election of the Committee
5. Appointment of the Honorary Auditor

Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by Friday 15th July 2011. Nominations to be sent to: President of the Old Girls’ Union 215 Forbes St 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 15th July 2011.