

# Akaroa

Semester Two 2016



NEGS

# 2017 Dates

## TERM 1

26 January	Australia Day
30 January	Orientation Afternoon for new students P&F Meeting 7pm Boarders Return by 8pm
31 January	Classes commence – Term One
6 April	Last day of Term One (Holidays include Easter Break)
7 April	Staff Day

## TERM 2

24 April	Staff Day
25 April	ANZAC Day Boarders Return by 8pm P&F Meeting 7pm
26 April	Classes Commence - Term Two
9 June	Staff Day
12 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday Boarders Return by 8pm
22 June	Last day of Term Two
23 June	Staff Day

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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. A 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: Maddy Scott and Olivia Strelitz enjoying the Colour Run at NEGS.**

### AKAROA SEMESTER TWO 2016

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# Principal's Welcome

Welcome to the last edition of Akaroa for 2016. By the time you read this, our Annual Speech Day will be over and the "NEGS Strategic Focus: 2017-2022. The Way Forward" will have been released to all families.

Our overall vision is to educate confident and passionate young women in a Christian and rural environment; empowering them to make a difference to the world around them.

Collectively we will be focused on delivering a refreshed strategy across the school through three key areas:

- 1 Excellence in Learning
  - 2 Co-curricular Activities
  - 3 Sustainability
- We will be looking to the future and investigating new growth opportunities through:
- 1 Women in STEM
  - 2 Continued Investment in Equestrian
  - 3 International opportunities

Our values remain strong and steadfast across all of our activities:

- 1 **Responsibility** – being accountable for one's own actions; resolving differences in constructive ways; contributing to society and to civic life; taking care of the environment.
- 2 **Excellence** – striving to be the best while knowing we can always be better next time; we seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable and we aim beyond what is simply expected.
- 3 **Integrity** – we act in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct and ensure consistency between our words and deeds; our students have a relentless commitment to uphold that which is right and to be just in all dealings with other people.

Join with me in building upon the tenets established by Miss Florence Green in 1895 in growing our School to be the most prominent rural girls' boarding school in the country. It is our sense of community – of valuing and being valued – which is unique and will continue to grow for the next 100 years.

I wish all of the NEGS community a safe and enjoyable festive season and look forward to a prosperous and exciting 2017.

MARY ANNE EVANS, PRINCIPAL



Students were encouraged to enter into the New England Photography Calendar Competition recently (for Barnaby Joyce's New England calendar). India Johnson in Year 10 was successful in having one of her photographs included in the 2017 calendar, for the month of April. Well done India, great shot!



Josie Orr.



Elizabeth Hancock, Mrs McGowan and Katie Hancock.



Victoria Bennet.



Georgia and Charlotte Chapman.

## GP Day

The NEGS Grandparents' Day is a much loved tradition and this year was no different. Over 220 grandparents travelled from nearby and interstate to be part of this wonderful day. Thank you so much to everyone who made such a huge effort to visit NEGS and also to the staff, P&F and everyone else who make these days so special.



## Cause we care

We are proud to announce that NEGS has become part of CareVan Armidale's amazing initiative to care for our homeless by supplying blankets and donating food and personal care items to those less fortunate than ourselves. The overwhelming response from our students was "what can we do to help". Our first role was to donate dry items to be used for the meals. This included coffee styrofoam/paper cups, sugar, packets of biscuits – sweet or savoury, cordial and fruit cakes (with long use by dates).



## Trivia Success

The NEGS inaugural Olympic themed Trivia Night was a huge success and a lot of fun for both students, families and visitors to the school. Thanks to some unbelievably hardworking and dedicated members of our parent community, and Peter Georkas from Hutchinson and Harlow, who lent his auctioneering talents on the night, the event raised more than \$10,000.

## Indigenous morning tea

Thank you to our wonderful Wellbeing Director Mrs Angela Sole who organises the NEGS Annual Indigenous Morning Tea. Our 10 students and their families joined Mrs Mary Anne Evans, Mrs Swartz and Mrs Sole plus representatives from UNE and The Oorala Aboriginal Centre who presented to the students on various programs, camps and available support networks for the girls.



Pictured are NEGS Girls Thelma Dauvunau and Matilda Adamson.



The three B's Brydi, Bronte and Bronte getting colourful before the big Colour Run.  
Photo courtesy of Matt Bedford, The Armidale Express.

## So colourful

The Show Your Colours for the Chopper five kilometre charity fun run was held at NEGS this year and was a huge success, attracting more than 500 competitors. Walkers and runners tackled the tough terrain around our Cross Country course and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of our school. We are hoping to host a colour run of our own in 2017 so watch this space!

## Fantastique Frenchies

In its second year, French Day was a great success. Students from Transition to Year 10 celebrated cultural differences with games, craft activities, theatre performances, songs and food.

Thanks to the support of Ms Rosewood, Head of St John's, and Mr O'Neill, Head of Languages, our French program has gone from strength to strength since the implementation of the Accelerative Integrated Method in 2015. Students showcased their new skills during Assembly where Year 4/5, Year 6, Year 8 and Year 9/10 treated the audience to short plays in French.

The rest of the morning was packed with activities. Students strutted their stuff in the dress-up parade, with Year 9 Zara Blackmore and Lydia Thornberry winning the coveted first prize thanks to their amazing French fries costume. Kids worked together to create impressive Eiffel Tower shapes on the floor of the MPC. Year 8 students participated in a French braid competition, with special congratulations to hair stylist extraordinaire Carlee Christensen.

Transition, Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 adorned their paper chef's hat creations and showed off their artistic flair in the play-dough bakery. Finally, everyone had the chance to come to our pop-up café and try yummy treats made by students. A special thanks goes to Matilda Rice (and her mum) who baked delicious éclairs.

French Day was truly fantastique!



## Valedictory Speech Day

NEGS was very privileged to have the Acting Prime Minister, the Hon Mr Barnaby Joyce MP attend the Year 12 Graduation as guest speaker. In Mr Joyce's speech he referred to life as a 1500-metre race and told the Year 12 girls they had only completed their first lap. He said the success of that lap didn't always determine your future. Some other very wise words from our Principal Mrs Evans were: "Never give up!". We wish our Year 12 2016 students all the best of luck in whatever the future holds for them.

## Camping out

The Year 11 Leadership Camp is a much anticipated event on our Term 4 calendar. With lots of fantastic activities the aim is to educate and inspire our students to new heights. Lots of team bonding, laughs and some wonderful input from our teacher, Mrs Consuela Despi, who does a great job looking after our girls.

## SMART girls

Never a dull day for our NEGS students. The girls have been out and about in Armidale where they did a session in the UNE Chemistry Lab making aspirin where they also met Dr Erica Smith who is the senior chemistry lecturer at UNE. Matilda, Alex and Thelma also attended a demo for SMART satellite communication on farms. Great to see their happy, smiling faces.

“Never give up!”



## Sole Performance

Congratulations to Year 11 student Emily Sole who performed at the 'Focus on Ability Short Film Festival' in Sydney recently. Her efforts were televised by SBS and Emily performed in front of a packed theatre of over 700 audience members. Earlier this year, Emily entered her film in the film festival where she portrays the abilities of those living with a disability. Her poetry so impressed the judges and she was chosen from a field of over 160 entries. CEO, Martin Wren then personally phoned Emily to ask if she would introduce the Gala event with a recitation of her evocative slam poem. Emily's strong performance demonstrates the strength of the NEGS Drama department. Drama head, Mrs Amber McCulloch, says her 2016 Year 11 Drama class is the strongest cohort she has taught.

# Science News



## NEGS STEM Day 2016

STEM Day for our Year 7-10 students was held in August this year. STEM Day is an annual event at NEGS which coincides with National Science Week. This year's theme was Drones, Droids and Robots. Year 7-9 were split into teams and ably led by groups of Year 10 students into a world of computer programming and robotics.

Did you know that the world's first computer programmer was a woman? The importance of coding for the future of our students has been recognised globally. Steve Jobs once said, "...everybody in this country should learn how to program a computer...because it teaches you how to think". Key players within the Australian government and scientific community have also recognised the importance of coding, particularly for girls. The ALP states: "Australia's digital economy is now worth \$79 billion and is predicted to grow to \$139 billion by 2020. To power this growth and ensure Australia does not miss out on these opportunities, we will need a workforce of young people with skills in computational thinking and computer science. This means boosting participation and engagement with students today, so they can have the jobs of tomorrow. Australia will need an extra 100,000 people skilled in ICT by 2020 if it is to keep pace with rising demand. It is crucial that young women learn to code and consider careers in ICT as early as possible to have a stake in what the world looks like in the future."

Since 2001, the number of female graduates from ICT courses has fallen from 1 in 4 to 1 in 10. NEGS recognises the importance of coding for our girls, with Coding Club currently operating once a fortnight. It is hoped that this program can be expanded in 2017. In the meantime, our STEM day gave all students the opportunity to experience coding and robotics first-hand and from the smiles on faces and problem-solving going on throughout the day, hopefully more girls will come into the computer programming fold.

For more information about Coding at NEGS, please email [belinda.stone@negs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:belinda.stone@negs.nsw.edu.au).



“everybody in this country should learn how to program a computer...because it teaches you how to think”



Eliza Watts and Sophia Rutledge.



Annicka McCulloch.

## Drama @ St John's and NEGS

This is the first year that junior school students have had a specialist drama class and it has certainly been a hit. Our classes have met once a week to study diverse topics such as storytelling, mime, improvisation, puppetry, scriptwriting, characterisation, reader's theatre and public speaking. It has been incredible to see the growth in confidence and poise for each of the students. Of particular note is the joy with which each group has embraced their time in drama, taking on each challenge with few inhibitions and great success.

I also had the pleasure of teaching peripatetic drama to students from Years 2 all the way up to Year 11. During our sessions we practised skills needed for characterisation, memorisation, organisation, and presentation of engaging material. Our performances were sourced from everything from adapted children's stories to Shakespearean monologues to speeches written by the students themselves. Many students chose to sit an Australian Music Examinations Board Exam with pleasing results for all. Students also performed pieces for audiences of their parents and their peers at drama showcase evenings, twilight concerts and student assemblies. I'm so proud of the growth I saw in all students' articulation and expression, as well as their developing confidence as actors.

MARCIA BELL, DRAMA TEACHER



Eloise Gooch and Polly Skipper playing guitar in junior band.

## Music news

As of Term 3, the NEGS music department has added a contemporary music program. This is comprised of a Contemporary Band, Jazz Ensemble and Electronic Music Ensemble.

Our Year 12 HSC music student Sophie Watson has been selected to perform in the Bravissimo concert next year in Port Macquarie. This is a wonderful achievement for Sophie as Bravissimo is a showcase concert of high achieving HSC Music students in northern NSW.

In October, NEGS was represented by many of our music students in the biennial New England Sings! Concert. This program is run by NECOM and gives students the opportunity to sing in a massed choir made up of singers from many schools in the North West region.

There have been many varied and exciting changes to the music program at NEGS and we look forward to a creative and fun 2017.

# Equestrian news



Jessica Towns and her horse Slay at ISHE.

NEGS Equestrian has been busier than ever in Semester 2 with riders doing a tremendous job and competing all over the state. With Nationals done for another year, the girls turned their focus to the Inter Schools Horse Extravaganza (ISHE).

NEGS Equestrian took a record number of 36 riders to ISHE with girls competing in every discipline. It's safe to say that nearly every class had a NEGS girl in it. First of all, we would like to say how proud we are of all the girls that rode for the school at ISHE. We were very pleased with how the girls interacted with each other and other schools, remaining positive and showing their good sportsmanship and nature. We received lots of compliments from fellow competitors about how professional and helpful the girls were.

## POLOCROSSE

Friday night was a great start to the weekend at ISHE with the Polocrosse girls fighting it out against Calrossy. It was a nail biting finish that went to golden point with Madison Teague, Abby Finlayson and Josie Wilson on the team! This was a tough game that showed off the skill and talent of our girls. They fought until the last second, bringing home the win.

## SHOWJUMPING

Jess Towns really stood out in the showjumping. She was the winner of all three classes in the 1.15m, jumping clear in every round. This led her to being the senior champion of the class. We would just like to point out what an achievement this is. Jessica is a very clever rider who manages to take lines and distances that most riders wouldn't. Her success really is a credit to her horsemanship and gutsy nature.

## EVENTING

Matilda McCarroll really outdid herself with her partner in crime, Tom (Chironic High Noon). After pulling him out of retirement, they managed to win not only the EVA105 eventing, but were overall champion in level 5B of dressage too. This is a talented combination, Matilda rides him brilliantly, allowing him to do his job without interfering. She is subtle with her corrections, showing the trust that she has in her horse.

## DRESSAGE

Olivia Ruzsicska was impressive on all fronts. After moving all the way to Armidale from Darwin with her horse, Wizard (Warrego Dumbledore), they are showing NSW what they are made of. With her parents along side her, Olivia and Wizard absolutely nailed their dressage tests, being overall champion by 5 points. They also received the highest percentage of any horse and rider combination at ISHE.

## HACKING

Brie Aitken really did an excellent job on her mount, Legs (Wenona Overlander), to prove the versatility and talent of both herself and her horse. They managed to place in everything that they entered and were crowned overall champion of the 65cm show jumping and Brie also took home the much coveted supreme rider at ISHE.

Anna Jarvis also cleaned up in the showjumping. Anna and her mount, Finley, managed to win overall champion in the 75cm. If that wasn't enough, they were also the overall champion in level 5A of dressage. Katie Hancock performed superbly on a catch ride after her horse was out. Despite having only three rides before competing at ISHE, she still finished as reserve champion in level 5A of dressage.



Jamie McElroy on the eventing course at ISHE.



Matilda McCarroll had a successful ISHE.



Brie Aitken taking out Supreme Rider at ISHE.

## GATTON AUSTRALIAN CUTTING HORSE AND YOUTH CUTTING COMPETITION

We had two NEGS girls representing the school in Queensland. Tamara Herrod and Cilla McCamley made the trip up to Gatton to compete in the Australian Cutting Horse and Youth Group Cutting competitions. Cilla McCamley had a very impressive run on her new horse, Buzz and she finished in first place in the Youth Class.

Tamara Herrod had a great run on her gelding, Shakey. They managed to finish in third place in the Youth Class and equal third in the 7up.



Olivia Ruzsicska took home many wins from ISHE.



Pictured (this page – clockwise from top left) Chelsea Devenish; Katrina Campbell and Emma Kaul; Mr John Cassidy and Emma Kaul; Katrina Campbell; (opposite) Our Enrolments staff Sally Olsen and Selina Croft at AgQuip; winners of the Land Services Property Planning Competition Megan Galbraith and Sophie Sutherland; our successful vegetable growing program at NEGS; NEGS students after shearing sheep; baby chickens and year 8 students.

# NEGS Agriculture news

It has been another hectic semester with lots of exciting things happening with NEGS Agriculture farm enterprises including – beef cattle, wool and meat sheep, pigs, poultry, fruit orchard, strawberries, and the vegetable garden.

It is great to see so many keen students choosing to do Agriculture and this will be a huge boost to our industry in the future. Years 8-12 Agriculture have been involved in a number of practical experiences and extra curricular activities to supplement learning in the classroom such as growing a corn density trial, visiting the Guyra tomato farm, farm case studies at 'Congi' (sheep/beef station at Walcha), competing in the Local Land Services Property Planning Competition (NEGS girls Megan Galbraith and Sophie Sutherland overall Grand Champions!), Agquip and Tocal field day excursions, UNE GRASS program, vegetable growing, designing and creating automated chicken drinkers and feeders, raising chickens, sheep shearing, piglet husbandry, cattle work and the list goes on! Our NEGS "whole school composting system" will soon to be underway and by the time you read this we would have held our pig production day in December, involving seven other high schools and six presenters from around the country.

## Livestock Team

Once again, we have had a very successful year in the beef cattle show ring at the following competitions where major awards were achieved by our students. The team had much success at Guyra, Walcha, Armidale, Sydney Royal, Manning Valley Beef Week, Brisbane Royal, Armidale Ray White Beef Fest and Northern School's Prime Beef Competition.



# St John's news

An area of educational focus within the Junior School has been the growth of the students' mathematical understanding. Our commitment to this area has been seen in the allocation of professional development of staff and resources to build and enhance students' learning and engagement in mathematics. We have allocated additional time to mathematics within the timetable and have started to introduce our 'playground of the mind' with the provision of greater access to mathematical games such as Chess and a playground clock. We see this as essential to further developing numeracy skills and to show children that mathematics can be fun! We hope to continue to add to our playground and classroom programs.

To this end we have made discovery and inquiry in maths a focus for classroom units of work. Linking with professional organisations such as the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT), Mathematics Association of NSW (MANSW) and the Board of Studies Cross Curricular STEM Projects, means that we are looking for innovative units of work that are best practice for teachers around the country. This is no small feat for a small school such as ours. In the recent MANSW Mathematics Investigation Projects competition, St John's achieved two second places and an achievement award. This competition is a statewide endeavor that is highly contested by large Sydney schools. We are very pleased with the progress our students are making in their ability to formulate their own questions and utilise process skills such as data collection and reasoning. Working alongside academics we have also trialled a diverse array of mathematical units of work such as mazes and an ancient mathematician by the name of Diophantus.

Does this mean that rote learning such as Times Tables is not valuable? When thinking about mathematics it is important to ask the question, 'Do we need to memorise'? I argue this on the grounds that firstly we need to ensure working memory is freed up, secondly to maintain this mental agility to service current daily needs and thirdly because true joy can be had in the ability to recall certain content. Working memory comes into play to enable us to hold multiple pieces of transitory information in our mind where this can be manipulated. Such action and manipulation enables higher order thinking such as critical and creative thinking and problem solving. In Term 4 we held our second St John's fact-a-thon. We see this as a fun way to better numeracy skills for individual students and to build House spirit within an academic forum.

SHANNON ROSEWOOD  
– HEAD OF ST JOHN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL



## Dads celebrated

Transition celebrated Father's Day at NERAM Cafe 52 this year. The children were very excited as they travelled on the bus. They were busting to share the presents that they had thoughtfully made. There was lots of laughter, singing, present sharing and of course coffee and milkshakes. An attitude of gratitude is a wonderful thing and we are sure that the children were so grateful that they each had a wonderful family member at the coffee shop to share their morning.



## Handball Fundraiser

Airlie McAlary initiated a St John's Handball Competition in Term 4. She asked for a 50c donation to enter and all funds raised are being donated to Cancer Council Australia. There were four categories – K-2, 3/4, 5 and 6 and a Grand Final was held with a terrific prize donated by Ms Pracy – a tin of Dulux Jelly Beans. We love student initiative.

## SMiS

Loving these gorgeous pics of our St John's students learning through practical application and embracing the concepts of Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools (SMiS) a national program managed by CSIRO on behalf of the nation. It provides skilled volunteers the opportunity to have a positive impact and make a difference to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education in primary and secondary Australian schools. Creating and supporting flexible partnerships between STEM professionals and teachers, provides access to real-world, contemporary experiences that promote understanding of the importance of STEM and inspiring students. Year 2 at St John's have formed a partnership with Dr Mary McMillan from the School of Science and Technology, UNE. In Term 2 Dr McMillan set up some wonderful experiments on good and bad bacteria and this term the children have created floating gardens in which they are growing alfalfa seeds.



## Senior School Taster

Year Six have had an interesting third term with the Year Seven experience days every fortnight for each student. The day was a fabulous opportunity for us to test out senior school. The experience day kicked off quite dramatically with drama. Some of us got a taste of things to come with the cooking class and some of us got to paint a picture of senior school life in art class but we all had a great experience and are looking forward to what Year Seven will bring.

Lunch with Mrs Evans was an extremely beneficial experience to learn about Year Seven. We kicked off the conversation with what we are looking forward to and some of the common responses were, "I'm looking forward to the freedom of high school, getting to make my own mistakes and the responsibility that comes with Year Seven." Mrs Evans warned us not to turn up in Mrs Swartz's office (that's an invitation no one wants to accept). We are all so excited for Year Seven and it was an honour to attend this lunch. By Sophie Mason, Year 6.

## Challenging Chess

This year the St John's Chess Team entered two competitions. The first competition on the 17th of June was held at Armidale City Public School. We entered four teams and each team played 10 games of chess, had recess and then learnt new game plans. All teams played really well during the day with Team 2 managing to place third overall. The second competition was played on the 8th of September at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Armidale. Again our four teams played 10 challenging games across the course of the day, had recess and were then taught new skills of chess. I would like to say that all teams played extremely well and showed great sportsmanship. They brought a smile to the table and left with smiles on their faces even though they might have lost. They were wonderful representatives of St John's. By Eliza Watts (Chess Co-Captain)



### Green Thumbs and Floating Gardens

Year 2 have enjoyed picking fresh vegetables from the St John's vegetable garden. With wonderful assistance from Mr McCulloch, the school garden has produced an amazing crop of broccoli, spinach and a variety of herbs that the children have been able to pick and take home to enjoy with their families.

### Science Fun

Year 2 enjoyed an exciting visit from our STEM partner Dr Mary McMillan from UNE. Mary set the children an engineering challenge – using wire, foam, newspapers, cable ties and plastic tubs the children had to create a floating garden. After in depth discussions and trial and error, all groups created, and successfully tested, their floating gardens. After adding soil, the children planted alfalfa seeds and they will now keep a photo diary to record the progress of their gardens. Thank you Mary for setting such an amazing challenge and well done Year 2.



### Teachers' Award for Ms Pracy

St John's students and staff were very proud of Year 6 teacher Emma Pracy for her achievement of being one of the joint winners of the 2016 NSW Teachers' Guild Award for an Early Career Teacher. This is a prestigious award that has a proud history of winners from large, independent schools such as Abbotsleigh, PLC, Barker and Newington. We are so proud of her.



### Great Day

Grandparents' Day was a huge success like always with many St John's students welcoming their GPs for a special morning tea and a visit around our school, not to mention a special recital on our reinvigorated organ in the chapel.



The St John's Hogwarts' Yuletide Feast and Whiz Quiz Night was a huge success attracting families from all over the New England region. Students and teachers donned their best Hogwarts' outfits they could conjure up and enjoyed a feast fit for Hogwarts Royalty. Everyone had such a ball, we can't wait to host another spectacular and fun event in 2017.



Students heading to Sydney in their new IGSSA training shirts.



Division 1 IGSSA Hockey had some great results in Sydney.



Division 4 players on the way to a win in their finals match.



### IGSSA HOCKEY

The Senior IGSSA/Division 2 NEGS team this year had what we would call a year of renewal. Five junior girls were exposed to a higher level of competition and acquitted themselves very well. The established senior girls supported the younger girls and made them feel very much a part of the team in all forms of competition.

It was also a year that could have been more successful on the IGSSA front if we were able to finish the many opportunities we created. There were three games losses at IGSSA that could easily have been wins had we converted our dominant possession and circle penetration. This is an area that all NEGS teams will be focusing on in 2017.

Our Junior IGSSA team also had a fantastic season with some outstanding performances. The team went down to Pymble in the semi-final but held their heads high, very proud of their strong second half.

Well done also to our Division 4 Hockey team (pictured left) who won their Armidale grand final 5-0. A huge thanks to Chris Clonan and Blair Chalmers, as always for your fantastic support of these undefeated Champions in 2016.

# Sport news

## Sport Captains

We are excited to announce the following as the Sport Captains for 2017; the Sport Department is looking forward to working with you regularly to build sport at NEGS.

**Netball** – Charlotte Raleigh

**Hockey** – Mikaela Ball

**Swimming** – Abbey Jackson

**Tennis** – Lucinda Parry

**Athletics** – Matilda Adamson

**Cross Country** – Eliza White

**Rifle Club** – Alex Patten

**JOSH COHEN**  
SPORT COORDINATOR/PDHPE TEACHER  
SPORT@NEGS.NSW.EDU.AU

### IGSSA NETBALL

The Senior and Junior IGSSA netball teams, travelled to Sydney to contest the two rounds. The Senior IGSSA team qualified for the semi-finals, which were played on the 16th September at Netball Central. The netballers challenged a tough Monte Sant' Angelo team and went down 37-13. The NEGS girls never gave up and had their best performance in the final quarter. The team also made the semi finals of local ADNA netball competition where they went goal for goal with Cougars until the final minutes of the game where the older and wiser heads of the opposition prevailed. Congratulations to all girls who have trained hard with Mrs Swartz and Miss Cambridge throughout the season.

### IGSSA ATHLETICS

On the 17th and 18th August, a team of 17 athletes travelled to Sydney to compete in the IGSSA athletics competition. The weather was in the athletes' favour and the girls competing in the 800m heats on Wednesday afternoon cruised through to finals. Thursday was an early start with some students managing up to five events for the day, spending a lot of time moving between field events and not much rest. There were some outstanding performances including Grace Cassidy, Sarah Wyatt, Tahlia Paull and Charlotte Raleigh all gaining places in their events. Thank you to Jay Stone for the coaching leading into the meet.



Charlotte Raleigh.

### ARMIDALE DISTRICT NETBALL COMPETITION

NEGS participated in the local Armidale competition throughout Term 2 and Term 3 with each team having individual successes. The teams persevered through some poor weather conditions over winter and were an impressive representation of NEGS students.

Congratulations to Charlotte Raleigh who was selected in the IGSSA representative side and named ADNA 2016 Netballer of the year. Other standout performances in netball this season go to Josie Orr who won the Division 5 Best and Fairest award and Charlotte Claridge who won the Division 6 Best and Fairest award. Congratulations also needs to go to the NEGS 6 team who finished the season Runners up in the Division 5 finals. Thanks to the coaches who gave their time over the season and the supporters for cheering on the teams.



## Boarding @ NEGS

Second semester is always a busy one with the end of winter sports, Eisteddfods, Year 11 examinations, Equestrian events, IGSSA competitions, academic commitments and Year 12's final term in Term 3. As I write this report we are about to complete Week 4 of Term 4 and this means we are already heading into the second half of the term and therefore the end of the year.

There has been a lot of enthusiasm with the numerous activities organised on the weekends. The Colour Run, Year 10 hosting a BBQ and Sports afternoon for Year 10 TAS students, bushwalking at Dangars Gorge, having fun in the boarding house, a social at Farrer and cooking to just name a few.

At the end of Term 3 we farewelled Mrs Kerry Middleton (Saumarez House Mother) and the Year 12 boarders. Mrs Donna Garrad was appointed Saumarez House Mother and Ms Dawn Shepherd was appointed White House Mother. Both boarding house students and families have made them feel very welcome with the change and they are both enjoying their new roles.

Term 4 has seen the implementation of the Boardingware system to improve administrative processes for leave, roll marking and duty of care towards the girls. With the initial teething problems all new systems have, this will be the beginning of a positive step forward for boarding. Thank you to parents, students and staff for their patience in the implementing of this system.

For the end of the semester we will be celebrating through a variety of exciting events including Kris Kringle in the individual boarding houses and a Boarding Gala Day/Evening on of the last weekends.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the boarders and their families for their ongoing support during 2016, have a happy and safe holiday period and can't wait to see you all back again next year.

STEPHANIE THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF BOARDING.



## Rifle Club news

NEGS Rifle Club has finished the 2017 competition season with many successes at both personal and team level.

Competition was concentrated in the July holidays, beginning with three NEGS shooters nominating for the NSW Country Under 25 Team shooting against their City counterparts at ANZAC Range Malabar.

Isabelle Cameron, Anna Campbell, Alex Patten and Old Girl Zara Babington made the team cut, contributing to the team's victory over City after a testing day's shooting at 500, 600, 700 and 800 metres.

Meanwhile seven NEGS shooters (add Sarah Wyatt, Brydi Holmes, Sophie Sutherland and Ruby Loosemore) and Zara went into the annual training camp at Wingham Range, supported by coach Mr Andrew Cameron and Camp Mum, Mrs Cathie Sutherland.

For five days the girls trained at various ranges in mostly benign weather, honing their skills and team methodology. Two new fully adjustable alloy stocks were delivered in the nick of time from Sydney, particularly suiting the smaller framed shooters.

The team then moved to ANZAC Range for the five a side Fiona Reynolds Memorial All Schools' Match against eighteen other (boys) school teams.

Shooting twice at both 500 and 600 metres in the usual windy headland weather at Malabar but drawing on their previous experience, the NEGS team of Isabelle, Anna, Brydi, Sarah and Alex achieved 6th position. Captain Isabelle Cameron individually top scored overall ("Queen Of The Range") for the second year running, dropping only one point to score 149.18 ex 150.

The team's and Isabelle's result was more than enough to win the Honner Shield and Burl Trophy from Shore, in the concurrent matches between the two schools.

The team then moved to Hornsby Rifle Range for the AAGPS Rifle Shooting Premiership.

Following a day's official practice, competition began on Tuesday with the Rawson Cup and NRA Shield, shooting against the seven GPS schools First's Teams, and whose members are mainly selected from Years 11 and 12.

In the Rawson, NEGS managed to overcome Shore by one point, but trailed in the 600 metre NRA Shield.

Despite heavy rain setting in on Wednesday morning for the Second's Match (teams comprising younger shooters), NEGS fared better beating Shore, Scots and Grammar for a "virtual" 5th place.

Returning to the final First's match in the afternoon – the Buchanan Shield – which includes the fast paced "Snap" stage, NEGS pulled out all the stops to beat Shore and King's, helped along by Isabelle's perfect Snap score and fine performances from the rest of the team.

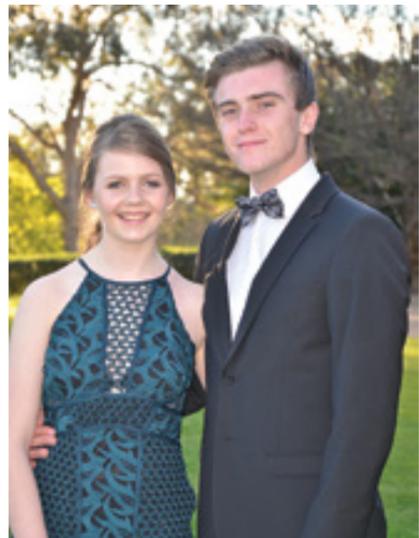
In the individual aggregate scores, Isabelle finished 6th overall from 64 shooters, followed by Alex Patten in 18th place.

The team's achievements were recognised at the annual Prize Presentation at a high tea in the School Dining Hall on Old Girls' Weekend. Club members took the opportunity to thank Mr & Mrs Cameron, Mrs Sutherland and Mr Holmes for assisting throughout the year and during the matches.

DAVID ROSE.



# Year 12 formal



## Social @ Farrer



# NEGS Old Girls' Union

## – Armidale President's Report

This year, the NEGS Old Girls' Reunion Weekend was held on the second weekend of September. We welcomed cohorts from 70, 60, 50, 40, 35, 30, 20, 10, 5 Year reunion groups. A group of 11 ladies returned for their 70yr reunion, along with 7 helpers/carers. What an amazing group of ladies they are to make the trip. It really is testament to this wonderful school to have so many past students returning to renew old friendships and support our school.

Our major fundraiser, the Framed Art Exhibition, was held on the reunion weekend. As with previous years we had many fantastic artists exhibit. The exhibition was hung and ready for Grandparents' Day on Friday morning of the Old Girls' Reunion Weekend. The Framed Cocktail function was held on Friday evening and then the Principal's High Tea was held on Saturday morning, followed by the P&F Trivia Night on Saturday. On Sunday NEGS hosted the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Colour Run. All of these functions were held in or close by the MPC,

which was a huge benefit to be able to expose the exhibition, this year, to more groups and a wider range of the Armidale and school community. This in turn meant that it was an enormous effort for the Framed Art committee. A huge thank you to all of the people who were involved with making this wonderful event very successful.

Last year we lost a very dear and long serving member of staff – Mrs Jean Newell. She had been a familiar face around school for so long. We all miss her extensive knowledge of the school and its great history. Heather Fisher is going to transition into the position as Archivist next year.

As I write this report, Year 12 are preparing for their HSC. The Valedictory Day celebrations were on the last day of term three. I would like to extend best wishes to this cohort who are about to finish one stage of life and start a new one. The NEGS Old Girls' Union looks forward to welcoming these ladies back to your five year reunion in 2021!!!

The success of our NEGS Old Girls' Union relies on the school being able to communicate with you via Akaroa, mail or email and social media. We can only do this if your details are up to date on the database. So please make sure you contact the office if any of your details need amending. Information about the OGU can be found on the school website and I encourage you to visit this website to keep informed of upcoming events and developments within the school. We also welcome any news from Old Girls for Akaroa. Please email Tanya Graham with information. tanya.graham@negs.nsw.edu.au or telephone 02 6774 8700.

We encourage you to consider making a donation to the NEGS Old Girls' Union for scholarships. Donations are tax deductible and are made to the school and nominated for our Old Girls' Scholarship sub-ledger.

**LINDY CANNINGTON (KEATS '83)**  
**PRESIDENT NEGS OLD GIRLS' UNION**  
**0429 499602 BACKCREEK3@BIGPOND.COM**



## OGs Missionary Union

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).

Over the years, many Old Girls have gone overseas to serve as missionaries. Helen North to South India, Judy Pipher to Nepal, Judith Blackman and Joan Bigg to PNG, Carolyn Blomfield to Malaysia, Lyn Dickson to the Solomon Islands, Margaret Young to Thailand and Elizabeth Young to Eritrea have been supported by our Missionary Union.

In 2017, Jessica Assef (2005) will go to serve in Italy through the Church Missionary Society, CMS.

Jessica and her husband Simon Cowell were commissioned in a ceremony at St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney on Saturday 5 November in the company of friends and family members. Their daughters Lydia and Emma will enjoy a Mediterranean childhood.

In Italy, Christianity is seen as irrelevant and outdated by many people. Despite large numbers of beautiful church buildings across the country, few Italians see them as more than tourist attractions, and even fewer know the grace of Christ's gospel. Universalism, secularism and hedonism are the priorities of most students today.

In this context, Italy's IFES Christian student movement – the Gruppi Biblici Universitari (GBU) – aims to share Jesus from student to student. Jessica and Simon will be placed at a university in Italy by GBU after Jess has completed an intense course to learn the Italian language.

During the CMS Commissioning ceremony, the CMS Representative said, Simon and Jessica, in the name of Jesus Christ who has called you to His service in the fellowship of the Church Missionary Society, and knowing that the loving a prayerful support of this congregation and those whom they represent will surround you.

The Congregation replied, Go in peace. The Lord give you strength to serve Him faithfully. The Lord guard you physically and spiritually, and be with you in all that you do. May you grow in God's grace and witness to Jesus by your words and actions. Amen.

We commission you for this tour of service as missionaries of the Church Missionary Society. May God fulfil the purposes He has for you and use you for His service.

To learn more, ask for news by email, and to support Jessica and Simon, please go to the Church Missionary Society website, [www.cms.org.au](http://www.cms.org.au)

**JULIET CAMERON**  
**HON. SECRETARY – N.E.G.S.O.G.M.U.**  
**PO BOX 173, ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289**

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## Old Girls' News & Notices

A holiday family catch-up of three generations spanning 80 years of past, present and future NEGS students.

Jo and her two sisters (Carli and Lil) also used to travel from Ilfracombe to NEGS. Jan grew up outside Charleville QLD on a property called 'Newholme' and used to travel by train to and from NEGS.



L to R: Lucy Thomas (Yr7), Jan Murray (nee Thompson) '36-'40, Jo Thomas (nee Murray) '62-'67 and Peggy Thomas commencing Year 7 in 2017. Jo is grand-mother to Lucy and Peggy. Jan is their great-grandmother.

Katherine Mulligan ('89-'95) married Sam Dutton (TAS OB) at the TAS Chapel on 25 April 2015. A number of NEGS Old Girls were present at the ceremony.

# 2016 Old Girls' Weekend Reunion Reports

## Special Old Girls 1946 – 70th Reunion

Old girl Faye Atwill (nee Fitz-Walter) once again rallied her Class of '46 to celebrate their 70th Reunion. Yes – 70! Eleven 'girls' (all in their late eighties) accompanied by daughters and friends, gathered for the September Old Girls' weekend. Conversations, punctuated by laughter, resumed where finished when they last gathered for their 65th reunion, which they had thought would be their 'last hurrah'!

"We loved the time together and participating in the planned events," says Faye. "The highlight was a bus tour around the school, guided by three lovely senior girls who did a marvellous job. We were amazed how the school has grown, and at the extent of the livestock and riding facilities."

The '46 cohort is filled with clever and capable women. "Some were unable to travel, and many are sadly no longer with us," Faye laments. The eleven Old Girls who attended this year shared fascinating memories. While many things, especially rules, accommodation and technology may be radically different; some things such as friendships are just the same.

Najla Melick (nee Abraham) had daughters Robin Prowse and Kim Melick with her at the reunion. Arriving at NEGS during wartime shortages, she had to wait for her Sunday uniform 'sack'. Visits to town on weekends were a treat. "We'd bring back luscious foods and hide it under the beds, and wake up at midnight to have feasts. It was very daring."

Faye Atwill had issues with 'Youngie'. One day sitting in class twiddling her hair she must have missed the rebuke, but "when Miss Young hurled a book at me, it frightened the daylight out of me! Later when my daughter Peta went to NEGS – and also twiddled her hair, Youngie, who was still there, gave her hell also!

We had sport every afternoon. Evening lessons were great when we had relaxed classes like French conversation.

During the mid war years 1941-1942 the old White dorm was built as school numbers increased by 50%. NEGS was seen as a safe haven. We were jammed into Outer Blaxland veranda with only canvas blinds – no glass."

Capsy Newton, who brought friend Sally Senior Smith to the reunion, was only eight when she arrived from Bowral. "I was an only child and very excited until I got here and realized the enormity. I howled and screamed. A little girl called Gay came along and said 'don't worry Mrs Newton, I'll look after her.' 'How long have you been here Gay', my mother asked. 'Oh, just today.' Capsy soon settled in – so much so she remembers being sent to Miss Dumolo's room almost daily for some misdemeanor. "One time I was doing a handstand and looked up to see Miss Dumolo. (She was very tall and had a head of tiny little curls.) I knew there was only one way around her so I burst into tears – and she produced the biscuit tin."

Capsy was at NEGS over 9 years but spent one year at home during the war when her Mother thought the Japanese would invade. The plan was to learn languages. Instead that year she learnt first aid and home nursing and became a fully-fledged VAD working in a hospital, before returning to school.

"My mother, Beryl Miller, was one of the first girls at NEGS (1899-1906) with Miss Green, the founder. It was very small – just Akaroa, and a lot of bush all around." Merryll Hope (nee Brown) who came with daughter Alison Shaw, loved hockey – but certainly not sleeping on open verandas during freezing winters. "Generally I got through school without too much trouble until the last night when a group of us decided to go for a walk on the golf course. We crept down the fire escape and walked along the chapel path down to the golf course, wondering whether anyone would hear us on the gravel. It was a beautiful moonlight night and we started running around and singing; it was our last night at school, and we were just having fun. Then a shadow appeared. It was Miss Young. We were rounded up and taken to the headmistress's office. From the senior prefect down she stripped us of our reputation. The next day was break up. The headmistress had her speech printed out but she omitted the paragraph on the Senior Prefect. The year after that they decided to put on a function at the end of year so girls would not leave their dorms and dance on the golf course!"

Sally McMaster (nee Ryder) who lives in Armidale, was joined by her daughter Anne Larsen. Sally says she loved every minute of her six years at NEGS and still has lots of school friends.

A day she remembers very clearly was when World War II ended. "We went mad." As a lieutenant it was Sally's job to ring the dinner gong – a big iron triangle near the dining room. "When it was announced war was over Alayne and I belted it. Every bell at school sounded, and sirens and horns rang out in town."

Sally is the grandmother of April Larsen, 2016 Senior Captain.

Beryl Forbes (nee Wiseman) is the twin sister of Barbie. Both were captains. Beryl's daughter Rosemary Morrison accompanied her to the reunion. Sweet memories were picnics in the country. "I loved going on blackberry picnics with our teachers. I have photos of them."

Beryl also mentioned the end of war; the sound of the gong, and train horns blasting. "Some people were very sad because they didn't know whether their family members were alive or not."

Beryl says students today would be amazed that during their NEGS years, they went to chapel every morning, and when confirmed it was three times on Sunday! They also did an hour's sport every day. "School was great. It's been wonderful to come back to NEGS today."

Joan Croker (nee Morris) came from central Qld and getting to NEGS was a marathon. "My parents put my sister and me on a train at Serena near Mackay; (we were ten and twelve) then an aunt met us in Brisbane and we caught a tram to her place. The next day she put us on the train to Wallangara, but we couldn't get a permit to cross the border on the train so friends met us there, we changed into our uniforms and embarked again. It seems quite strange.

Miss Colebrook was very good to us and kept in touch with our parents. We went home in mid-winter for five weeks, and at Christmas time. We thought the Japanese were going to land in 1942 when we came to school. They even suggested Qld would be given to the Japanese. We were very lucky the Americans came into the war."

Jane Hunt (nee Carter) "The best thing I took away from NEGS was friendship – vindicated that 70 years later we've come together. I lived near Barraba and my primary school was by correspondence. Arriving here was daunting but I learnt to enjoy the school community. I wasn't really a naughty person – I didn't know how to be naughty. I enjoyed sport, and Miss Young's English lessons."



46 Cohort on the bus!

Above L to R: Najla Melick (nee Abraham), Capsy Newton, Merryll Hope (nee Brown), Sally McMaster (nee Ryder), Faye Atwill (nee Fitz-Walter), Alayne Peterson, Barbie Fenwicke (nee Wiseman), Jane Hunt (nee Carter), Claire Daggett (nee Charley), Beryl Forbes (nee Wiseman), Joan Croker (nee Morris).



Sally McMaster (Ryder) and Faye Atwill (Fitz-Walter).



Jane Hunt (nee Carter) and Alayne Peterson.



Faye Atwill (1946) and Kim Woods Rabbidge (1975).



Capsy Newton and Najla Melick (nee Abraham).

Barbie Fenwicke (nee Wiseman) says she has always been outspoken. Barbie also mentioned the gathering on the golf course that caused so much angst. There were false rumours TAS boys were involved. "We were so innocent. We had a case of cherries and a half-pound block of chocolate – and we were playing Farmer in the Dell! I left school without a reference from the headmistress Miss Colebrook; she didn't even say good-bye. I loved boarding school – not so much the academic side but the sport and the companionship."

Alayne Peterson embraced NEGS and was pleased that Armidale was a designated 'city'. "It meant many distinguished people came to visit and often they came to NEGS to address us." As a result, by the time she finished school Alayne felt she had an insight into the ways of the world, but says it soon became obvious there was a lot more she needed to learn!

Claire Daggett (nee Charley) was sent to NEGS from Sydney after her mother died. She really appreciated making lifetime friendships. "I was very keen on history; Miss Beck, our young history teacher was so nice. She lived in one of the school cottages and rode a bike. Miss Young was the most wonderful English teacher – strict, but we were really lucky to have her, and Miss Billy Garling was also a marvelous teacher. I was in lots of performances and learnt to love Shakespeare. We did lots of crafts like leatherwork, and on the weekends I remember spending time in the bush near the golf course drawing and painting, and just hanging out with each other.

My love of gardening began when I grew broad beans in a rectangular garden bed near the craft building I was given to tend. A few friends and I were allowed to go into the staff kitchen and cut thinly sliced bread. We'd have bread, butter and broad beans – a feast!" What a gathering! Faye contacted almost everyone by email. So, so different from the days when most communication came via the postman. These NEGS girls are an inspiration. Reflecting on her time as a student Faye said "There was never any nastiness; we had so much fun."

Written by Kim Woods Rabbidge (1975), who encouraged Faye to gather her group together once more.



Here is a group photo of our 60th.... missing Margaret Alsop nee Chapman who arrived at 6.40 and missed the photo shoot, kindly done by Lindy and this one was done by Mary Cuppaidge nee Olgilvie.  
 Back row L to R: Margaret Anderson nee Lawrance, Janice Blair nee Earle, Shevauneen Gegier nee Blomfield, Elizabeth Seaman nee Cox, Sacha Stevens nee Simpson, Rosemary Cameron nee Burge, Susan Staughton nee Nisbett/Sutton, Sue L'Estrange nee Cowlishaw, Lenore Mathieson nee Hart, Elsie Ritchie nee Carter, Helen Gray nee Longland, Jill Armstrong nee Rice, Margaret Milne nee McCathie, Beverly Ann Sandilands nee Cooper, Jann Sproule nee Scholefield, Robyn Sanderson nee Bowman, Diana Arnold nee White.  
 Front L to R: Prue Burgess nee Wilson, Betty Armbruster nee Dowe, Margie Horneman nee Fenwicke, Robyn Litchfield nee McClymont, Mary Cuppaidge nee Olgilvie.

## A 60th Year Reunion – class of '56

It was perfect weather for the 21 girls, accompanied by 14 husbands who picnicked in Dickens for the weekend, [with two more joining us on Saturday]. We felt at home in the Common Room above Pooh Corner with its fond memories of playing there when we were in Lower and Upper Remove.

It was interesting to visit Saumarez Homestead and to be in the drawing room where Miss Elsie White served us afternoon tea 60 years ago and to learn that nothing has been added to the house except for a few pieces which have been returned to their old home. For heritage rose lovers, it was a great opportunity to see the development of stage 1 of the Heritage Rose Garden. When completed with stage 2, it will be truly stunning.

The chefs produced a delicious dinner for us, held in the WH Lee Room; our boys having a pleasant evening at the Bowling Club. The organ in the chapel has been refurbished and Mr Warwick Dunham, an accomplished organist played for Sunday morning chapel. His interlude, a rendition of "For All The Saints" was superb. We had as always photos on the steps before proceeding to the Dining Room for the traditional breakfast.

The overriding feeling of the weekend was of the love that flowed. We are such a caring close knit group and these long standing loving friendships [the girls having boarded together for from 4 to 8 years] are perhaps the greatest legacy of our years at NEGS.

**SACHA STEVENS (SIMPSON '56)**



## We just had the best time at our 35 year gathering!

### ITINERARY:

Friday 9th at 6.00 pm at The White Bull for a few drinks for those that made in on Friday. 20 girls and 4 husbands. We then went to the Two Goats Cafe for dinner, which I booked at 7pm as the pub was booked up.

Saturday 10th we met at the High Tea at NEGS and a few more girls arrived there. Afterwards we walked around the school and looked around and reminisced (and I rang the old bell... as I do every Reunion) until about 2.00. The riders went and checked out the Riding School and the rest of us then went back to the Two Goats for coffee and a snack.

5.30-6pm we gathered at The New England Hotel where I had booked tables for our dinner. I think the last ones left at midnight! There was about 25 at that.

Sunday 11th we meet for breakfast at Little Coco Cafe at 9am and had breakfast/coffee until about 11 am then most made their way home.

We are having something every five years now... and I will be organising those while ever I'm able.

**SUSIE ROWLEY (HAYS '81)**



## 30 Year Reunion Report – class of '86

30 years is a lot of ground to cover in just a couple of days, but on the surface, it appears our appetites, at least, have not abated. We descended chatting and laughing upon various venues, and then left them stripped bare of all food and alcohol. Nice work girls. We are all looking like 30 something, not late 40's, and pretty magnificent in every respect. Naturally some knocks have been sustained, though maybe in part due to the resilience acquired at a boarding school, a 'never say die' attitude prevails. We harbour quite a number of professionally talented artists (of every shade), very accomplished horse riders & trainers, counsellors, lawyers, corporate managers, arts administrators, editors, farmers & graziers, small business owners, educators, designers, mums extraordinaire and movers and shakers of every type.

Armidale did not disappoint weather-wise. After a bracing but clear Friday evening at the NEGS multi-purpose centre where many of us reunited after so long, we woke on Saturday to horribilis tempestas (google for bad weather). It cleared though to showcase the best of a magnificent Armidale spring; beautifully green after winter rain and with blossoms aplenty. Throughout it all and nearly oblivious to the changing scenes outside, old friends found themselves huddled around stacks of photos from our time at school, with the sharing of stories and much chortling stimulated by the rich assortment of '80's hairdos and fashion.

There were visits to where it all began. Standing in the hall in front of our very first dorm in Forster House brought to life sounds of girls talking & laughing, memories of unfinished homework, cold bathrooms, the royal wedding of Princess Diana & Prince Charles, blue tunics & girdles, singing loudly out of tune & supper biccies & spilt milk. To walk in with some of the original members of our dorms, to see the same built-in cupboards & drawers, brought on vivid feelings of belonging and sharing, and I think a little bit of eye water.

At the official reunion on Saturday night, we really hit our stride, continuing through to a wind-down breakfast on Sunday morning. Once again there was much eating, drinking and general silliness amid meaty conversations ranging across 30 years of 'life'. Something special seems to happen after 3 decades apart. It was an absolute joy to bask in the atmosphere of such deep warmth, goodwill and love, which lots of people remarked on. With all the high jinx, we sadly forgot an official toast to the girls who were unable to come. Please know that you were present in spirit, celebrated in stories and definitely missed, and please accept a virtual salutation, with or without bubbles, 'to absent friends'. We dearly hope to see you next time!

Lifelong friends are hard to come by and friendships made at school stand the test of time. We hope our renewed friendships over the weekend will bring us all together again in 10 years' time. 'Til then, stay safe and well.

89 Enrolled students over '81-'86

57 Graduates in '86

39 Attendees for 30 yr reunion

**JACQUI GEDDES NEE CROTHERS ('86) & CATHERINE WRIGHT**



## 20 YEAR REUNION REPORT – 1996

On Friday 9 September over 30 of the class of 1996 returned to Armidale for the weekend to celebrate our 20 year school reunion. A large portion checked into "Dickens House" for the weekend festivities – it was hilarious being back in the dorms, hanging in the hallway, showering with thongs and sharing the common room. Some things never change – however champagne in the common room was a novelty! On Friday night we enjoyed supporting the NEGS "Framed" art exhibition and catching up with old girls from other years along with teachers and students. Our cohort then ventured to "the Newie" for an informal meal and catch up. On Saturday morning we enjoyed a tour of the school and breakfast in Armidale. Our main event was lunch on Saturday – a beautiful meal and catch up at Bistro on Cinders. The whole weekend was non-stop laughter and it was so great to see everyone. It was a fantastic effort for so many to come and celebrate and we are already looking forward to our next one.

ALEXANDRA BURKE (CROMBIE '96)



## 5 YEAR REUNION REPORT – 2011

The class of 2011 had a great time celebrating their 5 year reunion, many travelling across the countryside to be there! It was a great weekend full of reminiscing on school days as well as catching up on everyone's news – after 5 years not all that much has changed, apart from a couple of university degrees under the belt, some exciting new jobs and a lot of different coloured hair! We enjoyed wandering the beautiful grounds of NEGS, admiring our favourite magnolia tree, and attending a lovely chapel service followed by a delicious breakfast in the dining hall. All of those who could not attend were sorely missed!

KIRSTY ASSEF

## 2017 Old Girls' Weekend – Friday 8th-Sunday 10th September

### 55 Year Reunion

**Mrs Anne Gibbons (Russell '62)**

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60 Year Reunion – 1957 Cohort

50 Year Reunion – 1967 Cohort

40 Year Reunion – 1977 Cohort

30 Year Reunion – 1987 Cohort

20 Year Reunion – 1997 Cohort

10 Year Reunion – 2007 Cohort

5 Year Reunion – 2012 Cohort

If you are interested in helping to co-ordinate your year group, please contact Mrs Lindy Cannington, NEGS OGU President:  
e: backcreek3@bigpond.com  
m: 0429 499 602

# Goodbyes

### Grace Nicholls (Smith 1925-'30)

It seems to have been a small and informal school at that time, and Mum made many friends.

Friends for life she always said, but in fact she was to outlive them all and celebrated her 100th birthday in 2013.

Mum died in February this year and is buried not far from her daughter, Wendy (Nicholls) Cooper.

### Jil Seton (Blomfield '43)

Jil Loyalty Seton (Blomfield) passed away in Cremorne on 18th January 2016 just shy of 91 years.

Jil and her sister Robin from "Oorawilly" Walcha were enrolled at NEGS in 1938, Jil leaving in 1943 and Robin a year later.

Of prime importance to Jil were the friendships she forged during her school years, which endured for her lifetime and extended to her friends' children, together with her introduction to music, history and the arts by some very wonderful and inspiring NEGS teachers who greatly enriched what was to become her lifelong passion for knowledge and travel.

Although a self described "bushie", much of her life was spent in cities, but her heart was firmly entrenched in the land and in Australia, and her two great passions always remained the country, along with those friendships forged all those years ago at NEGS.

She was the most loyal of friends and the most caring of people.

She had been a school captain and was a highly regarded student and popular amongst staff and fellow students alike.

Although Jil and I started at NEGS the same year I was 3 years younger and our friendship did not really commence until later when we travelled together and in her latter years I became her enduring guardian and was with her during her last illness.

Jil and I both have close attachments to the School, her sister Robin and many of her cousins having been students there over the years. My mother, Beryl Miller, was one of the first girls there in Miss Green's day.

Yours sincerely,  
Carline Newton

### Jeannie Ross Fraser 1923-2016

Sadly passed away 30/05/2016

Jeannie: quiet, dignified and a private person with a deep social conscience, was a committed Christian, Nurse, Philanthropist – though she lived very frugally, very family minded, Traveller, Royalist, Historian & Author, Inveterate Letter Writer – especially to keep in touch with friends, but also on numerous occasions to firmly let her views be known to bureaucrats & parliamentarians etc., a diligent walker, who bravely thought nothing of confronting anyone littering in the park; promoter of wool;

Foundation Member of the Elizabethan Theatre Trust, devotee of Music and Opera – she loved the beauty of the music and said the artistic colour filled the imagination.

Caring, Compassionate, Consistent, Courageous and committed to the Nursing and Glen Innes Communities.

To conclude – in Jeannie's own words.

"Having lived with the burden of borrowed money I have endeavoured to buy only as I could afford and apart from an occasional Lay Buy and the safety of bank cards or travellers cheques I pay cash at all times as a result of the problems of 1942 and '43.

And in the light of retirement, I have indeed enjoyed a very fortunate life – I thank an ever loving God, my parents, relations and friends, especially my nursing colleagues for their wonderful support and for just being there when they were needed."

Well done Jeannie Ross Fraser, Thou good and faithful servant!

### Jennifer (Jennie) McCormack (Gill '50) 12/09/34-18/10/2015

Jennie enjoyed her years at school and shared many stories with her grand-daughters who also attended NEGS Josephine McIlveen (McCormack '98), Jessie Fazakarley (McCormack '00), Melanie Perkins ('04) and Haidee Perkins ('06).



### Mary Gordon ('35)

Sadly passed away on Christmas Eve, 2015, surrounded by her family, including her daughters Alexandra and Eve Gordon. She was 89.

Penny Nettelton's (Wileman '46) letter to Mary Gordon. January 2016.

Mary dearest,

You have been an inspirational achiever in your lifetime! An example to many for their future careers, and in life. I will make sure the New England Girls School in Armidale is aware of your curriculum vitae. It will inspire those up and coming students. Do you remember at our final speech day – the last day of our school life, the speaker was Camilla Wedgwood, principal of the Women's College at Sydney University? She told us to live dangerously!

Mary, I remember the day train to Armidale – some of us were already aboard – you got on at Werris Creek. Audrey Toppin had a record player in full throttle, with Bing Crosby singing "The waiter, the porter and the upstairs maid" echoing down the carriage and there was dancing in the aisle with the TAS (The Armidale School) boys. Where were the school mistresses? The train took eight hours from Sydney. We had fun. We had to take the day train as the troops were using the night train to get to far North Queensland and the Pacific War (1943)! We really did make the most of our time at school. Both of us interested in drama and appeared in the school play – Dorothy Sayers "The Zeal of the House" – you and I were angels on stage all term. I Michael the sword of God and you the angel Gabriel, the keeper of the books. How appropriate.

Safe journey, All love  
Pen.



## Fiji Service Trip



In the September holidays, six NEGS girls (Sheriden Bennett, Kate Earle, Maggie Halliday, Georgia Hiscox, Phoebe Uren and Madeline Watts) along with four girls from PLC and nine boys from TAS – all from Year 8, travelled to St Christopher's Home in Suva, Fiji. The students were accompanied by Mrs Helen Smith from NEGS and five staff members from TAS and PLC, including our own cooks.

Leading up to the trip, there were a number of meetings to discuss fundraising ideas, projects and lesson plans. Part of the experience included teaching in the school where some of the St Christopher's children attend. This was very enlightening.

Each student was expected to raise \$200 towards the overall donation to the Home. The NEGS girls raised in excess of \$1900. They are all very grateful for the support and assistance given to them by families, friends, fellow students and staff members of NEGS. The money raised this year was used to purchase paint, timber for garden edges and new equipment for the kitchen.

While in Fiji all students helped in many areas at the Home – cleaning, painting, gardening and tiling. All materials used were covered by the funds raised by the students.

Each Armidale student was matched with a "buddy" from the Home. The age of the children ranged from 5 to 19. On each day of the Service Trip, an hour was spent with the buddies playing games or just talking. Prayers and singing were held each night, Chapel was attended one morning and church on Sunday.

As this is an annual Service Trip, there is the opportunity for suitable items (pencils, exercise books, sporting equipment etc.) to be donated at any time. Please contact Mrs Helen Smith ([helen.smith@negs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:helen.smith@negs.nsw.edu.au)) for further information.

Georgia Hiscox said: "When I went to Fiji this year I had an amazing time and experienced many new things. What I most enjoyed about the trip was experiencing a new culture and meeting all the children from St Christopher's, they were all so lovely and friendly throughout the whole trip. I also enjoyed getting to know the group of people that came with me to Fiji. If anyone is thinking about going next year I would definitely recommend it as it opens our eyes to how fortunate we are in Australia."

