

Akaroa

Semester One 2016



NEGS

YEAR 12 2016
PR

2016 Dates

TERM 3

18 July	Staff Day Boarders return by 8.00pm
19 July	First day of Term 3
21-22 July	IGSSA Netball/Hockey – Round 1
4-5 August	IGSSA Netball/Hockey – Round 2
12 August	Major Projects (Year 12) Presentation Evening
18-19 August	IGSSA Athletics
9 September	Grandparents' Day
9 September	Framed! Art Show opening
10-11 September	Old Girls' Weekend
10 September	P&F Function – tbc
16-17 September	IGSSA Netball/Hockey – Finals
22 September	Year 12 Valedictory Day Last day of Term 3 Last day for Year 12
23 Sept-7 Oct	School Holidays

TERM 4

10 October	Staff Day Boarders return by 8.00pm
11 October	First day of Term 4
October 11	Prefect Induction assembly
7 December	Speech Day Last day for Years 7-11
November 19-20	NEGS ODE
December 1	St John's Celebration of Learning

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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: NEGS Year 12 student Rachel Jones enjoying the Autumn Festival Parade with her friends.

AKAROA SEMESTER ONE 2016

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Welcome to the first edition of Akaroa for 2016.

As you would have read in school information, New England Girls' School (NEGS) and St John's Junior School are consolidating their position as one of Australia's pre-eminent, regionally-based day and boarding schools. We are continuing to reinforce the mindset of "Whatever you do, do it heartily" – be that the arts, academia, sporting, Livestock team or equestrian.

Each student is individual so therefore, each learning program must also be in keeping with that student's needs.

NEGS and St John's offer a 'boutique education' nurturing and teaching independence simultaneously.

Both skill sets are imperative in an increasingly changing world. In line with the School's Strategic Intent, faculties have been aligned within the academic school providing for a more coordinated approach towards professional development.

This allows for staff to facilitate best teaching practice; rigorous and compliant assessment tasks; a reflective and 360 degree teacher efficiency review process and increased accountability for all stakeholders.

Our new Heads of Department have embraced their roles, reinvigorating the teaching staff. They are:

1. Mr Geoff O'Neill - HoD of English/HSIE/Languages.
2. Ms Sarah Ronald - HoD of Creative & Performing Arts & Design.
3. Mrs Consuela Despi will continue as HoD of Mathematics/Science/Agriculture.

It is also timely to reflect upon the importance of single sex education in 2016. The Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia have stated: "Girls hold every leadership position in girls' schools - in the classroom, on the stage and on the sporting field. They achieve greater academic success, and are more confident and assertive in single-sex environments. They are also more likely to study in the areas of science, technology, engineering and maths, to pursue a career in these non-traditional areas, and to participate and perform at higher levels in sport and physical education."

Put simply, girls in an all-girls' school: feel empowered and free to take risks; buck the trend in science, technology, engineering and maths; girls' schools

build self-confidence; a girl occupies every leadership role; girls experience an aspirational environment where girls take centre stage; girls' schools reflect how girls learn.

Having taught in a co-educational school for 21 years, I feel well placed to offer an opinion on this issue and concur with the research that single-sex education is superior. I believe this as an educator and a parent, and feel encouraged by the advantages your daughters are receiving by being part of the NEGS community and single-sex education.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the amazing achievements and activities our students are involved in at NEGS and St John's in this issue of Akaroa.

MARY ANNE EVANS
PRINCIPAL



Toughen Up

Students took on the teachers at the Inverell Toughen Up Challenge in March. 12 students and one teacher competed in the challenge. All three student teams (beat their teacher's team) finished in under two hours and 10 minutes. It was a sweltering day of tyre flipping, fence jumping, swimming, running and army crawls. Well done to all that competed, it was truly a tough challenge.



Tianna Sullivan, Sydney Rice, Madeleine Scott and Chloe Dowd.

Kids Lit Quiz

NEGS hosted the first ever Armidale Heat of the Kids Lit Quiz earlier this year. On the day we had 48 students (in teams of four) from Armidale primary and high schools. Well done to our St John's and NEGS teams. The year 8 team (Grace, Sheriden, Courtney and Charlotte) came third overall. The year 7 team (Madeleine, Sydney, Chloe and Tianna) and year 6 team (Sophie, Sophia, Lily and Constanza) all had enormous fun and are already 'reading up' for next year's competition. Congratulations to the winning team, Armidale City. Thank you also to Ms Donella Tutt for all her fabulous organisational efforts.



Occasional Address

Our amazing Head of St John's, Shannon Rosewood, was recently invited to deliver the Occasional Address at the University of New England's Graduation Ceremony for Education Awards held on the southern lawns of Booloominbah. This was in acknowledgement of her achievement of NSW Positive Teacher of the Year in 2015. In attendance at the ceremony were the 180 Education graduates, their families, the Vice-Chancellor, Annabelle Duncan and Chancellor, James Harris, as well as the Mayors of Armidale, Uralla and Walcha. Her address considered the role of the learner and the ways in which teachers respond to student difficulty can empower students to be independent and confident. Accessing a new skill is a daunting and tricky process that can be unsettling and uncomfortable.



Penny Haynes, Lucy Haynes and Thelma Dauvunau.

Fiji Night

Congratulations to Mrs Lisa Haynes and everyone who helped make the Fijian Fundraiser earlier this year such a huge success. \$11,000 was raised to help communities in Fiji after their villages were devastated by the recent cyclone. The Fijian dancing and singing on the night was fabulous as was the home-cooked meats prepared in a traditional lovo (cooked in the ground).



“ Well done to all that competed, it was truly a tough challenge. ”

Coffs Challenge

Well done to our six fantastic NEGS girls who headed off to Coffs Harbour to compete in the two kilometre Ocean Swim. There were 268 people competing and NEGS had the first two females home from Armidale – Lucy Fenwicke (she was the 10th female out of the water) and Charlotte Raleigh. Lucy was 27th overall in a time of 29.11, 2nd in her age category and the 1st Armidale female. Charlotte Raleigh got 49th overall in a time of 30.58, 4th in her age category and was the 2nd Armidale female. Abbey Jackson posted 90th in a time of 34.13 and got 8th in her age category. Olivia Strelitz was 16th in a time of 35.42 and got 6th in her age category. Kathleen McPhie got 126th in a time of 36.14 and got 8th in her age category. Sarah Wyatt got 163rd in a time of 38.29 and got 12th in her age category. Overall there was 120 females that swam.

UNE GRASS

Congratulations to Laura Strelitz and Sarah Parkes – two of our keen agricultural science students who were awarded 2015/2016 UNE GRASS Industry Placement scholarships.

NEGS has had a stellar history with the GRASS program (Growing Regional & Agricultural Students in Science) that is aimed at leading the development and delivery of education programs that inspire students towards science careers. Out of 50 applicants, 15 students were selected including Sarah and Laura. They attended an all-expenses paid camp and following the camp, a five day industry placement working with industry/research scientists.

Laura attended the Veterinary Heath Research (VHR) Centre and Sarah's industry placement was at the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit based at the University of New England. Both girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained great insight into their respective industries.



Laura Strelitz



Sarah Parkes



Alex Patten

On target

NEGS Rifle Club members Anna and Alex competed in the New England District Open Prize meeting earlier this year. Shooting in intense heat at 500 and 600 yards, the girls dominated their grade, winning ranges and coming 1st (Anna) and 2nd (Alex) overall. The greatly coveted "bullion" badges are their first.



Anna Campbell



Indigenous Excursion

A group of students, accompanied by Mrs Sole, visited the Indigenous Community Garden in March. This year we are providing an opportunity for our Indigenous students to be involved in the local community. The garden excursions will involve learning about vegetable gardening, harvesting produce to be distributed at Minimbah Primary School, researching and planting Indigenous medicinal plants. The girls helped to revive



Thelma Dauvunau

this garden by watering the Echidna sculpture constructed of Lomandra. Lomandra grass is used in weaving to make baskets, and as this plant matures, we hope to have a demonstration and opportunity for the girls to also learn this craft. The girls have also embarked on some traditional painting workshops and are working on a school poster.

ANZAC Day

NEGS was well represented at the annual ANZAC Day March and ceremony in Armidale. As per usual, all students looked amazing in their walking out uniforms and they all enjoyed taking part in the march and following ceremony. Well done to all those who attended. You did our school proud.





Lindsey Doolan and Annabelle Heagney



Science News

This year we welcomed a new addition to Miss Stone's Biology Lab – Cuddles, a juvenile Diamond Python, who has made herself right at home.

When she's not chilling out on her log, she is captivating students as she engulfs her dinner whole or enthralling them with her abs of steel. Look out for Miss Stone when walking around the school grounds, as Cuddles might just be out catching some rays.

Our students have, once again, excelled in the competitions they have entered so far this year. Our 10A Science class came third in the Highlands Science and Engineering Challenge, showing off their teamwork in a fabulous day of bridge building, hovercraft designing and earthquake tower proofing, to name a few of the activities.

Our Science Club girls participated in the BEBRAS computational thinking challenge, achieving excellent results, and are currently growing pulse crops for the Young Scientist Awards and Hermitage

Schools Plant Science competition. By the end of this year, they will have also competed in the Eureka Science Prizes, Science iQonline competition, the Education Perfect World Championships and UNE's GRASS awards.

Our Coding Club students have also been busy learning how to design web pages and program computers using the Python language. They competed in a national HTML/CSS competition, achieving outstanding results, and are currently competing in a Python programming competition. They are also designing computer games for the national STEM Video Game challenge.

All Science students from Years 7-12 competed in the national Big Science competition in May and Year 11 and 12 Chemistry students will also compete in the national RACI Titration competition.

The Science faculty is always an engaging place to be. So far this year, students have constructed boomerangs, dissected eyes and brains, raced remote controlled cars, had a 'shocking' experience with the Van de Graaf Generator, broken the NEGS sound barrier and designed aliens, just to name a few of the activities covered.

MISS STONE
SCIENCE/BIOLOGY TEACHER
YEAR12 YEAR ADVISOR



Music News

Mr George Torbay will be joining the NEGS fold at the beginning of Term 4, 2016, as Head of Music. Hailed by The Sydney Morning Herald as "one of Australia's leading musical lights," George Torbay completed studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, the University of Sydney and the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

A distinguished conductor, music educator, singing teacher, adjudicator, performer and director, he has served as Chief Conductor Choral Music for the NSW Department of Education, Lecturer in Singing at Federation University, advisor to Hal Leonard Australia and as the Director of Music for the television series Battle of the Choirs. Mr Torbay has recently completed the new Australian Music Examinations Board syllabus in Musical Theatre, released in November 2015.

This is an exciting time for Music at NEGS. Mr Torbay will be ably supported by Mr Benn Tracy and Ms Kristal Spreadborough.

Students at NEGS and St John's were in the fortunate position of dominating the composition section of the Eisteddfod held in Week 4 this term. The school results are the best in recent memory and they were:

- K-6 Composition: Dimity Chalmers HC; Eloise Gooch 3rd; Archibald O'Neill 2nd.
- Year 11 Composition: Eugenie Gullifer-Laurie HC.
- Year 12 Composition: Isabelle Cameron 1st (an amazing achievement in a very strong field).
- Hayley Whitehill, First and Second place playing piano.
- Open Composition: Eugenie Gullifer-Laurie 2nd (again, a particularly strong field and it is worth noting that the only person who beat Gigi was a semi-professional).
- Year 7 student Keeley O'Connor was in six events at the eisteddfod: three individual, one duet and two ensembles, and came out with two firsts, a second and two highly commended awards.

These are fantastic achievements. Things are certainly looking positive for music at NEGS and we look forward to welcoming Mr Torbay soon.



Twilight Concerts

The first Twilight Concert of 2016 was also our most well attended. There were around 50 audience members on the night to listen to our many talented musicians. The concert was enjoyed by all and we were pleased to announce that more similar concerts would take place throughout the year as a result of the large numbers of participants.



Madeline Murphy



Some of our campdrafters: Gabrielle Cadzow, Hannah Weston, Chloe Seccombe, Amelia Edmonds, Laura Hardie and Ashlee Petch

Equestrian News

It was a busy term for the NEGS Equestrian Centre. We started off in March with the loss of our Equestrian Manager, Wendy Fitzgerald. Wendy has done an amazing job over the last three years and brought the Equestrian Centre from a small enterprise of 30 horses to the current one, at the end of Term Two, of 102 horses. We wish Wendy and Mick Fitzgerald all the best in their new endeavours.

This year, we also welcomed Imti onto the team. Imtiaz Anees, has been highly anticipated over the last year and finally, after a year of red tape, managed to secure his visa and arrived shortly before Wendy left.

Imti and Annyka are sharing the role of head coach, with both picking up different parts of Wendy's role. Annyka, will now be in charge of all parent liaison (on the riding side) and student welfare. She is also in charge of all syllabus teaching as well as continuing with her normal lessons.

Campdrafting

As of June, we are pleased to announce that renowned horsewoman, Gloria McCormack, will be presiding over the Campdraft Academy.

Gloria is not only a NEGS Old Girl, she is also the winner of countless drafts with two of her many highlights being the 2013 NSW ACA Lady Rider and Owner/Trainer of the 2015 NSW ACA Champion Novice Horse with her mare, "One More Dare".

Gloria is an accredited Campdraft and Australian Stock Horse Judge, judging at both the Warwick Gold Cup and the Australian Stock Horse National Show, to name just two. Gloria has also run many coaching clinics, primarily youth and ladies clinics, for the past ten years.

Eventing

Our girls have had many highlights in an eventing season that is only just starting to warm up. In March, Lucy Ramsay attended the NSW awards night, receiving the Junior Pre Novice Rider of year for 2015. Lucy, Jaimie McElroy and Matilda McCarroll competing 1* at a very high level, have regularly been placing in the top 5 juniors in the 1* class. We have also had many winners and grinders in Isabella Arabejo, Ashley Randle, Madeline Murphy, Abbey Jackson, Cassandra Field, Holly Coulthard, and Sarah Hamparsum who have shown huge improvements in recent months, with all their hard work really starting to show.

Sam Lyle commented during his recent clinic how much the girls had improved since last year, how much he is enjoying working with the girls on a regular basis, and how they always have the best attitude towards their learning. Sam is able to make bigger, longer lasting changes through consistent coaching, providing practical homework and setting goals. What's more exciting is he has confirmed that he will continue to attend NEGS on a regular basis for the remainder of the year, which is great news.

The girls had a wonderful weekend at the Tamworth ODE with 19 girls competing.

Ellen Archer and Anna Jarvis both won their divisions, with Holly Coulthard coming second and Katie Hancock third. Abbey Jackson came fifth. Priscilla Clonan was also right up there and leading after dressage before her horse "Stoney" decided he had finished the cross country at the second last fence. We had a strong participation at the One star Level with four riders competing from NEGS. Sarah Hamparsum jumped a double clear, Lucy Ramsay and Matilda McCarroll had great cross country rides.

Madeline Murphy and Sarah Wyatt had brilliantly ridden clear rounds at the 105 cross country too.

Polocrosse

We started off the term with Torie Fielder arriving back to school late as she was in NZ representing NSW. Judging by the photos, the trip was a lot of fun, maybe polocrosse was a slight inconvenience in between white water rafting and bungy jumping.

Later in the term we had Barastoc Interstate competition in Warwick where we had four girls representing their states in both Under 16 and Under 21. Olivia Adams – represented NSW in the under 21; Jessie Ross and Josie Wilson represented NSW in the Under 16; Sophie Wells represented her home state Queensland in the Under 16.

These last holidays, we had the 2016 Polocrosse National Championships which were held in Albury. These championships only occur every two years and competition is very tough to be selected for these teams. This year we had five girls representing their states, the four from The Barastoc Competition as well as Lindsey Doolan. The girls had a very successful carnival with many of the girl's teams winning, many receiving prizes and Josie Wilson and Lindsey Doolan off to South Africa later in the year to represent Australia.

Show Riding Team

The members of the NEGS Show Riding Team have started the year with a bang taking out many champions and supremes at local shows. We have also had a number of girls – Molly Michell-Smith, Bronte Dagg, Britnee Breneger and Charlotte Jacobson – ride at Sydney Royal with some great results. Molly and Bronte also competed at Toowoomba Royal taking home many high placings in various events and Bronte picked up two Grand National qualifying tickets with champion child's pony and first in open child's galloway. Chelsea Eichorn, Matilda Hall and Claudia Morris have had some outstanding results at some large shows locally, well done girls! As our local show season winds down, our show riders are preparing for ENSW Interschools, Coona and Lismore Hack Championships. Good luck to all our show riders competing at upcoming events and we are hoping to get Paul Austin back in Term 3 for another great Show Riding clinic.

Campdrafting and Cutting

Our Campdrafting and Cutting girls have also had some outstanding results over the last two terms including Laura Hardie winning campdrafts at Walgett, Bendemeer and Coonamble; Tamara Herrod taking home a second and fourth at Coonamble and a third at Home Hill.

Lydia Thornberry also put in a great performance at Scone Cutting where she won the senior youth with an exceptional 74 and narrowly missed a place by a half point with a great 72.5 in the rookies class.

While we never have enough room to mention all our girls' results, we do try and get as many as we can on Facebook so please keep sending your great photos and results into equestrian@negs.nsw.edu.au

Meet Imtiaz Anees

Olympic Equestrian, trainer, competitor, husband, father, NBC Commentator and marketing consultant for several equine companies, Imtiaz Anees knows a thing or two about the Equine world. Born in India, studied in Australia and previously based in the United States, Imtiaz has had the opportunity to work with Three Day Event, Dressage, Show Jumping and Race horses. Having travelled nearly half the globe he has been very fortunate to have worked and trained with some of the best riders in Australia, England, France, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States.

NEGS has been very lucky in securing his services as Head Coach and many students and external clients have benefited from his vast equestrian knowledge in just a short time. "The kids and NEGS have so much talent it makes me work harder every day in getting the best out of them," said Imti. "I derive my energy from them, it is a fantastic environment for students to study and ride horses."





NEGS Livestock Team and Agriculture news

It has been a very busy term with the following activities. The Northern Ram Breeders Association (Junior Judging) was attended by a number of keen students and was an enjoyable experience for all. Mr Hamish Chandler (NEGS parent) very kindly tutored our students in the art of both sheep and fleece judging. Ribbons were won by a number of students with Georgina Watson shining through.

Guyra, Armidale and Walcha Agricultural District Shows

A big thank you to Mr Richard Mackenzie (Agriculture Assistant) and Ms Louise Lawrence for their assistance with this year's local competitions. Our students worked hard and had a lot of fun. Many prizes were won across steer and heifer cattle classes, student parader and junior judging competitions at each of our local district agricultural shows.

Highlights included:

- Champion pure bred steer at Guyra
- Champion overall school at Armidale
- New England zone finalists representing our region at the Sydney Royal Show
- Beef cattle parading - Chelsea Devenish, Emily Barton, Olivia Carter
- Beef cattle judging - Felicity Thomas, Emma Kaul (reserve)
- Champion steer at Walcha Show
- Champion parader at Walcha Show—Olivia Carter

Our Livestock Team is to be congratulated for an outstanding overall effort at all competitions.



Farm Case Study

This year our Preliminary Agriculture class was fortunate enough to complete their Farm Case Study on 'Congi' station near Walcha. A visit to the property was the first step in the process. It was a fantastic day where students had a full farm tour and learnt about every aspect of the farm business from manager Mr Anthony Uren (NEGS

parent). The class was able to see crutching, cattle ultrasound pregnancy testing and generally experience first hand one of Australia's best traditional fine wool and beef producing properties. A big thank you to Mr Uren for a wonderful experience and for the sharing of his extensive knowledge.

NEGS Agriculture activities for Term 2:

- Whole School Composting System
- HSC Guyra Tomato Enterprise Tour
- Total Field Days – NEGS Agriculture Display
- Manning Valley Beef Week
- Northern Schools' Prime Lamb Competition



Property Planning Competition

Both our stage 5 Agriculture classes spent a day on a Guyra sheep and cattle farm (Ellerslie) to commence the New England Property Planning Competition. It was an informative, enjoyable day where students were engaged in a number of stations on the property learning about soils and pasture, water resources, biodiversity, biosecurity and livestock enterprises. Students are now completing their property planning task in groups, ready to submit to the Local Land Services early next term. Thank you to Mrs Annette Edmonds (Science Assistant) and Mrs Sara Schmude (NEGS parent) for their assistance on the day.

Success at the Manning Valley Beef Week

Once more the Livestock Team at NEGS have achieved outstanding results at this years Manning Valley Beef Week held in Wingham. With a team of eight students and four head of cattle, we contributed to the competition with over 280 students, 20 schools and 140 head of cattle. The following results were achieved:

Cattle Handling/parading

14 yrs – Chelsea Devenish placed 4th and Eli Layton (TAS) placed 3rd

15 yrs Herdsperson was won jointly by Felicity Thomas and Emma Kaul

Cattle Results

Our grey Limousin cross steer bred by Richard and Heather Cole 'Lachlan Dale' – Forbes was awarded first place in his weight class and sold for \$5.80/kg HSCW. Our pure Charolais steer proudly bred by NEGS made it to the final in a very tough class for Middle weights and was awarded 3rd place carcase on the hook.

Our students worked tirelessly and professionally throughout a very enjoyable week. A big thank you to the beef producers who continue to supply top quality livestock and support our Livestock Team. Our success could not come without your generous assistance. A big thank you also to Mr Richard Mackenzie our Agriculture Assistant and to Lisa and Ariel our gap year students. A huge thank you also to the Manning Valley Beef Week committee for once again organizing such a great competition and helping to encourage young people in Agriculture.

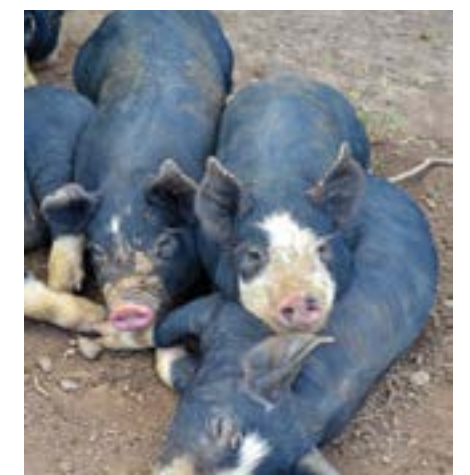
Junior Judging

15 yrs – Felicity Thomas placed 2nd and Emma Kaul 3rd

Overall Champion Junior Judge or the entire competition was won by Emily Barton

Tamworth Show - Pig Exhibition

Lilli McMillan and Jorja Mason represented NEGS at this year's Tamworth Show – Pig Exhibition with the showing of our school bred Berkshire Pigs. Both girls assisted Mr Richard and Mrs Heather Cole (Lachlan Dale - Forbes) who initially donated our quality Berkshires, with preparing and exhibiting the prize winning pigs. A fantastic, fun experience. Well done Lilli and Jorja. Our school sow - 'River Glen Honey' farrowed again in April.



St John's News

It has been an exciting and action packed start to the 2016 academic year at St John's.

Our focus for this year is the inclusion of students with disabilities and we have been fortunate enough to receive funding from the AIS as a part of its School Wide Action Research Project – Inclusive Schooling. All staff have been provided with an AIS workshop and consultant meeting to plan and implement a classroom action research project based on a student or group of students in their classroom. This is a year-long project and teachers are provided with release time each week to collaborate and develop their project with another member of staff.

We continue to have Service Learning as an important factor of our student wellbeing and pastoral care approach to holistic learning. Working with local organisations such as PEDAL Early Child Intervention, Tour de Rocks and local Nursing Homes will help our students to understand their role as a local citizen and also as members of society. Participation in the Autumn Festival parade, Anzac March, the Armidale Show and the local Eisteddfod represent the values of a small community and rural centre such as ours.

PROSPER at NEGS and St John's is the focal point of our wellbeing classroom activities, guest speakers, incursion days and also the professional development of our staff. Positivity, Relationships, Outcomes, Strengths, Purpose, Engagement, and Resilience are key concepts that have been spoken about at both the NEGS Speech Day and our own Celebration of Learning. How, as a school, can we continue to develop and enhance the happiness and success of students is what we strive to achieve at St John's.

The extension of our co-curricular programs this year is in keeping with our focus on the development of the whole child and their interests and strengths. Creativity and imagination will flourish for students who enjoy and love to learn. The array of club activities offered by the talented staff includes pottery, drama, coding and Science, as well as equestrian skills at Ready Set Trot lessons. The addition of the Explorers' Christian lunchtime crusaders group provides ample opportunities for our students to grow and develop their skills as motivated and enthusiastic learners.

SHANNON ROSEWOOD
HEAD OF ST JOHN'S

Charlotte Jacobson and Nikita Wells



Author Visit

Students at St John's were very lucky to have bestselling children's author, Belinda Murrell, visit school to talk about her new book "The Lost Sapphire" and launch the school's Reading Challenge. Such an inspirational talk for the students and so many great questions asked, it is safe to say we have more than a few budding authors at St John's.



Power lunch

Our fantastic St John's Year 6 students had a special lunch in the WH Lee Room with Principal, Mary Anne Evans. The topics of their engaging conversations were the highlights of their excursion to Canberra... and how good their crunchy chicken and salad wraps were.



Cupcakes galore

A Biggest Morning Tea was a huge success and a big thanks go out to our generous community who helped St John's raise \$500 for the Cancer Council. The selection of cupcakes, cakes and slices on display was mouthwateringly amazing and the students had a ball sharing cakes and cups of tea with their friends and families. Did we mention that Mrs Captain Positive made a surprise visit too?

Cross Country Champs

The Junior School had a very hot run on Friday 26th February. We were very proud of every child for their efforts on the day. Thank you to all the parents once again for your assistance and support to ensure the carnival ran smoothly.

Our champions for this year's carnival were:

12 years: Champion Jack Cassidy; runner up Sophie Mason;
11 years champion Solomon Layton; runner up Ashley Knight;
10 years champion Arabella Dag; runner up Arlie Tanner;
9 years champion Felicity Chapman; runner up Charlie McCulloch; 8 years champion Lara McAlary; runner up Delilah Layton;
7 years champion Anastasia Anderson; runner up Finlay Pulkkinen; 5/6 years Jesse Aldis; runner up Tom Lorimer.



Sophie Mason

“ Well done to all our students who also competed at IPSHA Cross Country. ”



Charlotte Claridge and Alexandra Reed

Making Maths Fun

Pumpkins big and small were a hit with St John's students in first term. The children in Transition loved learning about pumpkins and maths at the same time. A provocation was set up in the Transition classroom with three obviously different size pumpkins. The children were provided with play dough and sketch pads so that they could express artistically what they were seeing. They talked about shape, colour, lines and size as well as a slater that they found wandering across the pumpkin! But by far the most fun was the Pumpkin Olympics where the students threw the mini pumpkins and recorded their distances.



AKAROA Semester One 2016



Mae Northam and Rhali Williams



Leading the way

Year Six attended the GRIP leadership conference in Tamworth in May. This conference provided students with practical and interactive training to develop their skills as student leaders. Students learnt how to grow as leaders by developing their core values, combining with others, contributing to what is around them and applying constant input. Students also explored strategies to proactively prevent and eliminate bullying and also how to positively influence other people.

The GRIP leadership conference was a fun and interactive day and Year 6 is now working on applying their new skills and knowledge to improve as St John's Peer Leaders.



Corbin Walters and Anastasia Anderson

Robotic friends

Beebots are an exciting addition to the scholars programs at St John's. These little robots are an exciting tool designed to teach sequencing, estimation, problem solving, and just having fun. Additionally, students are developing their social and language skills through communication and playing in groups encouraging learning from each other. These fun learning toys are one way in which St John's is capturing student interest and enthusiasm for Science Technology and Mathematics.



Engineering Challenge

During Wellbeing Day, K/1 worked in operative teams to create an engineering masterpiece with cardboard boxes. K/1 have been working every week on their ability to be creative and innovative. Students had a lot of fun and created some amazing works.



Oliver Sutherland

Triathlon Triumph

What a great day we had for our first school triathlon, well apart from the screams when the kids hit the slightly chilly pool! Well done to all our St John's students who competed across the swim, cycle and running legs and to our eventual winners for green house Solomon Layton (cycle), Arabella Dagg (run) and Chloe Moore (swim). Big thanks to Ms Cambridge, Mrs Nixon and all our other great helpers.



Solomon Layton, Chloe Moore and Arabella Dagg



Triathlon swimmers



St John's swimming stars



Murray competitors at the swimming carnival



Our younger athletes



Showing support for Lyon at swimming carnival



Swimmers at the triathlon

Sport

NEGS Swimming Carnival

House Cup- Overall point score

1st	Murray	728
2nd	Green	642
3rd	Dumolo	617
4th	Lyon	610

Age Champions

U12’S
Champion- Molly Michell-Smith 69 (Dumolo)
Runner Up- Matilda Hall 53 (Dumolo)
U13’S
Champion- Olivia Strelitz 83 (Murray)
Runner Up- Abby Finlayson 55 (Murray)
U14’S
Champion- Georgia Hiscox 65 (Dumolo)
Runner Up- Grace Cassidy 50 (Dumolo)
U15’S
Champion- Lucy Fenwicke 91 (Murray)
Runner Up- Alicia Ball 50 (Green)
U16’S
Champion- Kathleen McPhie 70 (Lyon)
Runner Up- Sarah Wyatt 57 (Lyon)
U17’S
Champion- Abbey Jackson 67 (Murray)
Runner Up- Mikaela Ball 40 (Green)
U18’S
Champion- Tahlia Paull 69 (Green)
Runner Up- Sarah Hamparsum 47 (Green)
Trivett Cup- Most Outstanding Swimmer Of The Carnival- Lucy Fenwicke



Cheering Cup

1st	Murray
2nd	Green
3rd	Dumolo
4th	Lyon

Records

15Yrs 50M Freestyle
Lucy Fenwicke 29.50 (S.Connor 2007 29.72)
15Yrs 50M Backstroke
Lucy Fenwicke 34.22 (O.Fenwicke 2014 35.69)
15Yrs 100M Freestyle
Lucy Fenwicke 1:04.37 (S.Connor 2007 1:06.05)
15Yrs 50M Breaststroke
Lucy Fenwicke 36.38 (S.Connor 2007 38.52)
15Yrs 50M Butterfly
Lucy Fenwicke 30.97 (P.Butler 2004 32.60)
Open 200M Im
Lucy Fenwicke 2:38.81 (A.Templeton 1998 2:43.23)



IGSSA Swimming

The NEGS Swimming Team travelled to Sydney on the 10th and 11th of March to participate in the IGSSA Swimming Carnival. Twelve students made the trip down this year with fabulous results between them including final appearances, personal bests and CIS qualifying times.

Congratulations girls on an outstanding showing.

Lucy Fenwicke
Open 200m IM 2.37:02,
1st in heat, 11th overall
15yrs 50m breast 35.37 PB
1st in heat, 2nd overall FINAL
15yrs 50m fly 31.10
1st in heat, 5th overall FINAL
FINAL 15yrs 50m breast 35.15
2nd CIS Qualifier
FINAL 15yrs 50m fly 31.63 8th
Molly Michell-Smith
12yrs 50m free 35.53
3rd in heat, 18th overall BFINAL
12yrs 50m back 45.26
5th in heat, 21st overall
12yrs 50m fly 49.37
5th in heat 20th overall
BFINAL 12yrs 50m free 36.80 7th
Olivia Strelitz
13yrs 50m free 31.76
3rd in heat, 15th overall BFINAL
13yrs 50m breast 44.40
3rd in heat 18th overall
13yrs 50m fly 39.37
4th in heat 19th overall
BFINAL 13yrs 50m free 32.23 6th
Ashlee Petch
14yrs 50m free 42.54
8th in heat, 21st overall
Kathleen McPhie
16yrs 50m free 35.08
7th in heat, 23rd overall
16yrs 50m fly 38.28 PB
7th in heat 23rd overall
Charlotte Raleigh
17yrs 50m free 28.98
2nd in heat, 9th overall FINAL
17yrs 50m breast 36.76
1st in heat 4th overall FINAL
17yrs 50m fly 31.18
2nd in heat, 9th overall FINAL
FINAL 17yrs 50m free 29.75 10th
FINAL 17yrs 50m breast 36.89 6th
CIS Reserve
FINAL 17yrs 50m fly 32.10 10th

Ruby Loosemore
M/C 50m Free 41.83 5th overall
M/C 50m breast 52.93
3rd overall
Lily Etheridge
13yrs 50m back 43.37
5th in heat, 21st overall
Claudia Meehan
16yrs 50m back 42.06
7th in heat, 23rd overall
Sarah Wyatt
16yrs 50m breast 45.01
4th in heat, 19th overall
Int 100m free 1.20:02
6th in heat, 21st overall
Abbey Jackson
17yrs 50m back 39.82
5th in heat 21st overall
Snr 100m free 1.14:69
7th in heat 21st overall
Abby Finlayson
Jnr 100m free 1.20:50
8th in heat 23rd overall

Junior Medley Relay
Ashlee, Abby, Olivia, Lily
2.50:09 8th in heat, 24th overall

Junior Freestyle Relay
Molly, Abby, Olivia, Lily
2.24.40 6th in heat 22nd overall

Intermediate Medley Relay
Sarah, Lucy, Claudia, Kathleen
2.34:36 6th in heat, 21st overall

Intermediate Freestyle Relay
Sarah, Lucy, Claudia, Kathleen
2.18.70 6th in heat 21st overall

All Age
Molly, Lily, Abbey, Charlotte, Claudia, Ashlee
3.39.62 5th in heat 21st



IGSSA Cross Country competitors Olivia Strelitz, Bronte Dagg, Jaimie and Abbey McLoughlin, Charlotte Chapman

Campus to City Canter

A small team of athletes from NEGS participated in the Campus to City Canter, a five kilometre run from UNE to town. Sarah Wyatt, Emily Sole, Madeleine Scott, Isabelle Chandler, Olivia Strelitz and Miss Cambridge lined up at the starting line ready to go.

Not surprisingly we lost sight of Sarah Wyatt within the first 100 meters as she zoomed out in front of the pack with her Viper Athletics teammates. Sarah finished the race as third place woman and all other athletes crossed the line close to, or just under, the 30 minute mark.



Tildesley Tennis

The team consisting of Alys Marshall (Captain), Madeline Lane, Isabella Ritter, Emily Farrar, Eliza White and Lucinda Parry travelled to Sydney last week to compete in the Tildesley Tennis Competition against the other IGSSA schools. Beating the rain the girls competed in their games finishing up in 24th position.

Swimming Carnival History

The Swimming Cup trophy is going into the engravers for its next installment and Mrs Smith and Miss Cambridge, out of curiosity, decided to see what traditions the houses had in success at the carnival over the years. The cup has been going since 1957, and it is interesting to note that Murray appears to have a strong tradition throughout the years. Over the 58 years, Murray has won the cup 22 times, Dumolo and Lyon have won it 13 times each while Green has been successful 10 times.



NEGS Cross Country Carnival

12yrs		Jessica Bull	23.41
Matilda Hall	13.20	Sophie Mitchell	23.51
Madeleine Scott	14.37	Megan Galbraith	23.52
Chloe Dowd	19.58	Alicia Ball	24.02
Nichola Clarkson	21.43	Georgia Chapman	24.45
13yrs		Georgina Watson	25.03
Jaimie McLoughlin	13.07	Kirra Riggs	26.24
Olivia Strelitz	13.11	India Johnson	27.14
Charlotte Chapman	13.46	16yrs	
Abbey McLoughlin	14.04	Sarah Wyatt	16.43
Angela Dillon	14.26	Laura Finlay	18.45
Isabelle Chandler	14.42	Claudia Neate	19.37
Lily Etheridge	15.23	Madison Teague	22.30
Macey Michell	15.24	Georgia Lowry	22.43
Isabella Reardon	16.22	Emily Peddle	23.27
Kate Earle	16.41	Amelia Edmonds	23.53
Chloe Brain	17.55	Ellen Archer	24.23
Delta Hawkins-Richardson	17.55	Charlotte Kingham	24.33
Estella Martin	18.27	Sarah Higgins	24.44
Micaela Sanderson	19.25	Holly Coulthard	25.05
Gabrielle Cadzow	26.49	Anna Campbell	25.22
Ruby Loosemore	28.07	Kathleen McPhie	25.22
14yrs		Felicity Thomas	27.07
Grace Cassidy	17.01	Claudia Meehan	28.28
Nicola Simmons	19.26	Jessie Ross	28.29
Priscilla Clonan	22.34	Eleanor Fulloon	28.48
Chelsea Eichorn	23.10	17yrs	
Jane Muller	23.11	Charlotte Raleigh	19.04
Francisca Dugdale	24.17	Eliza White	19.54
Phoebe Uren	24.20	Abbey Jackson	20.48
Carlee Christensen	25.49	Emily Sole	24.30
Imogen Dagg	25.49	18yrs	
Britnee Breneger	26.26	Tahlia Paull	31.36
Georgia Hiscox	26.53	Brooke O'Halloran	31.37
Anna Jarvis	26.59	Isabella Ritter	32.45
Cynthia Jin	35.40	Madeline Lane	36.11

15yrs		House Total	
Evey White	18.13	Green	255
Matilda McCarroll	18.44	Lyon	268
Penny Haynes	21.17	Murray	225
Hannah Weston	23.14	Dumolo	315



Boarding @ NEGS

When the time comes to write the boarding report for Akaroa I am always panicked and overwhelmed. I am given plenty of time from the wonderful Marketing Department, but I still leave it until the last minute. I think it is because there is so much going on in Boarding @NEGS that to put it all in just one article is very difficult. Here I go, with the possibility I will probably omit something:

The year began with our Annual Gold Coast Trip which was a great success. We left school with 186 students and 10 staff on four buses. What a feat in itself. The forecast for our travelling time was: 'the most horrific cyclonic weather to be experienced'. Yes, it rained; yes, it was very windy; yes there was damage along the way in a number of coastal towns! Did it affect our travelling? No and as we arrived at our accommodation on the Gold Coast the sun was shining and the weather was hot and humid. We had conquered the 'Twister'! The weather was perfect at Dreamworld – overcast and humid but not sunny which reduced the chance of sunburn and heat stroke. The girls did not stop – so many rides, so much adrenaline and most of them almost forgot to stop for lunch. The most exciting rides – Tower of Terror II and the Giant Drop. Some down time back at the pool at our accommodation and then some shopping on Sunday at Harbour Town to assist us with our journey back to NEGS ready for a very busy Semester.

The boarders have had a number of opportunities to participate in any of the following activities which have been organised for the weekend:

Roller Skating at Armidale Sport and Rec, PCYC Markets in the Mall, swimming in the NEGS pool, Autumn Festival Parade and fair, Armidale show, weekly trips down town, Harmony Day activities, Cinema Under the Stars, cooking, Fiji Fundraiser night... there are many more to come.

It's not only the formal activities which are organised for the girls, they are able to just have time to 'hang out' with their friends on the weekend after their very busy weekdays. Students take the opportunity to ride the school bikes around campus, relax on the grass, get to know our school piglets, run the cross country course, take care of their horses, have a hit of tennis, hockey or practice their shots for netball or basketball.

Boarding played a major role in farewelling Mr Logan at his last assembly. White House boarding students presented him with a clip of what boarding is all about. Please visit our website to see the girls having fun and enjoying their time at NEGS.

STEPHANIE THOMAS
DIRECTOR OF BOARDING



Positive Parental Engagement

"Parent's attitudes, values and actions positively influence children's education outcomes. Partnerships between families and schools play a big role in supporting, promoting and encouraging children's learning and wellbeing".

ARACY- the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth.

There has always been a strong role for schools to work in partnership with families, and at NEGS and St John's, we are always striving to build this capacity for parent engagement. Research shows that children's learning and wellbeing improves when families and schools work together.

Parents are such an integral part of a student's education, but can often find it hard to assist their children with ever changing technology, media use and approaches to the curriculum. In addition to these challenges, during this period of rapid developmental and social changes in their life, young people often turn to their parents for help during the tough times.

The NSW Parents Council acknowledge the importance of the parent-teacher-student triangle and we have been fortunate at NEGS to have Karen Boyes, CEO of Spectrum Education, speak to our parents and families on "Student Wellbeing: Where Parents can make a difference". Emil Hodzic, an esteemed registered psychologist delivered his "Parent Awareness Education" including the topics of student online safety, social media use, challenges of online addiction and strategies to address these challenges. All students also benefitted from his age appropriate presentations, and learnt some hard truths about the reality of the damaging effects of misuse of social media.

Leading e-mental health organisation ReachOut Australia will strengthen its services from mid 2016 by supporting parents and carers to build family resilience and maintain and improve the mental health and wellbeing of children within their family environment.

"Parents and carers are at the frontline when it comes to helping young people achieve positive mental health outcomes and ReachOut will make it easier for them to get free and accessible online advice on the best way to support their children during tough times," ReachOut Australia CEO Jono Nicholas said today.

Research also suggests the teenage years are when alcohol and other drug use are first initiated. This highlights the importance of intervening early with young people to prevent drug use uptake and associated harms. Schools are an ideal place for these conversations to take place, with the potential for broad-ranging impact and tailoring of messages to suit students' developmental level. In parallel, parents should be engaged in these important discussions and provided with guidance about how to protect against drug related harms. Central to these activities is the need for accurate and credible evidence-based information that can be accessed by young people, their parents and teachers.

To meet this need, the Australian Government Department of Health funded the development of Positive Choices, an online portal that facilitates access to interactive evidence-based drug education resources for school communities.

Tips - Things you can do

- Talk to your teenager about their school work and help them to plan their workload.
- Help your teenager to plan their school, work and social priorities.
- Be available to talk your teenager when they want to talk.
- Be ready to talk about the tough issues with no blame or judgement.
- Be aware of the issues in your teenager's life, school or circle of friends.
- Keep an eye out for some of the issues teenagers face:
 - body image and self-esteem
 - bullying
 - drug and alcohol abuse.
- Make sure your teenager gets enough sleep, exercise, fresh air and good food.
- Talk about social media and how it affects them.
- Encourage reasonable usage of social media.
- Talk with your teenager about their dreams after compulsory schooling and help them to plan their future.

References:

ARACY
<https://www.aracy.org.au/projects/parent-engagement-project>
 NSW Parents Council
<http://parentscouncil.nsw.edu.au/>
 ReachOut.com Parents
<http://ie.reachout.com/parents/>
 Positive Choices
<https://positivechoices.org.au/parents/>
<https://www.education.gov.au/what-can-i-do-help-my-teenager-do-well-school-0>

DIRECTOR STUDENT WELLBEING,
MRS ANGELA SOLE



Some artworks by our talented Junior School students



Creative kids

Our student at NEGS and St John's are quite creative! Although some of you may have seen the girls participating in the equestrian and cattle events at the Armidale Show, you may not have had a chance to check out the pavilions. All these entries were submitted on their own initiative.

Hayley Whitehill Year 7 – 1st Prize and Champion Album Page, 2nd Any construction made of hard material;

Isabel Bookallil Year 8 – 3rd Article suitable for a fete, 1st Girls Dress and Skirt;

Lucy Pulkkinen St John's – HC 8yrs and under drawing;

Tariq Rahim St John's – 3rd 8yrs and under drawing;

Jade Watkins St John's – 2nd 8yrs and under drawing;

Dimitry Chalmers St John's – 1st 8yrs and under mixed media;

Mohammed Almokhtar St John's – 2nd 8yrs and under mixed media;

Sienna Alldis St John's – HC 8yrs and under mixed media;

Sophia Rutledge St John's – Grand Champion Overall and 1st Junior Section 9-11yrs painting;

Laura Finlay Year 9 – 2nd 15-18 yrs Intermediate painting class, 2nd and 3rd 15-18 yrs Intermediate drawing class;

Lilly Green St John's – 2nd 9-11yrs painting;

St John's Transition – 3rd Poster by a Pre School;

St John's Year 3/4 – 1st Collection theme Olympics;

Eva Dabovich St John's – 2nd Item made of wood;

Sophie Sutherland Year 9 – 2nd open to your imagination photography, 18yrs and under Photography Champion, 2nd winter wonders photography, 1st animals and pets photography, Eunice Parsons Memorial Trophy for best in Photography 18 years and opens.

Felicity Chapman St John's – 1st Open to your imagination photography;

Mrs Smith also came first in the apricot rock cake section, and **Mr Smith** got 1st and 2nd for his peaches.



Sophie Sutherland had great success in photography



Laura Finlay and her artworks

2016

framed

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

Art Show and Sale Opening Night Cocktail Function

When: Friday 9th September 2016
Where: NEGS Multi-Purpose Centre Time: 6.00pm - 9.00pm
Cost: \$30.00 prepaid \$35.00 on the night (includes supper, live entertainment & drinks)
RSVP: 6th September 2016, with payment advice
Bookings: www.trybooking.com/1915
Cheque: NEGS OGU, c/o NEGS, Uralla Road, Armidale NSW 2358
Contact: Mrs Georgie Kedzie E: almar@ad@leppard.com P: 02 6657 6001 or NEGS Reception for tickets.

FRAMED! welcomes all who wish to support the school - please post this invitation on Facebook and via school website 10th September 2016. Evening traffic lights available at Armidale or nearby signs.

Artwork by: The painting is donated by Lindsay Cameron (Hart) - A native Armidale housewife living in Margate, New Zealand.

Annual Giving Appeal

Every year we send our Annual Giving letter to our families, alumni, grandparents, and our friends and I would like to begin this by saying an enormous thank you to the generous supporters of last year's Annual Giving appeal. All donations both large and small, have helped go a long way in improving the school's facilities and, as always, have continued to assist in providing an outstanding education for all our students. This year, the 2016 Annual Giving appeal will focus on the NEGS Education Trust Fund which enables us to offer a range of scholarships and special bursaries, and the NEGS Foundation Building Trust which helps fund campus projects. There is also the option of sponsoring a child with a particular interest or talent, such as equestrian, music, academic, visual arts or sport. Your gift will be spent on the area that you choose and is fully tax deductible. If you have never made a donation to the School, I would be grateful if you may consider doing so this year and for years to come. Let's together continue the proud NEGS tradition and support the students of tomorrow. If you haven't received your copy of this year's appeal, please contact reception on (02) 6774 8700.

Armidale OG President's Report

This year's Old Girls' Reunion Weekend will be held on Friday 9th through to Sunday 11th September. The Armidale Committee of Old Girls' Union welcomes all former students to join in the celebrations that have been organised over the weekend. This year we welcome 60, 40, 30, 20, 10 and 5 years reunion groups. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Principal, Mrs Mary Anne Evans, who came into office after Easter last term. Mary Anne is a fantastic role model who has moved into the position seamlessly and is respected and liked by the students. Mrs Terri Swartz has moved into Mary Anne's previous role as Deputy Principal.

This year there have been some changes made to the weekend's activities. The Framed! Art show will be hung and ready to be viewed on Friday 9th September. Festivities will start on Friday with Grandparents' Day and a High Morning Tea. Our Framed! Art Show will officially open on Friday evening with a Cocktail Function at 6pm. The committee looks forward each year to welcoming as many as of you possible to this fun filled evening.

The Framed! Art Exhibition is our major fundraiser which supports Old Girls' Scholarships. If you would like to assist us in this, tax deductible contributions can be made.

The Old Girls' Union AGM will be held at 9am on Saturday 10th, followed by a High Morning Tea that will be from 10am to 12midday. Please come along to this function as it will be a great time to meet our new Principal, Mrs Mary Anne Evans. School tours will be held after this. There will be no P&F Spring Fair this year, but instead a whole school community Trivia Night, which we warmly invite you to attend.

On Sunday the 11th September the Annual Old Girls' Chapel Service will be held followed by breakfast in the dining hall. Afterwards, school tours will take place.

If your contact details have changed please help us to keep in touch by notifying the school. Any contributions for Akaroa are also encouraged and can be sent by email to Tanya Graham – tanya.graham@negs.nsw.edu.au or by phoning the school on 02 6774 8700. Please don't forget to have a look at the school website – www.negs.nsw.edu.au

LINDY CANNINGTON (KEATS '83)
PRESIDENT NEGS OLD GIRLS' UNION
ARMIDALE BRANCH

Morning Tea

A lovely spread was put on for the annual Old Girls' and Year 12 morning tea. It is great seeing the Old Girls take such an interest in our students here at NEGS. I am sure they have lots of good advice and life experiences to share.



April Larsen, Mrs Libby Parry (Dight '82), Anne-Sofie Olsen



Mrs Linda Cannington (Keats '83), Sarah Hamparsum, Mrs Shara Menzies (Ibbott '86)



Mrs Nan Robertson (Cox '78), Rhianna Malone



Mrs Cindy Clonan (McLean '84), Lily Clonan



Poppy Abbott ('64), Kate Nioa, Sophie Watson, Isabelle Cameron, Mrs Cath Farrar



NEGS Old Girls' Missionary Union 2016

NEGS Old Girls' Missionary Union 2016

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.

NEGSOGMU supports mission work in PNG through the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM), remote and regional Australia through Bush Church Aid (BCA) and the indigenous theology college in Cairns, Wontulp-Bi-Buya (WBB).

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has a population of over 6 million and occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea. Over 80% of the people live in rural areas and rely on subsistence farming. Over 800 languages are spoken and only 59% of the females are literate. There are five dioceses - Aipo Rongo, Dogura, New Guinea islands, Popondota and Port Moresby. ABM continues to work in communities in the areas of health, education and community development.

The ABM 2016 projects are, firstly, a Provincial Mission and Ministry program and, secondly, Revision of the Eucharist Liturgy.

The Anglican Church in PNG (ACPNG) is more than 100 years old. As the time changes the world is also changing and people are changing. Archbishop Clyde Igara said, "The membership of the Anglican Church is being affected

because people are either backsliding into the world or moving to Pentecostal churches. Sunday worship is becoming tasteless and the people lack ownership of their churches in parishes." The Ministry Program is to bring clergy and laity together for a national conference to refresh, equip and empower all clergy and lay ministry.

ACPNG became a Province of its own in 1975. For more than 40 years people have seen the priests doing the same things with people having little part to contribute to Sunday Services and many Anglicans have lost interest. The House of Bishops decided in March 2015 this is a big issue that the church is facing and it will be revising the Liturgy so the people will have greater participation.

The Bush Church Aid Society has a heart for people living in remote and regional Australia. BCA is committed to going the distance to reach Australia for Christ, bringing the gospel of Christ to the outermost parts of Australia, developing a new generation of culturally diverse Christian leaders, supporting ministry by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, planting and renewing sustainable churches, equipping local leaders for fruitful ministry and providing care in Christ's name.

With the downturn in the mining sector, the BCA supported ministry of a Fly In Fly Out Chaplain to mines in South Australia has ceased. This year BCA began supporting the drought ravaged Longreach - Barcaldine area where The

Rev'd Capt Graeme and Mrs Susan Liersch have begun ministry. BCA missionaries are all over Australia: Kununurra, Port Hedland, Kurratha, Coober Pedy, Roxby Downs, Broken Hill, Hay and King Island are but a few of the places.

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College began in Townsville in 1983, is now based in Cairns and provides leadership training for indigenous people in the fields of theology, mental health and community development. Recently WBB received government funding to run Certificate IV Indigenous Mental Health (Suicide Prevention) Course. Twenty students learnt skills in mental health and youth suicide prevention and they are now working across Australia. Other students are gaining employability skills in communication, teamwork, problem solving, initiative and enterprise, planning and organising. WBB is supported by the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Churches, and by aid organisations, and later government funding for students costs. The first indigenous Principal was Rev'd Michael Connolly who began study for his B.Th. at St John's College in Morpeth NSW where it moved in the 1920s from Armidale where it was founded in 1898 by Bishop A V Green, brother of Miss Florence Green, foundress of NEGS. Thus we have a small connection with WBB through St John's College.

The NEGSOGMU Lenten Appeal is always open.

MRS. JULIET CAMERON (LEAN '64)
HON. TREASURER.

2016 NEGS Cohort Reunions

70 Year Reunion (1946)

Faye Atwill (Fitz-Walter)
M: 0403 068 266
E: faye@mac.com

60 Year Reunion (1956)

Vaun (Shevauneen) Gegier (Blomfield)
P: 02 6778 0295
E: gegier@bigpond.com

Sacha Stevens (Simpson)
P: 07 5463 0165
E: sachashley@gmail.com

40 Year Reunion (1976)

Sally Higgins
E: jhigg@bigpond.com
P: 02 65 583164
M: 0427 583164

30 Year Reunion (1986)

Katie Julian (Main),
'Roseneath', 2004 Rangers Valley Road,
Dundee 2370.
M: 0423 784 545
P: 67347385
E: katieljulian@gmail.com

20 Year Reunion (1996)

Alexandra Burke (Crombie)
18 Thorn Street, Red Hill, 4059
M: 044 999 2544
E: alexandracatherineburke@gmail.com

10 Year Reunion (2006)

Phoebe Newsome
M: 0448 088 171
E: phobenewsome8@gmail.com

5 Year Reunion (2011)

Kirsty Assef
5 Dobbie Street, Moree 2400
P: 02 6752 2102

2017 NEGS Cohort

details to be confirmed
60 Year Group (1957)
50 Year Group (1967)
40 Year Group (1977)
30 Year Group (1987)
20 Year Group (1997)
10 Year Group (2007)
5 Year Group (2012)

OG Events & Reunions

Sydney Old Girls' AGM and Luncheon

Tuesday 9th August, 2016
Time: 11:30am followed by a luncheon at 12:30pm
Venue: RACA - Royal Automobile Club of Australia, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney
RSVP: Mary O'Toole (Thompson '64)
P: 02 9439 6773 | m_otoole@speednet.com.au

Sydney Old Girls' AGM and Luncheon

Tuesday 9th August, 2016
Time: 11:30am followed by a luncheon at 12:30pm
Venue: RACA - Royal Automobile Club of Australia, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney
RSVP: Mary O'Toole (Thompson '64)
P: 02 9439 6773 | m_otoole@speednet.com.au

QLD Old Girls' Association AGM

Wednesday 17th August 2016
Time: 10am followed by lunch
Venue: 536 Formosa Road, Gumdale QLD 4154
RSVP: Althea Crowley (Rivers '77)
P: 07 3890 1523 | **M:** 0403 151 471

Armidale Old Girls' Weekend and AGM

Friday 9th September
2016 ART SHOW AND SALE EXHIBITION
Time: 6:00pm to 9:00pm | **Venue:** NEGS Multi Purpose Centre
Cost: \$30 prepaid or \$35.00 at the door
Saturday 10th September
NEGS OLD GIRLS' UNION AGM
Time: 9am | **Venue:** W.H. Lee Room in Akaroa Building
Followed by High Morning Tea

Old Girls' Reunion Dinners

30 Year Group
Friday 9th September
Time: 6pm | **Venue:** RED GRAPEVINE
Saturday 10th September
Time: 6pm | **Venue:** BISTRO ON CINDERS
60 Year Group
Time: 6pm | **Venue:** WH Lee Room – Akaroa Building

2016 OG Weekend Draft Program

Friday 9th September
Framed Art Show and Sale Opening Function
Time: 6pm – 9pm | **Venue:** MPC
Saturday 10th September
NEGS OGU AGM
9am | WH Lee Room, Akaroa Building
All welcome to attend

10am – 12noon
High Morning Tea for Old Girls with Principal, open to whole school community in the MPC
School Tours | School v OG sport games
6pm
NEGS Trivia Night – MPC (details TBC)

Sunday 11th September
NEGS Old Girls' Chapel Service
Time: 8am
Followed by a fully catered breakfast hosted by NEGS Year 12 Students



Old Girls' News & Notices

Joanne Bell (Denyer '90)

Jo (1985-1990) is now Head of Department at Highfields State Secondary College after 19 years at Tara. Jo and Ian moved to Toowoomba in 2015 and their children are now day students at their respective schools. Anna attends The Glennie School and will complete Year 12 in 2016 and Tom attends Toowoomba Grammar School and will be in Year 9.

Philippa Page (Gill '73)

helps her husband, Jim, and son, Robert, on their cattle property out of Grafton and is busy with her 6 grandchildren.

Katrina Kerrison (Gill '74)

Has worked in Pharmacies and obtained a certificate 3 in Community Pharmacy and obtained a Diploma of Business Management. Katrina enjoys travelling and has visited many overseas countries (Katrina lives in Kingscliff).

Jean Girdler (2004)

Briefly, for this year, Jean is working and intermittently residing - for three weeks out of four - in Perth, Western Australia

Shirley Gill (Croft '51)

My husband, David, passed away last year. About 8 months before, we celebrated our 60th Wedding Anniversary together with all our family present – 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, at Casaurina on the Tweed Coast.

Our 3 children, Philippa, Michael and Katrina gave us the party. I had one of my bridesmaids, Sue Hayman (Macarthur-Onslow '52) and 3 school friends, Wendy Baily (Willmott '52), Jennifer Graff (Wagner '52) and Joan Burrows (Dignam '50) celebrating the day with us. Also 2 nieces (x NEGS) Ann Langley (Turton '58) and Johanna Ireland (Gill '65) joined us.

We had a wonderful day with family and friends, who travelled from near and far to be with us.



Stephanie Clarkson



NEGS organ gets new lease on life

Report from Ian Brown and Associates (Pipe Organs Builders) from Ballina.

Our major project so far this year has been the total rebuilding of the organ at NEGS. We prefer to work on only one project at any time. This avoids annoying our clients by not being able to work to a completion date and an instrument will be out of action for the least possible time. It concentrates our focus on a single project rather than moving from one job to another, "chasing our tail" and having to work out where we are up to when returning to a particular part of the work, a likely cause of mistakes being made or some important item being overlooked.

The only thing to have interrupted this project has been the travel for regular tuning visits in March. The travel for tuning visits is set in concrete for the months of March, June, September and December. Perusal of Log Books on any organ in our care will show a history of our reliability for regular tuning visits. For any project being undertaken in the workshop, only our tuning visits (or sickness) will interrupt that project.

We dismantled the NEGS organ in February. The organ was built by Whitehouse Bros. Brisbane in 1936. It had electric action and four extended ranks. Violin Diapason, Gedacht, Open Diapason, Stopped Diapason. Remarkably the electric action at 80 years old did still work, although for the last decade or so it was certainly not very reliable. The organ is in a loft chamber. Originally there were

swell shutters over the three openings to enclose the whole room. These shutters were made in such a way that they covered only two thirds of the available openings in the brickwork.

A very long time ago before we knew the organ, the swell shutters were removed and no one knows where they are any more. In 1947 Whitehouse Bros added an Oboe. In 1987 a Sydney firm replaced the Oboe with a Trumpet. In 2000 we added a Mixture 4 ranks. The metal pipes in this organ are superbly made by the celebrated firm Palmer, London. The Trumpet pipes appear to have been made by J W Walker, London. The Mixture pipes came from F J Rogers of Leeds. The wooden basses and the Stopped Diapason were made by Whitehouse Bros.

In 1987 the electro-pneumatic action in the Open and Stopped Diapasons windchest (Great) was discarded and replaced by direct electric actions. For the sake of uniformity we remade the rest of the windchests using Peterson Pipe Valves, a very advanced type of electric action which has none of the usual ill effect of pallet bounce on the reeds. The console has been fitted with new keyboards, new stop rocker tab units and a generous array of divisional and general thumb pistons controlled by one of our own capture systems with 10 memory levels.

The opportunity was taken to correct the various console dimensions and bring this into line with accepted standards. For example the pedalboard and the stool were raised 65mm and the pedalboard

was moved forward 30mm. These simple adjustments and the new keyboards have made it a much more comfortable organ to play.

The pedalboard has been recapped with Rock Maple for the naturals and Jarrah for the Sharps. The two bellows in the organ have been releathered. An added new stop to the pedals Sub Bass 16 has provided the solid bass line not previously available from the very weak Bourdon. A new solid state note and coupler switching system is the heart of the organ's electric action and the point at which all of the new cables are terminated. We spent four days working on tonal regulation and voicing and could scarcely believe that a unit organ of five ranks plus Mixture could sound so good. After 20 years of being concerned about the future of this organ and for how long we would manage to keep it operating, it is rewarding for us to know that it is being passed on to future generations in good condition. Already an Organ Scholarship Programme is in place at the School and three students are to begin using it for lessons and practise.

New England Girls' School would like to thank Ian Brown and Associates for all their hard work put into restoring the organ and the Queensland Old Girls' for funding a sizable portion of the costs.

Goodbyes



Lisa Elaine Cameron ('43)

10 August 1926 – 15 February 2016

We pay respect to a wonderful and generous woman, an Old Girl of NEGS (1941-1943) who lived a full life and had the respect, admiration and love of everyone with whom she had contact, whether it be family, old friends, work colleagues, neighbours, representatives of charities and schools or people who provided support to Lisa over the years with her health requirements. All say that it has been a privilege to know her and have been touched by her generosity of spirit and soul.

Lisa came from a very small and loving family and she was particularly close to her brother Neyle (who passed away in 1999). Lisa's father, Lyle, was a Banker and as such the family moved around a great deal from country town to country town with one of the last country postings being Grafton in Northern NSW.

Lisa suffered from Polio that she contracted at the age of 3. This was a major impediment to her mobility and many decisions made by the family had this consideration as a factor for her transport and mobility. As the family moved around, her parents considered Lisa's health and needs and sought to provide stability in her education and so she attended New England Girls' School as a boarder. Lisa absolutely loved her time at NEGS. She told me a few years ago that she was scared of the Principal at the time (the formidable Miss Colebrook) and confessed that she wasn't very fond of the food!

After finishing school, Lisa started work in the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney and at the end of her working career was an Executive Secretary to the

Managing Director in Martin Place at Head Office. Lisa had a passion for opera and music that brought great pleasure to her and to those who accompanied her to these performances.

Over the years, Lisa was very generous in helping those people less fortunate than herself. The list and level of support and donations has been quite significant and it was always done quietly, insisting on no recognition for herself, a mark of her generosity and humility, including donations to Polio Australia for helping those people afflicted by polio who needed post-polio treatment.

Over the years, as her lack of mobility became more pronounced, Lisa grasped technology and set up an office with computers ordering groceries online and emailing and surfing the net – she did like ordering online from Peter's of Kensington in particular!

Lisa was a generous supporter of the Foundation and Building Fund at NEGS.

Lisa donated a large sum of money towards the refurbishment of the School's Assembly Hall and gave a donation towards the purchase of a Grand Piano.

It was in 2008 that the Lisa Cameron Bursaries were formally established at NEGS. After many years of discussions between Lisa and Mary Wright, the Director of Development at NEGS, and some initial donations, Lisa began to quietly support a number of girls to attend NEGS. As she stated, she was passionate about helping girls in their education by simply wanting to support as many families as possible who never would have had the opportunity to attend a school like NEGS. In some cases, when the girls could not afford the extra costs of extracurricular activities, Lisa paid the boarding and tuition fees so they could continue at the School. All she wanted was for the girls to have the same education that she was so fortunate to receive.

In 2012, Lisa supported 5 girls at the one time – she didn't want anyone who needed a NEGS education to miss out. She relied on Mary to provide her with the details and background and made informed decisions as to who to support.

Lisa used to love the visits from Mary Wright and me (when I could make them). The School always insisted that the girls should write to Lisa about how they were going at NEGS, what they were enjoying at school. She was 'tickled pink' to see how they were

progressing and improving, all because of her generosity. Up until just the last few years, she used to always write back to each girl and ask if they liked the food that was being served up! Always immaculately dressed, she greeted everyone with a smile, a twinkle in her eye and 'so nice to see you', always with home baked biscuits and cake or beautiful hand made sandwiches and a fridge full of lemonade.

Lisa loved her home in Northwood and in particular her garden with the roses and orchids and great views across the bay. It must have been such a hard decision in 2014 for Lisa to realise she could no longer cope at home and made the difficult decision to move into a nursing home.

Lisa never liked any fuss being made of her – but we always did! Lisa reflects the School's motto perfectly: "Whatsoever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord". Only God knows how many people have been impacted by Lisa's life, what she has done for so many people and her care and concern for those less fortunate.

Clive Logan

(NEGS Principal 2013 – 2016)

Pauline Cunningham (Butler '39)

Please note that my mother Pauline Murray Cunningham, late of c/- Robert Cunningham, died on 5 December 2015.

Mum had very fond memories of her time at NEGS and was a keen supporter of the Old Girls while she was physically able.

Kerryn Lovell ('89)

Sadly passed away early January 2016.



Lesley Sykes (Dowe '60)

Lesley died early on Saturday July 11th 2015. Lesley was first diagnosed and had surgery for breast cancer in 2002. In 2011 inoperable secondary tumours appeared. Unfortunately, first drugs and later chemotherapy were ineffective in her case. The last twelve months of her life were very difficult for her. Lesley endured all this very bravely, with good humour and a determination to get on with life while she could. Cancer is a cruel and sadistic executioner. Pain relief drugs were not fully effective and had distressing mental and physical side effects.

Husband Hugh and his family thanked the doctors and nurses who helped Lesley. He also thanked all the members of their family, friends and members of the Abbotsleigh staff, PROBUS and Tarragal Glen communities who helped them get through that very difficult time.

Lesley spent her childhood at her parents' farming and grazing property, west of Manilla, NSW about 450 km north of Sydney on the Western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. Lesley was the eldest of five children, four girls and one boy. As a youngster, Lesley helped on the property and enjoyed riding her horse. Inevitably, she helped bring up her younger siblings.

In high school she first boarded at New England Girls' School in Armidale from 1958 to 1960. She spent her last two school years at Tamworth High due to the drought tightening family finances.

Lesley was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship and she commenced a BA to major in Geography at the University of New England in Armidale. Lesley threw herself into university life. She played hockey, was active in the student union and worked on the student newspaper. Her studies suffered and she left UNE before completing her degree. However, she was soon recruited as a Geography Teacher and boarding house mistress at the Abbotsleigh School for girls Wahroonga, provided that she continued her studies. It was a hard five-year slog to finish her BA by external studies and another two years for her Dip Ed while working and later as a mother of a baby boy. Lesley went on to teach for about forty years. She was held in high regard by her colleagues and popular with her students, who achieved excellent results. Dozens of former colleagues and pupils sent wonderful tributes for Lesley for her funeral.

Lesley married Hugh Sykes in May 1967 and first moved to Brisbane and then to Wollongong where they bought our first home. Lesley's son Peter was born in 1969 and daughter Tanya in 1972.

Lesley returned to teaching at Abbotsleigh in 1977. She and her family lived in North

Epping for over thirty years. It was a good community suburb and they had wonderful neighbours. Peter and Tanya progressed from primary school years through to adulthood, tertiary studies and meeting and marrying their spouses and making good lives for themselves and their families.

Geography lost its appeal after many years teaching the subject. So Lesley retrained for the new subject of Design and Technology. She loved the subject as it emphasized practical problem solving and design. This led her to take up wood crafts and build superb rocking horses, dolls houses and miniatures.

When Lesley and Hugh retired from full time work they grasped two wonderful opportunities to travel and live overseas for several months at a time. First to the UK in 2004 where Hugh had a contract job and then returned 2008/9 when a good friend offered them free use of her beautiful unit in Plymouth. Foot-loose and fancy free exploring Europe and Egypt gave Lesley and Hugh some of their best times as empty nesters. They later moved into a villa in Tarragal Glen retirement village, Erina on the Central Coast where they had a good lifestyle and Lesley set up her dream workshop. From their new home they toured Italy and cruised the Danube and Rhine from Budapest to Amsterdam.

Lesley and Hugh are blessed by four beautiful grandchildren - Peter and Tracey's Matthew and Emily and Tanya and Stan's Caitlin and Emma. Lesley adored her grandchildren and revelled in being a grandmother. She saw her role as giving her grandchildren a fun time and broadening their minds just like the musical character "Mame". Lesley is sadly missed by her family and her many friends.

Lady Sally Patricia Croft (Mansfield '51)

After leaving school Sally was Private Secretary to the Chief Librarian at Brisbane University Library, until she married Owen. Then she was full time Librarian Assistant, to Mrs Newall (OAM) at NEGS.

In 1984 Sally and Owen moved into the homestead at 'Salisbury Court' Uralla, where she started gardening from scratch and now the garden is one of the most significant historic gardens in New South Wales.

Sally and Owen joined the Australian Garden History Society in late 1980s and were great advocates of New England, attending many conferences over the years. Despite ill health, was very supportive of the Society. Sally was pleased to see how the Heritage Rose Garden had developed at Saumarez Homestead a week before she passed away.

Sally was a member of the New England branch of Open Gardens for many years. She

would go around and inspect the gardens to see if they were up to standard to be shown to the public.

Sally also had open garden at Salisbury Court to raise money for charities.

A great supporter of the Uralla District Show Sally was Head Steward of Preservers, Jams etc. Section from 1973 – 2015.

Sally did Meals on wheels in Uralla with Ann Croft for a great number of years, then with her husband, Owen.

Sally was also a member of the CWA in Uralla for 33 years and was awarded life membership. She held many positions at the branch, also group Representative, Vice President and Agricultural and Environment Officer.

Sally was also President of the Old Girls' Union from 1971 – 1974.

Sally had two daughters who attended NEGS, Patricia Rasmussen '78 (Croft) and Gina Croft '82 and her son, Thomas Croft who attended TAS.

Year 9 Survival Camp



Developing resilience and coping strategies, problem solving and strengthening group unity – these skills were among the main aims of the Year 9 Survival Camp held at The Myall Lakes National Park near Tea Gardens, north of Newcastle.

On Sunday, 2nd May, 31 energetic and enthusiastic Year 9 girls departed for a five day excursion from NEGS for the Duke of Edinburgh Survival Bush Camp. On arrival at GABC the girls were greeted by two equally enthusiastic camp leaders, Dan and Lucy, who briefed them on safety, advised them on packing all food and clothing supplies for the first leg of their practice journey and taught them essential navigation skills.

In addition to this, they provided the girls with a delicious home cooked meal which the girls enjoyed. On the first day of the practice journey the girls were split into two groups with one group completing the hiking expedition and the other group completing the canoeing expedition.

The girls were guided by the camp leaders in these first two days and were encouraged to ask questions. The girls returned to camp on the second day of the practice journey to repack their bags and restock their food.

The girls were then bused out to another camp site to complete their qualifying journeys for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

For this leg of the journey the girls are expected to be "self sufficient" and put into practice all the skills taught to them during the first days of the camp.

“ The camp was not all hard work and no play. ”

In between expeditions the girls were encouraged to participate in a range of entertainments including: group sing-offs, campsite games and stories, a visit to the sand dunes at night, flying fox at GABC, High ropes at GABC and watching Lucy's (camp leader) extraordinarily talented fire twirling!

The camp was considered a huge success by the Year 9 girls who have commented that, "All girls in year 9 should attend this camp because it is so much fun".

MRS LE-ANNE CHANDLER
YEAR 9 YEAR ADVISOR
ENGLISH/HSIE DEPARTMENT



NEGS