

Akaroa

Semester One 2015



NEGS

Term 3 & 4 Dates – 2015

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|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14 July | Classes commence |
| 16 July | IGSSA Hockey/Netball trip |
| 27 July | Year 12 Trial Exams commence |
| 12 August | Chemistry Olympiad |
| 13 August | IGSSA Athletics |
| 19 August | STEM Day |
| 24 August | Science Day |
| 25 August | IPSHA Athletics |
| 26 August | Sport and other group photos |
| 5 September | Old Girls' Weekend/Spring Fair |
| 9 September | Year 11 Exams commence |
| 10 September | GRASS Science Investigations |
| 11 September | IGSSA Hockey/Netball finals |
| 14 September | St John's musical |
| 17 September | Year 12 Valedictory Chapel, Morning Tea and Graduation Ceremony |
| 18 September | School Holidays |

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 5 October | Boarders return |
| 6 October | Classes commence/ Year 11 Leadership Camp |
| 10 October | Year 10 Semi Formal |
| 12 October | HSC Exams commence |
| 16 October | Sports Presentation Evening |
| 2 December | Speech Day/last day of school |

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Akaroa is produced for the New England Girls' School community – students, parents, staff and Old Girls. Your input is imperative to its success and all contributions for inclusion are welcome. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this edition of Akaroa such a success. Special thank you to the Old Girls' Unions – Armidale, Sydney and Brisbane and many other Old Girls for their stories, photos and support in coordinating the Old Girls' pages – thank you!

Cover photo: Members of the NEGS Junior Vocal Ensemble who placed first in their category at the Armidale Eisteddfod recently. Back L-R: Chelsea Devenish, Zara Blackmore, Georgina Watson, Katrina Campbell. Middle L-R: Disa Smart, Zoe Stuart, Alexandra Rose. Front L-R: Zoe Reed, Harriet Schmude.

AKAROA SEMESTER ONE 2015

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Principal's Welcome



New England Girls' School (NEGS) is this year celebrating its 120th anniversary of being founded by Miss Florence Green with its motto, "Whatsoever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord". The School has continued the traditions established at that time while at the same time preparing and equipping students to face the challenges of our world, encouraging our students to live with confidence, persistence, courage and compassion. I am now in my third year as Principal of NEGS and the School has already seen great improvements due to the dedication and commitment of the staff and the attitudes and performance of the girls and boys in both the senior school and in St John's. We have been fortunate as well to attract quality staff to the School and their enthusiasm, new ideas and a breath of fresh air have enlivened the School. The new structure in the boarding houses, the Tutor system and the embedding of the Wellbeing@NEGS have also contributed to lifting morale and improving the culture of the School.

Academically, NEGS re-emerged as the best performing school (both private and public) in the New England North West region after the results of the 2014 HSC, a remarkable success from the Year 12 girls of 2014. NEGS was ranked 158th out of 641 schools in NSW, an improvement of 139 positions on that achieved in 2013. Musically, we were privileged to host The Idea of North, Live in Concert, during February in the NEGS Chapel, a quartet of musicians, serious about their music without taking themselves too seriously. Their instrumentation: voice (soprano), voice (alto), voice (tenor) and voice (bass), with a little bit of vocal percussion thrown in. They offered a beautifully distinct sound and style, and crossed many musical genres: jazz, folk, gospel, pop, classical and comedy – and it turned out to be 'recreation for the soul' on a wonderful Sunday afternoon.

At the end of 2014, the School established the NEGS Cutting Academy and the NEGS Polocrosse Academy with endorsement from the relevant national and state bodies. There are moves to establish further long-term objectives in these options while at the same time offering a rigorous and all-round education. Already, a number of new students to the School have shone in their performances in these disciplines. We look forward to the results that will emerge from the North West Equestrian Expo 2015 at Coonabarabran at the end of May.

The School commenced 2015 with 100 new students starting at NEGS and the School is anticipating similar numbers for the start of 2016. NEGS currently has the highest number of female boarders in the region and this number is expected to grow.

The response from the Principal and Chairman of NEGS to the recent announcement that The Armidale School will commence full co-education in 2016 is that their announcement will have minimal impact on the School, its students or on the future academic progress of the School. New England Girls' School already has a long and proud tradition. The current governance and management of the School is determined to see the School flourish and thrive while continuing to examine opportunities that may arise for the benefit of the School, the students, parents and the community, to ensure its success long into the future.

– Clive Logan | Principal

NEGS News

Camp Adventures

Year 7 students and Year 7 Advisor, Ms Angela Sole, had a great time at their Friendship Camp at Echidna Gully, Armidale, earlier in the year. The focus of the camp was to explore the elements of what makes solid friendships, being aware of one's impact on others through positive communication, discovering 'mindfulness' and achieving a state of flow to develop a sense of Wellbeing. Having fun and enjoying laughter was essential too. The girls accepted the challenge of the 'Echidna Gully Games' with enthusiasm and were tested on their spatial skills when creating a tower block, memory in a game of Concentration, and originality when they had to visually display how they could represent our NEGS school motto, "Whatever you do, do it heartily". A professional photography lesson run by Mr David Rose (IT Manager) provided the girls with the skills for them to develop the ability to pause, to look carefully at what is around them and to compose a photo that represents something of beauty and interest.



“
Whatever
you do, do
it heartily”
”

Lab Antics

This year students have been engaged in a range of activities in Science. Year 7 have been learning all about working safely in the laboratory. This will culminate in the acquisition of Bunsen burner licences. They have also investigated the properties of matter which was apparently very slimy. Year 8 commenced their studies in Energy with an excursion to the indoor rock climbing wall at UNE. We had many 'high achievers' as they investigated the difference between gravitational potential energy and kinetic energy. Year 10 students have been studying elements of physics – light, electromagnetic waves, motion, Newton's Laws, gravity and energy. Activities have included an analysis of the Melbourne Cup, Adelaide

3 Day Event and equine high jumping to determine speed, calculating our swimmer's speeds from the swimming carnival based on their times, remote controlled car races and 'shocking' fun with the Van de Graaf generator. A number of the girls competed in the Highlands Science & Engineering Challenge at the University of New England and placed third. Year 9 investigated the world of plate tectonics and made edible earths. They have also recently been discovering all about the universe and were enthralled by Stephen Hawking's incredible story as they watched 'The Theory of Everything'. Of course, every movie experience is enhanced by eating popcorn.



Rebecca Mulligan and Olivia Eichorn.



Megan Galbraith.

Survival of the Fittest

The Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens hosted Year 9, Miss Cambridge, Mr O'Neill, and our two gappies, Marie and Julianne, at the annual Survival Camp. The camp tested the girls' endurance, perseverance, problem solving and team work skills. Some of the students undertook their Bronze Duke of Ed. whilst on the camp. The girls participated in two canoe trips and two hikes, all of which were lead and navigated by the students themselves. Highlights of the trip included a night trip to the sand dunes which showcased an amazing sky full of stars, a possum which sounded disturbingly like a wild pig and the 20-minute walk to the luxury compost toilets at the second camp site. All in all, the girls should be immensely proud of their achievements. Not only did they become pro at putting up tents and cooking freeze dried meals they were also courteous and well regarded by their camp leaders throughout the six days.



Lone Pine

During the second week of Term 2, Nicola Orr (Year 12) and Isabelle Chandler (Year 6) attended a ceremony at the Armidale Ex-Services Club. They were each presented with a seedling propagated from the Lone Pine at Gallipoli and these will be planted at NEGS and St John's.





Claudia Nash, Georgia Hook, Skye Ramsay and Kate Ryan.

Rugby capers

Year 12 students looked amazing in their commemorative rugby jumpers that they were allowed to wear over their summer uniforms in Term 1. The girls all loved them and we are sure they will be something they treasure and wear for many years after leaving NEGS.



Meet and greet

The Scone "Meet the Principal" event held in Term 2 was a huge success with more than 25 people attending. NEGS Principal, Clive Logan and Director of Development, Ms Mary Wright said they were delighted with the turnout and interest in the school and enjoyed meeting all the prospective new parents and students from the Scone area.



UNE Connections

We are very fortunate to have such a great partnership with the University of New England (UNE) and be able to take advantage of all the fantastic resources on offer there. In May, 260 keen young mathematicians from 39 secondary schools throughout northern NSW travelled to UNE for the University's annual Year 8 Mathematics Day. It was the biggest number of participants in the history of the Mathematics Day, which is now in its 18th year. NEGS sent along two teams who knuckled down to cooperative problem solving and applying mathematics to real-life situations. Thank you to Mrs Consuela Despi for organising the girls to attend the day and who is always coming up with new ways to make maths inspiring and fun.

Pictured above are Daisy Meehan, Megan Galbraith, Zara Blackmore and Stephanie Clarkson.

Sewing success

NEGS was very privileged to have the US couture queen Claire Shaeffer visit our school earlier in the year. A number of our students attended Claire's workshop at NEGS including Lucy Haynes, Mackenzie Hollis and Adelaide Vivers who really enjoyed the workshops and learnt so much from Claire.



Crazy Hair Day

NEGS girls got into the spirit of Crazy Hair Day to help raise money for a local family whose young daughter has been diagnosed with leukaemia.

The Year 12 Prefects organised the day and went mad with multi-coloured hair sprays, crazy up dos and some fluro hair extensions. More than \$200 was raised and lots of fun was had.



Making News

Head of Junior School, Ms Shannon Rosewood, made headlines in May when it was announced she had won the prestigious Positive Teacher of the Year Award beating a field of 750 nominees nationwide. Ms Rosewood made an appearance on Prime 7 where she talked about our amazing Wellbeing Program that is part of the K-12 curriculum and run by our tireless Wellbeing Co-ordinator Mrs Angela Sole (who has been invited to present on the program at the upcoming Australian Independent School's Conference in August).

“ Ms Rosewood won the prestigious Positive Teacher of the Year Award ”

STOP PRESS

After enrolling more than 100 new students in 2015, enquiries for 2016 have remained very strong with well over 50 new families visiting the school for a tour. Our Meet the Principal events at Scone and Narrabri had record numbers in attendance so we expecting another healthy influx of new students in 2016.



Jessica Flynn.



Taj Killen.



Bronte Dagg.



St John's students listening to proceedings.

ANZAC day

Students from NEGS and St John's marched in the 2015 Anzac Day March to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli. It was a time for students and residents of Armidale to come together and pay tribute to the first Anzacs and to all the brave servicemen and women who have since followed in their footsteps.

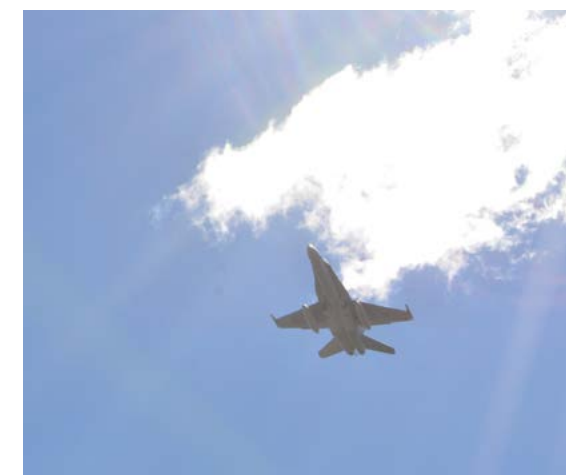
Photos: David Rose.



Year 6 students Isabella Johnson, Bronte Dagg, Isabella Collison and Isabelle Chandler.



Alexandra Rose.



Equestrian Centre News

2015 is shaping up to be one of our most successful years yet with girls achieving great results in all disciplines.

The year kicked off with a bang at our One Day Event and the return of an Interschools event to NEGS after an absence of many years. Riders from Qld and NSW joined students from across NSW to compete at the ODE with students remaining for two days of Show Jumping and Dressage competition. Equestrian NSW and Eventing NSW were a great support to our team of parents, friends and staff ensuring all ran well making it a fun and competitive event for riders.

The new High Performance Squads are proving more than worthwhile, with selected students all performing in open competition with improved results and consistent performances. Riders selected participate in a holistic training program that incorporates fitness, goal setting, nutrition and more for the horse and rider.

Partnering with UNE Sport has proven very beneficial to the High Performance squad riders and the polocrosse players to ensure the rider fitness is targeted and tailored to meet the needs of each girl by a fitness professional.

The wonderful team at Omega Feeds have provided equine nutrition support. Head Equine Nutritionist, Danielle Boland, was a great help to girls this term in helping them understand the importance a balanced diet has on performance and health.

The introduction of the Cutting Academy has seen girls training under the guidance of coach, Grant Quigley at NEGS and in Grant's training facility. Several girls have achieved excellent results at National and local competitive shows. With the new points score year commencing after the April National Finals the girls are preparing for a huge year ahead.

Term 1 formalised our reintroduction of Polocrosse to NEGS via the NEGS Polocrosse Academy and the NEGS Polocrosse club. Students are training under the guidance and mentorship of Hayden Turnbull with feedback from selectors and the Polocrosse fraternity showing they are all very impressed by the advancement of the girls' skills and horsemanship. Four girls have played on NSW junior teams with three selected for the Australian Junior Squad.

Our Show Riding team is going from strength to strength under the expert guidance of coaches Henry Newell-Hutton and Rochelle Tubb. Huge improvements have been seen in all team riders who have posted some great results at local shows and some riders competing and bringing home ribbons from Sydney, Bathurst and Toowoomba Royals and Grand Nationals. The stylish equestrian clothing brand GiddyupGirl has also come onboard to sponsor our show riders with some great polo shirts and other training attire.

— Wendy Fitzgerald | Equestrian Centre Manager

“The new High Performance squads are proving more than worthwhile”



Phillipa Hamilton, Isabella Ritter, Jacque Towns and Jessica Towns at the NEGS Interschool Event.



Jessica Towns, Kate Cruickshank and Emily Peddle.

STOP PRESS

NEGS took its largest ever equestrian team to the North West Horse Expo at Coonabarabran in June.

Keep your eye out for an overview of results in our next issue of Akaroa.



Outdoor learning at the NEGS Equestrian Centre.



NEGS Polocrosse players ready for action.

NEGS Livestock Team News

Sydney Success

Great success was had in both beef cattle and Merino sheep competitions at this year's Sydney Royal Show. A team of six students (Chelsea Devenish, Emily Barton, Olivia Fenwicke, Isobel Robertson, Kate Cannington and Sophie Watson) competed at Sydney this year with our four Limousin steers. Sophie Watson represented our school in Merino sheep competitions.

Our results included Isobel Robertson 'Fishington', Armidale being sashed the Champion School Parader, beating the best beef cattle paraders from every school represented at the show. An exceptional result. Kate Cannington qualified to represent the New England at the Armidale Show earlier this year. She received a fifth in her heat in this difficult F002 competition. Well done Kate.

We also achieved pleasing results with our cattle with a third in the heavy weight school steer class out of sixteen head and a sixth in the heavy weight open steer class out of twenty five. All of our cattle were awarded very strong carcase results scoring in the mid to high eighties. Our carcasses achieved a silver medal and two bronze medals. To win any ribbon at Sydney is a great achievement so to achieve multiple results was fantastic.

A big thank you to the following people for their contributions in making this year's Sydney Royal Show excursion possible.

Mr Phil and Mrs Barb Bricknell 'King Creek Limousins' Currabubula, Mr Richard and Mrs Heather Cole 'Lachlan Dale Limousins' Forbes, Mr Lyall Cameron (NEGS Agriculture assistant), and Mrs Wendy Robertson (NEGS parent). All of our students were, as always, a credit to our school.

“To win any ribbon at Sydney is a great achievement”

In Merino sheep competition, Sophie Watson has achieved excellent results at this year's Sydney Show. She won the RAS/ ASC Merino and Poll Merino junior handling competition as well as winning the NSW state Merino sheep judging competition. She also won the Don Brown Memorial Merino Ewe competition award. An exceptional effort. Her success enables her to be the assistant judge at the Merino Ewe Field Day held in Condobolin in February, 2016. Sophie also came fifth in the FAS/ ASC National Merino Sheep Judging competition, competing against an all male field of 18 and over. Well done Sophie. A well deserved result.



Chelsea Devenish leading the reserve champion steer at Wingham.

Wins at Wingham

The NEGS Livestock Team achieved exceptional results at this year's Manning Valley Beef Week held in Wingham. This achievement helps us celebrate 20 years of cattle exhibition at NEGS.

With a team of eight students and five head of cattle, we contributed to the competition of over 280 students, 20 schools and 144 head of cattle.

The following results were achieved:

Junior judging

13 yrs won by Katrina Campbell

14 yrs won by Emily Barton

Cattle handling/parading

13yrs won by Katrina Campbell, 2nd Chelsea Devenish, 4th Sophie Sutherland.

14yrs won by Emily Barton, 4th Olivia Carter who also won the best prepared and presented parader at the show.

15yrs 2nd place Olivia Fenwicke out of a huge class. Olivia was also highly commended for a scholarship interview in front of a panel of industry representatives.

Felicity Thomas and Zoe Stuart also participated to a very high standard in their competitions.

Cattle results

Our black Limousin steer bred by Richard and Heather Cole 'Lachlan Dale' – Forbes was sashed the Reserve Champion Steer of show and sold for more than the champion steer at \$9:00/kg HSCW.

Our pure Charolais steer bred and kindly donated by NEGS parents, the Stuart family – Mudgee won the heavy weight unled steer competition and was the third best unled steer out of a field of 64 steers.

Our Heavy weight apricot Limousin steer (Wild Rivers Limousins – Armidale) was highly commended in a big class of cattle.



Isobel Robertson was champion school parader at Sydney Royal.



Sophie Watson was very successful in the Merino sheep competition.



St John's Junior School



At St John's we believe in developing a culture of giving, of being outwardly focused and contributing to a fully functioning community. This is especially so when we consider just how fortunate our families are, in the main. It is with this philosophy of service in mind that we ask our students and families to commit time and money to our local and global community. Here are some examples of current projects and activities in the Junior School.

St John's promoted World Bicycle Relief during our Bike Day in Term 2. This organisation empowers people by providing bicycles to people in rural Africa. A bike enables volunteer healthcare workers to see more patients and children to significantly increase their school attendance. At the same time St John's students were developing fitness, and working with our local police on bike safety.

Transition students have been working on their very first Service Project. They have been identifying local birdlife through feather collection and observation. They are utilising a visual guide to establish local species and will be researching the kinds of plants that will attract more birds to our playground. This important environmental project will help our youngest students to understand the delicate balance of nature.

“St John's is a place of learning that values academic growth, but also character.

Our younger students are discussing the importance of diet by investigating ways in which they can help disadvantaged communities in Australia eat regular nutritious meals. This exciting project involves students communicating through Skype with a remote Indigenous school in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. As well as considering healthy food, they will also be introduced to traditional Aboriginal meals. Years 1 and 2 hope to publish their own cookbook later in the year.

This semester, Years 3/4 commenced their St Christopher's Orphanage service project. Students completed home chores in order to raise funds for the Anglican Sisters of the Community of the Sacred Name in Fiji. The students are being asked to recognise the privilege of their own lives in comparison to children around the world.

Mr Foregeard's Anzac address explored how courage, loyalty, friendship and sacrifice were the qualities of ordinary Australians at war. He asked our students to consider their own courage and the principles that guide decision making. Accompanied by our Wellbeing Breakfast, the day was one of reflection and pride; pride in our country and the legacy of the Anzacs, and also our school and the leadership of our senior students.

The addition of the flag pole to our playground has added to the quality of our students' understanding of their place in our nation. I would like to thank Mr John Cassidy for his generous donation that ensures we have a daily reminder of our role as citizens of Australia.

St John's is a place of learning that values academic growth, but also character. An altruistic disposition leaves us with a strong sense of wellbeing and knowledge that we are indeed fortunate.

— Shannon Rosewood | Head of St John's Junior School

SPROUTS 2015

School holiday fun hit an all time high these past Easter holidays, when students from across the region in Years 4, 5 and 6 converged on the New England Girls' School Science laboratories for a day of 'explosive' activities. From the construction of 'Clifford the Cricket' using electrical components, making lip balm, screen printing t-shirts, learning about canine senses to the Chemistry show, students were engaged and enthralled by Science. Traditionally students start to change their opinion of Science from the age of about 10 and unfortunately, by the time they reach high school, the verdict is that it's 'too hard' or 'boring'. The SPROUTS program has been designed to combat this attitude, reminding kids that Science is relevant in their everyday lives and encouraging them to study Science subjects in the future. New figures out of the US with regards to STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) are startling. Only 33% of Year 8 students consider a future in one of these fields and only 6% of high school graduates actually end up studying a STEM undergraduate degree and yet, over the next 5 years, STEM occupations are predicted to grow twice as quickly as other job fields. The hope is that if we can foster a passion for Science in Primary School, these statistics will improve.



Calan Loudon and Solomon Layton.



Checkmate

Congratulations to our fantastic chess club players. They had a terrific day stretching their brains and learning new skills at the Primary Schools Chess tournament held in Armidale. St John's are so proud of everyone's efforts. The addition of our Chess board to the playground and Tuesday afternoon Chess Club have definitely improved our skills from last year. Well done to all our competitors and Mrs Ward.

Science Discoveries

Students from Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a Science and Engineering Discovery Day at the UNE. In groups of three, students were provided with the opportunities to explore the basic principles of engineering design and investigate scientific concepts. Throughout the course of the day our students engaged in activities that required them to think creatively and critically. These included constructing a mechanical hand (from basic household goods), designing a bridge to support a cart loaded with increasing weights and the design and construction of a moon buggy which could handle rough terrain. All students experienced success across the activities and gained valuable knowledge.



Brodie Meredith.

Plane Sailing

Thanks to two very keen Year 3 students, the St John's Paper Plane Competition was held in March. All students from Transition to Year 6 prepared their own paper planes using templates provided by the Paper Planes movie website. Students made the classic dart, raptor, the Ken Dwyer (look it up!), manta ray and many more (www.paperplanesmovie.com.au).

Charlie and Archibald (with the assistance of Mr Foregeard) planned an exciting array of categories for the event. A careful study of international paper plane rules was fiercely analysed and the competition was formed. Events included distance, decoration and time 'in flight.' We would particularly like to thank the parents and staff who competed in this thrilling event. Well done Harvey Grace Grandparents, Mr and Mrs Smith, Eva's Dad and Mrs Dent. Mr Logan's celebrity appearance was much applauded by the students. Congratulations to Eva's Dad and Mr Forgeard who both claimed victory in the longest flight category. It was a fantastic event and we are so proud of the initiative of Charlie and Archibald. Thanks boys.



Sophie Mason, Lisa Sthalekar and Isabella Rutledge.

Pitch perfect

St John's students and staff were thrilled to have Lisa Sthalekar, elite Australian cricket player and Captain of the NSW Breakers, visit the school. Her focus was to work with Years 3 to 6 on their throwing, catching and batting skills. Everyone had a fantastic time with Lisa and the workshop worked well with St John's current PE focus on fundamental movement skills and team sports.



Cross Country

A light shower didn't put off our enthusiastic St John's cross country runners earlier in the year. There was a great turnout of parents and grandparents too who arrived to cheer on their kids and stay for a yummy BBQ lunch with gourmet salads.

It's Show Time

Year 5 St John's students took out the champion award at the Armidale Show with their Anzac themed art display. Year 6 placed first and second with an amazing photography display based on emotions and digital manipulation. Kindergarten and Year 1/2 marvelled all with their starry night masterpiece. Thanks to Transition and Year 3/4 for their beautiful artworks as well. The students of St John's were proud to join the local community at this important event.

Adopt a Shelf Program

Years 3 and 4 would like to thank Mr Logan for his visit to their Library lesson in Term 1. The students had to convince Mr Logan that he should borrow from their favourite Library shelf. He had a hard time choosing from Harry Potter, Goosebumps, Geronimo Stilton and various other titles. What a choice. He was certainly torn when Jade Watkins presented her favourite shelf – the history section! Thanks again Mr Logan.

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National Ride to School Day

In Term 1 the Junior School students enjoyed a ride or scooter around the school grounds and to the Friday BBQ to celebrate National Ride to School Day. The St John's bike track is a fantastic way for students to develop their riding skills, but also to maintain fitness and wellbeing. We are constantly hearing from parents that 'training wheels' are coming off as a result of their child using our track. Students are also developing their ability to make safe choices and share a community resource.



Alexandra Reed, Lydia Farrar, Charlotte Claridge.

Tour de Force

The Tour de St John's fundraiser in Term 2 focused on bike safety with the local police but also raising money for World Bicycle Relief. This is a nonprofit organisation mobilising people through the Power of Bicycles. They have trained more than 900 field mechanics and provided more than 180,000 specially designed, locally assembled bicycles to disaster survivors, healthcare workers, students and entrepreneurs.

Chopper Visit

In February, St John's was awarded a special visit from the Westpac Helicopter. Since 1975 the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service has grown from a part-time voluntary summer beach patrol to a world-class aeromedical search and rescue operation. The helicopter landed on our school oval and the students were given a tour of the chopper by the pilots. Well done everyone who made helicopters and learnt about the amazing work of this organisation last year. Our submission was particularly good because of the amazing creativity of Transition. Well done everybody.



AKAROA Semester One 2015

Sports News



Swimming Carnival

NEGS held their annual Swimming Carnival in Week 4 and although it was predicted that we would be swimming in the streets, we were comfortably finished by 12.30pm and returned to school for House Cheers and Presentations before the rain hit.

IGSSA Swimming Carnival

The NEGS Swim Team travelled to Sydney to compete in the annual IGSSA Swimming Competition on Friday 13th of March.

The team consisted of 15 competitors: Kate Bailey, Alicia Ball, Charlotte Chapman, Lucy Fenwicke, Olivia Fenwicke, Sarah Hamparsum, Georgia Hiscox, Abbey Jackson, Rhianna Malone, Claudia Meehan, Daisy Meehan, Tahlia Paull, Charlotte Raleigh, Amber Strelitz and Sarah Wyatt

The students swam hard and the team was successful in progressing through to eight finals. A great achievement for such a small team.

Lucy Fenwicke was successful in being selected for CIS to represent IGSSA in the 14yrs 50m Breaststroke and the 14yrs 200m Breaststroke.

Coffs Ocean Swim

On the 29th of March a group of nine NEGS girls and 51 TAS boys left on a bus at 5.30am and travelled to Coffs Harbour. The two kilometre swim started at 9:30am. 460 people lined up at the waters' edge eager to begin. All NEGS competitors finished the race in the top 250. Lucy Fenwicke, Kathleen McPhie, Olivia Fenwicke, Abbey Jackson, Tahlia Paull, Mikaela Ball, Alicia Ball, Sophie Cockbain and Sarah Wyatt were all pushed and enjoyed the experience.

Results Overall:

- Olivia Fenwicke 37th (3rd in age group)
- Abbey Jackson 73rd
- Mikaela Ball 58th
- Alicia Ball 135th
- Lucy Fenwicke 19th (1st in age group)
- Kathleen McPhie 103rd
- Sarah Wyatt 169th
- Tahlia Paull 145th
- Sophie Cockbain 229th

NEGS Swimming Results:

House Cup – Overall point score

- 1st Murray 730
- 2nd Dumolo 710
- 3rd Green 611
- 4th Lyon 590

Age Champions

- U12's CHAMPION – Maggie Halliday and Charlotte Chapman
RUNNER UP – Kate Earle
- U13's CHAMPION – Georgia Hiscox
RUNNER UP – Grace Cassidy
- U14's CHAMPION – Lucy Fenwicke
RUNNER UP – Alicia Ball
- U15's CHAMPION – Claudia Meehan and Kathleen McPhie
RUNNER UP – Amber Strelitz
- U16's CHAMPION – Olivia Fenwicke
RUNNER UP – Mikaela Ball and Abbey Jackson
- U17's CHAMPION – Tahlia Paull
RUNNER UP – Kate Bailey
- U18's CHAMPION – Anthea Powell
RUNNER UP – Skye Ramsay

Trivett Cup

Most Outstanding Swimmer of the Carnival – Lucy Fenwicke

Cheering Cup – Green

Broken Records

- 14 yrs 50m Freestyle Lucy Fenwicke 29.41 – Sheridan O'Connor 2006 30.39
- 14 yrs 50m Backstroke Lucy Fenwicke 35.03 – Charlotte Raleigh 2013 35.42
- 14 yrs 50m Breaststroke Lucy Fenwicke 38.28 – Charlotte Raleigh 2013 38.45
- 14 yrs 50m Butterfly Lucy Fenwicke 32.97 – Sheridan Connor 2006 33.05
- 14 yrs 100m Freestyle Lucy Fenwicke 1:06.56 – A. Templeton 1998 1:07.45
- 16yrs 50m Backstroke Olivia Fenwicke 33.47 – Eliza Shaw 2003 34.65.

Inverell Toughen Up Challenge

Four students in Year 11, Alys Marshall, Rachel Jones, April Larsen and Emily Farrar competed in the Inverell Toughen Up Challenge on Saturday 7th March. Arriving in 30 degree heat and to a much harder course than expected, the girls persevered and gamely took their places at the start line eager to prove to themselves and the onlooking TAS boys that they were definitely tough enough. The girls were the only all female high school team and after completing the course we understood why most younger teams ensured they had two males on their teams to assist in the challenges. The girls completed the course on the day in 2hrs 7mins 10secs finishing in 8th place in the Female Division out of 17 teams. Although difficult they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and demonstrated the true grit of a NEGS team.



Alys Marshall, Rachel Jones, Emily Farrar, April Larsen.

Cross Country Carnival

Cross country was held on the last day of Term 1 in pleasant running conditions.

Results:

- 12 yrs Champion – Jaimie McLoughlin
Runner Up – Abbey McLoughlin
- 13 yrs Champion – Grace Cassidy
Runner Up – Disa Smart
- 14 yrs Champion – Matilda McCarroll
Runner Up – Evey White
- 15 yrs Champion – Sarah Wyatt
Runner Up – Claudia Neate
- 16 yrs Champion – Eliza White
Runner Up – Charlotte Raleigh
- 17 yrs Champion – Annabelle Heagney
Runner Up – Tahlia Paull
- 18 yrs Champion – Alice Frend
Runner Up – Morgan Hyatt

House Cup

- Lyon – 345 points
- Green – 322 points
- Murray – 318 points
- Dumolo – 317 points



AKAROA Semester One 2015

Tildesley Tennis Tournament

The Tildesley Team travelled to Sydney in Week 8 to participate in the Tildesley competition against the IGSSA schools. The team of Heidi Powell, Alys Marshall, Emily Farrar, Lucinda Parry and Eliza White played throughout the two day competition and gained some well earned experience.

The results are as follows:

- Singles – Heidi Powell lost 3-8
- Doubles – Emily Farrar and Alys Marshall lost 0-8
- Doubles – Lucinda Parry and Eliza White lost 4-8
- Final point score as a team of 20 – 202
- Overall Placing: 24th.





autumn festival



Boarding news

Fun in the Sun

It has been a very busy start to the year in boarding. The first weekend in Term 1 we were off to the Gold Coast for our 'Boarders Getaway'. With 152 girls attending (this included some day students) we had fun in the sun. Wet and Wild was a day to remember with the girls enjoying themselves on all the rides and each others' company. A trip to Harbour Town for some well earned retail therapy was also on the itinerary and Lake Ainsworth provided wonderful accommodation for all of us to go back to of an evening and have a good night's sleep.

On weekends students are given the opportunity to participate in Optional Activities. For Semester 1, these activities have included: the movies, Farmers Markets, PCYC Markets, the Armidale Show, Flix in the Stix and roller skating/blading. They also attended the TAS Performance – Once Upon a Mattress. The Autumn Festival and Anzac March were also attended by boarding students where they looked and behaved with decorum and maturity.



From the Development Office



Welcome to the first edition of 'Akaroa' for 2015. I hope you all found an opportunity to spend quality time with loved ones over the Christmas break and that the year started kindly for you.

I am pleased to advise that the School welcomed 98 new students and their families to Orientation Day on Tuesday, 27 January. Since then we have had a pleasing number of students commence by the end of Term 1 and the beginning of Term 2. The donations received for our Indigenous Scholarship program has enabled 5 new Aboriginal students to start at NEGS and St John's, thanks to the generosity of NEGS Old Girls. These students come from as far away as Western Australia and Coffs Harbour, as well as our local catchment area.

2015 has seen Clive and Gaylia Logan and myself attend Meet the Principal functions in Scone, Narrabri and Dubbo. Along with Boarding Schools Expos and Meet the Principal events, enquiries from families wishing for their daughters to attend have been remarkable. In light of increased interest in the School, I now urge you to consider financially supporting a student. I have many, many applications for Old Girls' Scholarships on my desk, with supporting portfolios prepared by the applicants, and your gift of a donation would be greatly appreciated. All scholarship gifts are tax deductible through the Education Trust.

There are a number of areas in which to give: Scholarships (including the Indigenous Scholarship Program); refurbishment of the Chapel organ; upgrade of a boarding house; or truck to transport livestock and horses.

I appeal to you to give serious thought about helping your School. You have a choice of where you would like your donation directed and I encourage you to assist in enabling the School to continue to grow and flourish. Gifts made through the Building Trust are also tax deductible. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss the Annual Giving further.

Remember, this is our 120th Anniversary year. Old Girls' Weekend is 5th and 6th September, with Framed! Art Show being held on Friday, 4th September. To celebrate our 120th Anniversary, functions will be held in Sydney and Armidale at a date and venue to be advised.

Also accompanying this Akaroa is a slip requesting your advice on how you may wish to receive 'Akaroa' in future. Please email this slip at your earliest convenience to mary.wright@negs.nsw.edu.au. Your feedback is important to us.

I look forward to seeing many of you at future events and on Old Girls' Weekend in September.

— Mary Wright | Director of Development

Sponsor Needed

The NEGS OGU and Framed! Committee are seeking a sponsor for the People's Choice Award for the 2015 Framed! Exhibition. Each year the Old Girls host an Art Exhibition on Old Girls' Weekend and funds raised support part scholarships to students. All visitors to the exhibition have the opportunity to vote on their favoured artwork which represents the People's Choice Award. This is an opportunity for an organisation or business to be promoted by the Art Exhibition. Please contact Cath Farrar on 0429 171 760 or email chook5@activ8.net.au to discuss this opportunity.

OG Office Bearers

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backcreek3@bigpond.com

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OGMU SECRETARY/TREASURER

Juliet Cameron (Lean '64)
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02 4950 9034
j.cameron@hunterlink.net.au

Armidale OG President's Report

This year is NEGS' 120th Anniversary, wow – how fantastic is that? We are still growing and going strong with over 100 new enrolments this year alone.

There are going to be exciting times ahead with the announcement from our Principal, Mr Clive Logan, of a connection which has been formed with Barker College in Sydney.

This is aimed to give our students a broader curriculum choice, therefore a better academic program by means of innovative technology. Some of these opportunities include advanced music, debating and sporting programs and use of Barker's boarding facilities when available. Barker students in turn will be able to access our rural focused facilities, for example, agriculture and equestrian programs as well as trade training.

A quote from Mr Clive Logan – 'NEGS is determined to remain the pre-eminent rural girls' boarding school in Australia and we look forward to developing this relationship over time.'

Last year HSC results showed a huge improvement with the NEGS' rank within NSW schools lifting 139 positions to 158th out of 641 and becoming the best performing school in the region.

This is a team effort that could only be reached by both students and teachers through exemplary motivation and dedication.

Friday, 4th September, will see the beginning of the Old Girls' Reunion Weekend celebrations, with eight cohorts planning their reunions. As usual Friday night will be the Annual Framed! Art Show and Sale with a welcome cocktail function. Saturday is the Spring Fair and on Sunday the Commemorative Chapel Service and Old Girls' Breakfast in the school dining hall.

All Old Girls, family and friends are welcome to join in for our weekend of celebrations. It is very exciting to be able to catch up with old friends and see and witness first-hand the amazing achievements that NEGS has had in the last twelve months.

We look forward to hearing news from Old Girls for Akaroa. Tanya Graham is happy to receive any information by email: tanya.graham@negs.nsw.edu.au or telephone 02 6774 8700.

Please contact Tanya for changes to address so the school can stay in touch.

— Lindy Cannington (Keats '83)



NEGS Old Girls' morning tea function, Mrs Jean Newall, Mrs Jenny Fulloon, Mrs Lindy Cannington and Mrs Mary Wright with Year 12 students.

2015

framed

New England Girls' School Armidale • Old Girls' Union Annual Art Show & Sale

plus Student Art Competition

Art Show and Sale

Opening Night Cocktail Function

When: Friday 4th September 2015

Where: NEGS Multi-Purpose Centre

Time: 6.00pm - 9.00pm

Cost: \$30.00 prepaid \$35.00 on the night
(champagne, supper, live entertainment & drinks)

RSVP: 1st September 2015, with payment advice

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/HHDX

Cheque: NEGS OGU

Contact: C/ NEGS, Uralla Road, Armidale NSW 2350
Mrs Georgie Kedzlie
E: alinjarra8@bigpond.com P: 02 6657 6001
or NEGS Reception for tickets

Proudly Sponsored by:

at the heart of our community

Giving More
back to our members

Exhibition will run until 11am Sunday
6th September 2015. Raffle tickets
available at Akaroa or on the night.

Raffle - 'First Cut', donated by James White



NEGS Old Girls' Missionary Union 2015

Miss Florence Green founded NEGS in 1895, and in 1898 she started our Old Girls' Union so the girls she had taught could keep in contact with her, with each other, and continue to contribute to "The New Guinea Mission" as they had done while at NEGS.

The Old Girls' Union and Old Girls' Missionary Union separated in 1913, the OGU continuing the communication and supporting roles, and the OGMU continuing to post the annual Lenten Letter to OGMU members giving news from our three missions and inviting donations towards their support.

In 2015, the Anglican Board of Mission will be supporting a new project in PNG to provide practical and emotional support to the wives of the students at Kerina College where only ten students are enrolled each year to complete a two year program in Theology, Pastoral Care, liturgy, church history and leadership. Wives are taught literacy and new skills, and are encouraged to build relationships with each other as well as improve their social and emotional support circles. It is hoped this will help the clergy wives to participate in the community life of the parishes to which the couples will be sent, and to share what they have learnt. Kerina College has trained over 300 Evangelists who are scattered over the Anglican Church of PNG.

Our support for Bush Church Aid continues. BCA provides parishes in the Australian outback with varying levels of support. With the ongoing drought in farming areas, BCA has appointed Mr Ran and Mrs Jenny Mitchell of North Star to be Drought Family Support Workers. They are well known farmers and have a background in counselling. They visit farms in drought affected areas and assist local congregations to offer care.



Wontulp-Bi-Buya is the indigenous theology college in Cairns. Courses are run for Certificates III and IV and Diploma in Theology, Certificate III in Addictions Management and Community Development, and now Certificate IV in Indigenous Mental Health specialising in Suicide Prevention has commenced.

The first Aboriginal Principal of WBB was Rev'd Michael Connolly who commenced his BTh. studies in 2001 at St John's Theology College at Morpeth upstream from Newcastle. St John's College was founded in 1898 by Bp A V Green, brother of Miss F E Green who founded NEGS, on land opposite the Armidale Bishops court. Those buildings are now part of NEGS. St John's College moved to Morpeth in the 1920s and has now closed. The College foundation stained glass window was returned in 2008 from Morpeth to the original Horbury Hunt designed building at NEGS.

In his WBB Principal's Report for 2014, Rev'd Victor Joseph wrote, "There is so much change happening when you work in a registered training organisation, whether in a school, TAFE, University or a private College like Wontulp!" He wrote of the enthusiasm and commitment of the WBB staff and students, their academic successes including two Masters Degrees, and concluded with "Learn from the past, set vivid, detailed goals for the future, and live in the only moment of time over which you have any control: now." (Denis Waitley). Wontulp-Bi-Buya means faith and light.

The Lenten Appeal is always open.

— Mrs J Cameron | Hon. Treasurer NEGS OGMU
PO Box 173, Adamstown, NSW, 2289

ACT and Region Report

Dear ACT and Region NEGS Old Girls,

A lovely lunch was held at Little Brother Restaurant in Red Hill on Saturday, 14 March, 2015 to celebrate 25 years for the ACT and Region NEGS Old Girls.

18 Old Girls from across the years were in attendance for the special occasion. It was wonderful to have Erica Denborough, our first convenor, who now lives in Melbourne, with us. We also welcomed some visiting Old Girls' friends from other states. We were pleased to have Clive Logan and Mary Wright join us and tell us about what was happening at NEGS.

As has become our custom in recent years a collection was made on the day and our account now has \$655. It was previously decided to give the money to NEGS on our 25th anniversary for a gift in our name and those present this year decided upon some much needed musical instruments and equipment.

Can I recommend that those of you who Facebook become a friend of "NEGSarmidale" and keep in touch with the current news.

A great day of chat and catching up was had by all. We look forward to celebrating the years to come.

— Lindy Armstrong (Masters '77)



OG Events & Reunions

2015 OG Events

SYDNEY

SYDNEY OLD GIRLS' AGM AND LUNCHEON

Tuesday, 11th August, 2015 at 11.30am followed by a luncheon at 12.30pm at the RACA Royal Automobile Club of Australia, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

RSVP: Mary O'Toole
02 9439 6773
m_otoole@speednet.com.au

SYDNEY OG ART SHOW

Cocktail party at Mosman Art Gallery, date TBC.

BRISBANE

QLD OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION AGM

Wednesday, 5th August, 2015
Time: 9.30am AGM followed by lunch
Venue: The Moreton Club,
71 Moray Street, New Farm

RSVP: Shona Rice
07 4697 1194
tighyari1@bigpond.com

ARMIDALE

FRAMED! ANNUAL ART SHOW & SALE EXHIBITION

Friday, 4th September, 2015
Venue: NEGS Multi-Purpose Centre
Time: 6.30pm

NEGS OLD GIRLS' UNION AGM

Saturday, 5th September, 2015
Venue: W H Lee Room, Akaroa Building, NEGS
Time: 9.00am
All welcome

HUNTER VALLEY

HUNTER VALLEY OLD GIRLS' FUNCTION

details to be advised
for more information contact Mrs Mary Wright 02 6774 8700

2015 Cohort Reunions

- 60 Year (1955)**
Gwen Rhys-Jones (Watson)
02 6772 7879
philiprhys-jones@bigpond.com

50 Year (1965)
Marion White (Muffie)
mgwhite45@gmail.com

Betty Wilson
07 5448 8024
bettywilson@westnet.com.au

40 Year (1975)
Rosemary Koenig (McWilliam)
02 9416 6316

35 Year (1980)
Chez Elliott (Drain)
0412 516 451
celliott@integrityre.com.au

Ginny Spear (Carter)
02 9571 9668
ginny@speargreen.com.au
- 30 Year (1985)**
Cressida Mort
0417 271 835
cmort@as.edu.au

Catherine Boydell
0457 722 754
cboydell@as.edu.au

20 Year (1995)
Kate Meyer (Randall)
danielandkate@live.com.au

Liz Rogers (Betts)
liz@bettstransport.com.au

10 Year (2005)
Sally Reynolds
0400 352 728
sal@salreynolds.com

Amanda Hoskin
0401 077 275
amanda.hoskin23@gmail.com

Carina Lee
0437 994 881
carina.j.lee@gmail.com

- 5 Year (2010)**
Clare Stibbard
0429 111 064
clare.stibbard@uqconnect.edu.au

5 Year Parents' Reunion (2010)
Jillian Stibbard
0427 577 005
sstibbard@hotmail.com
- Reunion Dinners**

60 Yr Reunion – NEGS, Akaroa

50 Yr Reunion – NEGS, WH Lee Room, Akaroa

40 Yr Reunion – Petersen's Winery, Armidale

35 Yr Reunion – Moore Park Motor Inn

30 Yr Reunion – Cafe Affamato

20 Yr Reunion – Lunch, Petersen's Winery, Armidale

10 Yr Reunion – TBC

5 Yr Reunion – Red Grapevine, Armidale

5 Yr Parents' Reunion – Whitebull Hotel, Armidale

peak body in the cotton industry. This lasted only a year before she was head hunted to run the fledgling Australian Beef Association, where she built a membership of 1,300 beef producers inside 12 months. This was another career changing moment and the start of the realisation that there were some big obstacles to women with ambitions to lead.

A stint of consulting followed, mainly to NSW Fisheries where she worked as media manager for the Department during the Obeid years, managing the marketing campaign for the introduction of the fishing licence in NSW and marine parks. Passing up the opportunity to do the job permanently, Claire formed a small business with her partner, investigating publishing opportunities in the online space. The focus on agriculture and science shifted to women in leadership when a board role on the Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women led to an opportunity to be part of a pilot project to increase numbers of women on boards. What started as a loose project of well-intentioned women's organisations, was turned by Claire and her business partner, Ruth Medd, into a business in 2005 that has been at the vanguard of moving women into board roles for the past 10 years through innovative programs and services and strong advocacy.

In 2011 Claire received a Churchill Fellowship to examine policies and programs in place in the UK, Norway and France to increase the number of women on boards and in management/executive roles. In six weeks between September and October 2011 she interviewed more than 60 people, presented to a professional women's network and a university forum and attended a global women's forum as one of 1,300 delegates. Her research report is at: www.womenonboards.org.au/pubs/reports/churchill.htm, but a key outcome of the fellowship was the founding of Women on Boards in the UK, where it continues to go from strength to strength as does the Australian business.

On a personal level, Claire is separated from her husband of 15 years and lives on the Central Coast of NSW with her two children, Lucinda (9) and Ben (5). She travels extensively and struggles like many women with the demands of work, family and friends. Her favourite read in 2015 is Annabel Crabb's Book – The Wife Drought, which explores why women need wives and men need lives.



Ann Fishley
(nee Hodgson, class of 1999) married Josh Fishley in 2012 and is living in Melbourne. She works as Ethiopia Program Officer for CBM Australia, an international disability organisation, and has recently completed a Master of International and Community Development through Deakin University. Her role as Program Officer requires her to travel to Ethiopia twice a year to monitor and support community-based rehabilitation projects in Adama, Fiche and Jimma, and a national clubfoot project in the capital Addis Ababa funded by the Australian Government. Before this, she did similar work as CBM's China and Philippines Program Officer. In the aftermath of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires, Ann worked for Australian Red Cross as Bushfire Recovery Project Officer for two years, managing over 200 volunteers to provide Personal Support through outreach to people affected by the fires. She also trained as a Disaster Recovery Delegate (aid worker) to be deployed in overseas emergencies. Whilst still working at Australian Red Cross, before this, Ann managed caseworkers providing support to asylum seekers placed in Community Detention on Christmas Island.

Ann began her career as Cultural Officer at the Embassy of Argentina in Canberra in 2005, after having completed an internship there during her Bachelor of Arts (International Relations) (Honours) degree from The Australian National University two years before. She worked at the Embassy for a year before deciding that her real passion lay in development. Ann applied for a 10-month Australian Youth Ambassador for Development position in China and was successful. She moved to Beijing and started working for the Chinese peak body for non-profit organisations (NPOs). Her role was to investigate funding and resource mobilisation opportunities for Chinese grassroots NPOs, and train representatives in proposal development and grant-writing. She most enjoyed going out to visit projects, mainly in Anhui and Yunnan Provinces, and understanding the needs of community development workers and non-profit organisations. After she had completed her placement, Ann applied for another volunteer position, this time for 18 months in a community development role in Tuvalu – the fourth smallest country in the world, located between Fiji and Kiribati in the middle of the Pacific. It was definitely a shock to the system going from 13 million people in Beijing to 6,000 people on Funafuti, the capital of Tuvalu, but Ann has particularly fond memories of her time there. The size of the population in Tuvalu meant that everyone knew everyone else, teaching Ann some of the best lessons in community development. She lived at the Hideaway Guesthouse with a Tuvaluan family and worked in the village at the Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organisations (TANGO), riding her bike to work every day in a sarong (and being chased by dogs...). People were friendly and welcoming, houses were open to passers-by, the weather was 28-32 degrees all year round, and the pace of life wonderfully slow. Wherever you go on Funafuti, you are beside beautiful stretches of water – either a lagoon on one side that looks like an opal or the more dramatic Pacific Ocean on the other side (both great for catching fish!). Tuvalu is so small but so international with the most unusual events happening there every week, from the Turkish millionaire who randomly decided to fly there in his private jet to a couple from Adelaide who were attempting to be the first to ride a motorbike through all 193 internationally recognised countries that existed at the time (they did it but it took them 15 years!), to TV and documentary crews that arrive every year in February to film the king tides and talk to people about climate change.

Looking back on her career, Ann feels that God has provided her with these opportunities and the resources to enjoy the good times and cope with the bad. Seeing how people can live in some of the (materially) poorest circumstances in the world but still maintain a sense of humour, joy and appreciation for life; has shown Ann both how lucky and unlucky we are in Australia. Most of us have more than enough to meet our daily needs but, as is the case in many 'developed' countries, we are becoming increasingly isolated from each other, undermining the relationships that, in time, we find are more important than anything else. In this sense, growing up in a small town/city in northern NSW can be an advantage.

Old Girls' News & Notices



Claire Braund
Claire Braund (1982-1987) has enjoyed an interesting and diverse career since leaving NEGS in 1987 and is now having a major impact moving women into leadership roles in Australia and overseas through her company, Women on Boards (www.womenonboards.org.au). For this, she remains grateful to the leadership of Dr Jan Milburn and the teaching of Barbara Field, Joan Stanton and others who were early role models – albeit not recognised at the time.

A graduate of the BA (journalism) degree at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, Claire had an early career as a journalist in Armidale, the Hunter Valley and Tasmania, where she worked as a political reporter on the Launceston Examiner in Hobart. The biggest story she covered was the Port Arthur massacre of 1996 – a harrowing experience which became a career changing moment, as she left the profession shortly afterwards to take a job as media manager for Australia's



Vet Chick–Sandi Jephcott ('80)

I really enjoyed my time at NEGS as is reflected by the fact that we all regularly keep in contact. When I was boarding at NEGS, I was told by older relatives and friends that 'school years are the best years of your life'. Of course, at the time I thought they were talking nonsense but now, with hindsight, of course they were correct. One of the highlights of my time at NEGS was having Suzie Tooth as our Head Girl in 1980. She was a good friend and great mentor.

While I was at NEGS as a boarder I lived on a cattle property in the Ramu Valley of Papua New Guinea (PNG) with my family. My older sister, Dorothy, initially boarded at Frensham but transferred to NEGS when I went there. Our family are also horse mad so I initially went to NEGS because of the horses.

I commenced my time at NEGS in 2nd form in 1976. My primary school was correspondence, taught at home in PNG through Queensland, so I went from 7th grade Qld primary school to 2nd form NSW secondary school. My final year at NEGS was in 1980 and I was joint dux with Trish McAlary. Trish was very clever at the literature and arts subjects and I was in science. In 1981, I had a gap year and worked at home and spent a couple of months in the USA, part of which was at the Morven Park International Equestrian Institute (MPIEI). I still have friends I see regularly from MPIEI.

I completed veterinary science at the University of Queensland in Brisbane from 1982 to 1986. I graduated in 1986 and my Mum graduated with veterinary science from UQ in 1956!!! I have followed a similar path to Mum. After she graduated, she worked as a government vet in the Northern Territory. When she and Dad were developing the cattle property in Papua New Guinea, she completed a Bachelor of Economics by external studies through the University of Queensland. After completing my vet degree, I worked for a couple of years at a predominantly horse practice in South Australia. My father died as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident in 1987 so I returned to PNG and managed the cattle property. While I was there, I completed a Master of Science (external research) through James Cook University, Townsville. I left PNG and worked as a feedlot veterinarian for Whyalla Feedlot near Texas, Qld in 1995. During my two years at the feedlot I completed a Master of Business Administration (MBA) externally through Bond University. As with any activities of an extended period, similar to other people, I have maintained good friendships developed through my time at all three universities. In early 1998, I started my dream job as Head Veterinarian for Stanbroke Pastoral Company which, in 2000, became the biggest cattle company in the world with 530,000 head of cattle on 27 cattle properties throughout Queensland and Northern Territory.

Stanbroke was sold in 2003 and I started work with Nutrition Service Associates as a feedlot veterinarian and nutritionist. In early 2008, I decided I should try and be a 'real vet' so I bought the Chinchilla Veterinary Practice. In late 2008 I had a bad horse accident and spent three months in the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit (BIRU) at the Princess Alexander Hospital in Brisbane. I sold the practice in February 2014.

In September 2014 I started work as foreign veterinarian for Bryansk Meat Company (subsidiary of Miratorg) in Bryansk region of Russia. This cattle company has 250,000 cattle across 40 farms and 2 feedlots. It has been a real challenge to work for this company.



General News

'Missing Person List'

The time has come for the 50th reunion of the classes of 1960-1965. The response has been fantastic and a very enthusiastic group will be at NEGS for Old Girls' weekend in September 2015. There were 78 of us and Caryl Cochrane is the only one on our "Missing Persons List", can anyone help locate Caryl? It would be a shame if she was to miss out on such a wonderful weekend.

Samantha Upton (Sherrington '95)

Since leaving NEGS, Samantha qualified at UWS as an Osteopath in 2003, and added post graduate qualifications in Animal Chiropractic from RMIT in 2009. She headed to Ireland in January 2010 for a planned 12 month visit, and despite 2 trips back to Australia, has settled happily into the Irish life.

Sam's first trip home was to introduce her Irish fiancé, Robert Upton, to the family, and the second for their wedding in 2013. They now have a daughter, Hannah, (almost a year old) who is keeping them busy. Since settling in Ireland, she has established "Centaurus Equestrian Rehabilitation" (Oseopathy for Horse and Rider) and has seen a lot of Ireland in the process.

This year's winner of Sculpture by the Sea is Stephen King

Steve's connection to the school is through his mum, Col King (Fenwicke). Col was head girl of NEGS back in the 1940's. Year 12 students donated to the school, a sculpture by Steve, which he dedicated to Collie, situated by the Dickens House tennis courts. Collie had three sons and no daughters but was thrilled when her 4 great nieces attended St John's/NEGS: Claire Fenwicke—2009; Emma Fenwicke—2011; Olivia Fenwicke—currently in Year 10; Lucy Fenwicke—currently in Year 9.

Her husband, Ted, also boarded in the Horbury Hunt Building while at school in Armidale in the 1930's.

Claire Fenwicke

Claire Fenwicke (2009), received the JB Fairfax Award for Rural Journalism. She is seen with Mr JB Fairfax AO, and was awarded this in the Amphitheatre at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.



Photo credit: Charlotte Cooper.

Goodbyes

Betty Isabel Edwards (Dickens '38)

6 December 1921-30 January 2015

Passed away January 30th, 2015 in North Shore Private Hospital. She was the beloved daughter of Canon Clive Dickens, and her mother Dorothy Mary Alison Forster attended NEGS. They lived in The Lodge for many years. Janet Milburn told me that my grandfather single handedly had the most influence on NEGS beside Florence Green.

Ellen Jean (Nell) Wilson ('32-'33)

Passed away at the great age 97 on 19/8/2014 in Sydney. Nell was born at Moree 15/5/1916 and educated at schools at Garah and Inverell before following one of her sisters, Kathleen, to NEGS.

She often spoke of her happy times at NEGS, where she excelled in French and Latin and acquired a life long love of the arts and literature. Nell did her General Nursing Training at Royal North Shore and her Midwifery at Crown Street Hospital for Women before enlisting in the Australian Armed Forces at the break out of WW2, serving in makeshift "hospitals" on the Kokoda Trail and then Borneo.

Nell returned to spend time at Warialda with her family and after the death of their parents she and Kathleen moved to Sydney. They enjoyed life in the city and lived at Harbord, before moving to Balgowlah and then into a Nursing Home in Manly until her death. Sadly missed by her niece Betty NEGS 1960-1964.

Betty Mitchell (Tindal '31)

Sadly passed away 24th July 2014 at 101 years of age.

Robin Blomfield ('Ro-Bo' '44)

Sadly passed away 3rd December 2014.

The Suzie Tooth Memorial Fund

Established in April 2015, is a tribute to the memory of Suzie Tooth.

Suzie lost her hard fought battle with breast cancer in January, 2015.

In honour of Suzie's spirit and her long held passion for the Arts, fellow NEGS Old Girls, along with the Tooth family, have partnered with NEGS to commission Ben Tooth, Suzie's nephew, to create a sculpture for the NEGS grounds. The sculpture will be created from Australian hardwood. This sculpture will not only add beauty to the school grounds, but help us remember those girls that walked before us, to make the school what it is today.

Contributions to fund this memorial for a much loved Head Girl would be gratefully appreciated.

Donations can be made via the NEGS Old Girls' Union:

NEGS OGU
BSB 932 000
Acc: 726 755
Ref: Tooth



Susan Mary Tooth

10 May 1963-25 January 2015

(Senior Prefect in 1980) Suzie was born at Moree, NSW on 10th May, 1963 and a year later moved with her family to Barraba to spend the next eleven years. Suzie had a love for animals, was a keen horse rider and as a child gained a menagerie including goats, ponies, dogs and nursed many homeless sugar gliders.

Suzie joined the NEGS family in 1976 and followed in the footsteps of her mother, Patricia Newman, to become the Senior Prefect (Head Girl) in 1980. Suzie lived school life to the fullest, played Tildesley Shield tennis and A1 hockey and achieved high academic results while setting a wonderful example as a leader of the school. Suzie held a special regard for Mr Luke Rose, her English teacher in the senior years and Mrs Verelle Lyons, the Social Science teacher and an Old Girl. She worked productively with Headmistress Dr Jan Milburn during her time as Senior Prefect on issues of discipline and pastoral care.

Suzie continued her studies in Economics at the University of Sydney where she attended Women's College and made many life-long friends. She later pursued her real interest in Psychology completing her BA Psychology (Honours) at the University of NSW in 2000. She practiced clinical psychology in Sydney and later in Armidale where she established a private practice and helped many hundreds of people under her care – many with confronting and complex problems. Her most recent academic achievement was a Master of Clinical Psychology from the University of New England (Honours) in 2009. She authored published papers on the use of technology in psychology and was leading a research project to assess students in a practical setting. Her final occupation was as a respected lecturer in clinical psychology at UNE.

Suzie was gentle, elegant and graceful with an enviable sense of style. She was a sensitive soul who did not tolerate violence. Suzie had a particular way of relating to children and was a devoted aunt, caring godmother and surrogate parent. She was a natural introvert who showed genuine interest in the lives of others. She listened, provided wise counsel and was an expert in crisis and problem management – making her a “vault for so many of our secrets”. Suzie loved solitude and her passion for yoga and meditation made her more contemplative. She practiced healthy living and eating and enjoyed long walks in natural settings. She had a positive impact on everyone's lives.

Suzie spent a significant part of her adult life with partner Robert Dempsey who described her as a woman of substance with a girlish spontaneity and a great friend. She was organised, diligent, doggedly determined and held a passion for Visual Arts and things of beauty. In 1991 Suzie enrolled in an International School of Photography in Paris. She was successful in her application to the Parsons School which was New York based with a campus in Paris. During her time in Paris she absorbed Parisian culture and became more cosmopolitan. She gained work at a fashion magazine, an experience that enforced that working in professional photography was not for her. Her time in Paris ultimately led her towards her career in psychology. Last year Suzie enrolled in a PhD, her thesis topic was to be Cognitive Vulnerability to Anxiety yet this did not come to fruition due to her untimely death from cancer on 25th January, 2015. Her PhD supervisors described her as open, empathetic and a great listener. She was an impeccable student with a richer wisdom based on life experience and not prototypical. She possessed the ability to place herself in other's positions.

Suzie's spirituality provided her with great peace and inner strength. She was an inspiration to us all as she maintained a cheerful and positive outlook even as she faced challenges in life.

The Anglican Cathedral in Armidale was overflowing as Suzie was farewelled by her father Michael, brothers Peter, Nick and Simon, extended family members, Robert Dempsey, friends from NEGS, Universities of Sydney and New England and many more.

She will be sadly missed.



The Suzie Tooth Memorial Fund

Suzie developed a love of art through her photography and time spent in the galleries around Europe. It seems only right that we should remember her by having a work of art created in her memory. Suzie shared her love of art and beautiful things with one of her nephews, Ben Tooth. She encouraged Ben to pursue his dreams and apply for National Art School where he is now in his final year. Ben is being mentored by local Walcha artist Stephen King, who is best known for his works in timber.

It has been our privilege to have Suzie's nephew Ben accept a commission to create a work for his much loved Auntie, the site of which will be decided by the school and the artist.

We are looking to raise funds to cover the cost of the sculpture which will not only act as a memorial to a treasured friend, but also give a gift of art and soul to the school.

NEGS Wellbeing Program 2015

Celebrating the 24 Character Strengths as a school has opened up so many opportunities for the girls to examine their own character, and to learn ways to build upon their strengths to help them overcome adversity and change. This year we are following a series of website articles and videoclips from the VIA institute site. The girls have been inspired by the stories of resilience of Nick Vuijicic and a performance at school of blind guitarist Lorin Nicholson.

NEGS continues to be a strong supporter of MindMatters which provides a framework for our Wellbeing teaching program and lessons. All academic staff have access to ongoing training sessions, enabling them to be familiar with current research in the field of Mental Health and strategies to assist students. The NEGS community are also encouraged to participate in MindMatters training and can also complete the training modules on the MindMatters site, www.mindmatters.edu.au

Another exciting relationship that we have with the wider education community is our membership to Positive Education Schools Association (PESA), pesa.edu.au. The patron is Dr Martin E P Seligman, founder of Positive Psychology in the school setting. Our program at NEGS is strongly based on his current research in this area. You will see our NEGS logo proudly displayed on this website. The book promoted here, “Better than OK – helping young people to flourish at school and beyond” can be found in our school library.

This PESA membership provides opportunities for further professional development for the staff, together with being able to share resources and ideas in the teaching of Positive Education in our school.

Our girls continue to develop strategies and the language needed to express their concerns to ensure their positive wellbeing. In Term 3 we welcome guest presenters from Batyr and Kate Fitzsimmons returns to speak to our Year 11 class on the subject of Safe Travel Overseas.

We have been successful in our application for an AIS Wellbeing Grant for 2015. I will be further enhancing the Student Wellbeing program by adding a student portal on Moodle for the girls to access articles, applications and interactive websites. People of all ages turn to the internet for information, and increasingly for support, and assistance with mental health challenges. A range of services have emerged in the online environment. I will be selecting suitable information websites, including sites that particularly target young people, such as Headspace and ReachOut.

– Mrs Angela Sole
wellbeing@NEGS Co-ordinator



Lise Larsen, a Danish exchange student and Katrina Tomlinson Gils.



Lorin Nicholson, Miah Lupica and Lorin's father, Mr Nicholson.





Kirrili Williams, Andrew Piper (TION), Isabella Watson (Yr 12), Joy Hague (TION), Sophie Watson (Yr 11), Emily Sole (Yr 10).



Nick Begbie (TION), NEGS Principal Clive Logan, Joy Hague (TION).



Alana Blackburn, Kylie Constantine, Nick Negerevich and Kirrili Williams.

Hitting the Right Note

Following the success of our 120th Anniversary Concert with multi-ARIA winning singers The Idea of North, NEGS has purchased a number of new instruments for our students. Two new digital pianos for the Music classrooms have been delivered, as well as some much-needed wind instruments for the Stage 3 and Stage 4 Band programs. The concert was a highlight of the school year in terms of entertainment and celebrating with the wider community. The benefit our choristers received from the choral workshop was substantial, and they were joined by top singers from Duval High School and O'Connor Catholic College for this exciting experience.

Pictured at bottom: NEGS students performing with the The Idea Of North (l to r) TION singer Joy Hague, NEGS singers Sophie Watson, Laura Kater, Isabella Watson, Katrina Bean and TION singer Sally Cameron.



Inge Southcott (NEGS singing teacher), Greg Beresford, Andrew Piper (TION).



Jenny Hanna, Kerrie Biddle, Sally Burraston and Kay Hiscox.

