

# Alkaroa

Semester One 2017



NEGS





# annual giving 2017

## Dear Friends of NEGS,

*In support of the development of NEGS, it is again that time of year where we contact our families, alumni, grandparents and friends to let you know of our Annual Giving options and further information.*

Whilst we recognise the many personal contributions made by members of our NEGS community we also gratefully accept financial donations, large or small, that will go towards benefiting our wonderful School and maintaining our reputation as one of the most respected day and boarding schools in the region.

This year the Annual Giving appeal will go towards the NEGS Education Trust Fund which enables us to offer a range of scholarships and special bursaries to those girls who are befitting of the NEGS ethos but may not have the financial means to support their dream. These girls may have a passion for music, visual arts, equestrian, sporting, and academic and, if specified, your donation can be allocated to a particular area that is close to your heart.

Additionally, the NEGS Building Trust will also be the beneficiary of donations as we continue to invest heavily in the School's infrastructure, such as boarding house upgrades.

Donations are fully tax-deductible and can be made in one single payment or if larger can be pledged over a five-year period to make it easier for you to be generous and make a real difference to NEGS.

If you would like to make a donation, please call Jane Simmonds on 02 6774 8700.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all those who have donated in the past. Your vision and investment in our school is truly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

MRS MARY ANNE EVANS | PRINCIPAL

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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!

## AKAROA SEMESTER ONE 2017

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## Principal's Welcome

Welcome to this first edition of Akaroa for 2017. As ever, our wonderful magazine aims to provide a snapshot of the dynamic range of activities, curriculum and community embraced by our students throughout the year. It is also a chance for me to reflect on the privilege that it is to be part of this spectacular campus and share with our readers the opportunities, connections and education that our students benefit from throughout their school career.

As many of our readers may know, there is a wonderful network of role models that exist within NEGS. Our outstanding teaching staff are dedicated to enriching and extending our girls so they may reach their full potential. At NEGS, we pride ourselves on our small class sizes and our commitment to a holistic education tailored to the individual student's needs.

As I reflect upon the spirit of NEGS, the inclusive culture of our School and the fantastic resources that we have, I believe that as Principal, it is essential to harness this energy and expertise and continually remain forward-focused. As we evolve, our vision rests on our commitment to academic vibrancy and invoking best-practice. The recent creation of the position of Director of Teaching & Learning is a reflection of this attitude as we broaden our academic performance across the School. Highly respected educator, Mr Tony Jones, has taken on the role and under his guidance our teaching pedagogies are being reviewed, enhanced and shared amongst the academic staff. This cross-fertilisation of ideas and practice is what enriches any learning environment and our aim is to be at the cutting edge, further enhancing our position as the premier girls boarding school in Australia.

Impressive strides are also being made in our efforts to implement the pillars of our much thought out Strategic Plan 2017-2022 The Way Forward. Semester One has seen NEGS introduce Mandarin as we foresee a need to equip our students with the necessary language tools to engage with the world's second-largest economy. We are also fortunate to have on staff a Google certified trainer who has established a solid program at the school focusing on coding, app design and teaching students how to effectively use Google. This year, NEGS students will compete in several national coding competitions further enabling students to gain a hands-on understanding of how computer science works in the day-to-day world.



Thanks to the enduring efforts of the academic staff at NEGS, 2017 has also seen some of our strongest boarding numbers to date as we attract students from around Australia including Sydney, the Northern Territory and far north Queensland.

The continued implementation of our Wellbeing program underpins our entire curriculum and this alone sets NEGS apart from its competition. The program aligns with our push to equip our girls with the best resources and tools to flourish and this, I believe, is best managed in an all girls' environment. A credit to our strong reputation in this area is our recent partnering with the Smith Family and their Indigenous Youth Leadership Program to offer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students access to outstanding educational opportunities for boarding and secondary schooling.

To quote a recent Sydney Morning Herald article, "girls' schools provide a unique environment where girls don't have to compete with boys for leadership positions or their teacher's attention. They thrive in subjects typically dominated by boys, and learn their own worth, beliefs and value without social pressure from boys. Vitally, they provide a safe space for girls to learn to combat the gender bias and sexism that still exists within universities, workplaces and our broader communities – so that when girls leave school they know they are equal to their male peers and will accept nothing less".

At NEGS we encourage our girls to set personal goals that are not defined by the expectations of others. They must work towards their personal best which minimises comparisons to others and the potential for self-criticism. Our job as educators is to prepare our young women for life beyond the school walls. Through this growth mindset, in an all girls environment, we are empowering the young women of NEGS to have successful, balanced and happy lives. For myself and my teaching cohort, this is the true measure of a successful education.

There are numerous other compelling stories within this edition of Akaroa, that are a testament to our accomplished students. I hope you enjoy them.

MARY ANNE EVANS, PRINCIPAL





## Gappies of 2016-2017

For the past 10 months NEGS has enjoyed hosting 4 Gap Students from Germany but their volunteering experience is soon coming to an end and we will be saying our farewells. They have been outstanding volunteers, offering energy, commitment, intelligence and personal support to staff and students in a myriad of situations, with unflagging enthusiasm. They will be sorely missed.

Gap students are students who have completed school and apply for a volunteer position, often in an overseas country for a time. They are provided with accommodation and a living allowance and in return are embraced by their host school. For some years, most of our Gappies have come through "Latitude", an Agency which interviews applicants from all over the world and selects the best fit for schools and other enterprises and, in turn, several NEGS students have worked through "Latitude" to engage in a Gap placement overseas after Year 12. At NEGS, Jola worked almost exclusively in the Equestrian Centre and Katharina in Transition. The other two, Sophie and Bente, had regular tasks assisting struggling students in the classroom and giving regular learning support, filing and organising resources, shelving Library stock, supervising the wake-up call in the boarding houses in the mornings, meeting Junior students arriving on buses and escorting them to the Junior School, preparing photocopying, assisting with the Shopper's Bus, assisting with school excursions and generally being another pair of hands wherever required. They have proved to be versatile and adaptable, offering reliable support for teachers and students and the best of role models for students contemplating a Gap Year. Our school life has been enriched through having Jola, Katharina, Sophie and Bente with us and we wish them every good wish for the future.

### DR. HEATHER FISHER | GAP STUDENT COORDINATOR

11 months ago I entered a plane in Hamburg that took me to a country about 9,000 miles away – Australia.

I fell straight in love with NEGS when I first saw the school grounds. Everyone welcomed me in such a friendly way that I knew that there was an awesome year lying ahead of me.

Now, at the end of this year I can truly tell that it was amazing. It was a great experience to be at NEGS as a Gap Student. I've worked everywhere around the school which I really enjoyed.

I'll always remember my first day here when I was totally overwhelmed by all these beautiful impressions as well as all excursions I've been to (especially the Year 7 and 9 Camps) but also each little moment that made my time here unforgettable.

When I met my parents in the summer holidays, my mother mentioned that I already have become more self confident, independent and open minded. My time at NEGS helped me to develop those relevant characteristics.

What I've learned and what I would recommend everyone concerning a Gap Year is to take every opportunity given and never being afraid to ask for help.

I will miss this beautiful school because there is no place like NEGS!

### BENTE GERDES

When I came to NEGS nearly 1 year ago I was very excited. Excited about Australia and the Australian way of life, excited about being given the opportunity of volunteering in another country and about the things this year was going to surprise me with.

NEGS is a quite unique place which doesn't look like schools back home and especially the equestrian centre and the fact that this is a boarding school was a whole new thing to me. I never went to a boarding school myself and it was interesting to find out how everything works but it was a little hard to get used to the schedule as well as it was unusual to fit the school day into my working hours and into my free time because my work at the equestrian centre is very different from a normal school day. The EC is my highlight of this school not only because I am working there but it is a very special thing to have the opportunity to have your horses with you at school, being able to ride it there and to get educated about them at the same time. The abilities which are given to the students here are amazing. I have learned a lot more about horses and how to work with them as well and I am still learning every day. The equestrian team is wonderful and I really love working with them. It is unbelievable how well we're getting along even though there are a lot of different age groups and that we are from 4 different countries: Australia, Germany, India and Malaysia. I guess the best proof for that and something that makes me really proud as well is how we organised the NEGS One Day Event in November 2016. We've been working really hard to make a great event and we've been preparing for it for a long time. In the end everything worked out really well and everyone was quite happy.

The EC Team is just amazing and I really hope for my future that I am getting as good along with my colleagues as with them. These people made my gap year mean a lot more to me than I expected and I hope that I will see them again!

### JOLA BREER

When I started off from home last year for my voluntary service in Australia I was pretty excited about my time ahead at NEGS.

As I look back on the past eleven months I am immensely grateful for all the moments I will always remember.

I have been able to to work in various places over the school, experiencing what makes NEGS so special. Working in the Senior School and at St. John's with the lovely Kindergarten boys and girls as well as in Boarding made me enjoy every day here.



Sophie Mütter



Jola Breer

Excursions such as to the Royal Queensland Show with the Livestock Team and the Year 7 Camp have been wonderful involvements for me into the diverse school life of NEGS.

But most of all the phenomenally welcoming people – whether staff or students – are the reason that I could always think of "going back home to NEGS" after the school holidays. In this sense I would like to thank each and everyone who contributed to the outstanding time I have had. "Whatever you do, do it heartily." I have taken the school's motto as advice for my time here and my future life and all I can say is that it is a wonderful guideline for one to enrich life with all opportunities that are offered to you, follow your dreams and believe in yourself.

With all these unique experiences and incredible memories I will return back home after a year I will always treasure.

### SOPHIE MÜTHER

Leaving home, everything and everyone you know behind for a year may be a bit scary at first but after the last year I can say it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. During my year here at NEGS there was no time and really no need to miss home much.

We arrived in July last year and it is hard to put everything I experienced into words. I worked in Transition where every day is an adventure and you never really know what is going to happen. We went to the fire station, grew tadpoles into frogs, had magnificent guinea pigs (until the dog incident), had a child with a pompom stuck up her nose, a Barbie doll stuck in the toilet and so many more fun and interesting moments together. Things could get a bit crazy in our room but I wouldn't have wished to change places with anybody, it is the most fun and caring environment I can imagine.

I believe the best advice for people doing a gap year is to be open about everything and to take all the opportunities that present themselves. Some things may be out of your comfort zone but I guess that is the point. You don't want to regret not doing something. I myself never thought I would enjoy the year 9 Survival Camp as much as I did (thank you girls for that week).

I seriously had the best time ever. NEGS became my home away from home for the last year and I am immensely grateful for all the people who made that happen. I will remember and miss every one of you and I consider myself lucky to be able to return to Germany with a heart filled with countless happy memories and more stories than I will ever be able to tell.

### KATHARINA SCHUMACHER



Katharina Schumacher



Bente Gerdes





## Cancer Council Donation

Paul Hobson, from the NSW Cancer Council visited NEGS this week to receive a donation from the P&F of \$780. This was money raised at last year's NEGS Trivia Night, so a big "well done" to everyone involved who helped run this super event and who came along to join in the fun.



## Careers Day

NEGS students attended the Indigenous Career Day - Law & Business at UNE in Term 2. This photo was taken in the Moot Court where the girls really enjoyed the Law presentation. These days, run by the Oorala Centre, UNE, are invaluable in helping the girls to decide upon their future study.

## Eye on Design

Cameron McCormick spent the day NEGS recently running a fantastic workshop introducing the girls to the design concepts and skills required for the presentation of HSC major project folios. There were lots of up-skilling areas such as fashion illustration, rendering and the professional presentation of design development. Cameron comes with a wealth of experience having graduated from the Whitehouse Institute of Design in Sydney in 2016. In 2015 he was awarded Young Designer of the Year at the Australian Wool Fashion Awards. He has also illustrated for BT Financial Group and Westfield at annual events and styled campaigns for Toni and Guy. The girls came away with lots of inspiration for their major works.



## Kids Lit Quiz

Established more than 25 years ago, the Kids Lit Quiz is an international literature competition for kids who love to read. National co-ordinator Nicole Deans said the competition was about giving opportunities to students who may not excel in sports or arts. "There's no reading list. The children have to have a broad knowledge of everything from fairy tales, nursery rhymes, current literature, comics, mythology - it's really broad," she said. "It's called the Sport of Reading, the idea is that the students work together as a team to collaborate and come up with the answers." NEGS hosted students from across Armidale for the competition. The quiz is aimed at students aged 10 to 13 years, as that is when reading levels are most likely to drop. "It gets readers to read outside their comfort zone," Ms Deans said.



## NEGS First Rugby Match

The official beginning of rugby at NEGS saw a squad of over 13 girls playing in Tamworth against Calrossy, The Pirates and TAS. It was wonderful to see so many families coming along to support the girls. The girls defeated TAS. Chelsea D and Isobelle F were our try scorers and Alex P kicked a conversion. Mathilda H played strongly and directed the girls expertly around the park. All girls contributed and showed great determination in their first rugby experience. Many thanks goes to the girls' coach, Mr Mark Flynn and also to Mr Tony Jones. Special thanks also to Mrs Flynn for the great photos taken. Well done girls.

## Dressed to Impress

Well done to Year 10 student Zara Blackmore who was announced the winner of the 2017 Australian Celtic Festival Fashion Awards in May. Connecting with her Celtic roots and her passion for sewing, Zara wowed the judges with her elegant black evening gown with a feature of tartan red roses. The judges commented that they were impressed by the high quality of sewing and that the dress would be seen at a red carpet event. We congratulate Zara on such a wonderful achievement. Thank you to Sophie Mitchell for braving the cool weather to model the dress for Zara.



## UNE Discovery Voyager Program Visits NEGS

NEGS girls had a great start to the morning with a visit from the UNE Discovery Voyager bringing expertise and passion for science to the girls. The UNE Discovery Voyager program run interactive curriculum aligned activities in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths). The activities included: Dynamic Bodies, The Science of Soils, School of Ants, Physics in Sound, Curious Chemicals, The Purpose of Pollinators, Precision Agriculture, Natural History Collection focus, Science and art with butterflies, Palaeontology and Living Latin.





# Boarders' Week

Boarders participated in a variety of activities to celebrate and support National Boarders week. All girls were set the challenge of creating the word "Boarding" out of their bodies within a time limit of one song. Posters were completed with their dining table groups which consist of students from Years 7-12 on each table. They offered words of wisdom of why they love boarding. Finally, the girls participated in the Boarders' Run initiative set by the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA). They all walked, jogged, skipped and danced the 1km (including the staff). This initiative was to create awareness of how far some families have to travel to receive medical assistance especially in remote areas, which is where a lot of NEGS' boarders come from. You can see from the happy faces that they all had a great night.



# The Footnotes

Armed with their laptops and their ideas about their future, NEGS students in Years 9-12 had the opportunity to listen to Sarah Wormoll from Australia's fastest growing student platform for careers exploration, The Footnotes. The online magazine and its team discuss what students should be considering when exploring what to do after school, while offering fresh and interesting articles, games, videos and quizzes to help with the decision and shed light on different options out there. [www.thefootnotes.com.au](http://www.thefootnotes.com.au)



# Tristan Bancks Visit

It's not every day you have the opportunity to meet your favourite author. Thanks to our dedicated librarian, Dr Heather Fisher, NEGS students were fortunate to hear and be inspired by the very talented and enthusiastic Australian children's and teen author Tristan Bancks. He encouraged the students to write their own stories with great ideas of utilising music, taking photos and visiting places to let their imagination blossom.



# Coffee Making at TAFE

This week many of the Year 9/10 Commerce class obtained the TAFE Plus Certificate in Coffee Making at TAFE New England. The course has been run as part of the training for the opening of NEGSpresso (thank you Mrs Rosewood for the name). A big "thank you" to all the staff at TAFE New England for training the girls.

# MS Photography Competition

Sophie Sutherland (Year 10) is a keen photographer and recently entered a couple of photos in the Snap Red for MS Photography Competition. Her photos were selected from 145 others by three professional judges to be in the final. Over the weekend Sophie attended the Gala exhibition which was held at the Melbourne Business School. Although she didn't make the final three she was congratulated in the speeches for having two photos selected of such high quality.



# Year 12 Welcome Our New Director of Teaching and Learning

Year 12 were invited to a High Tea at the St John's Lodge on Friday, hosted by the Year 12 Tutor, Mrs Stephanie Thomas. This was also a wonderful opportunity for the girls to meet and welcome our new Director of Teaching and Learning, Mr Tony Jones.





It has been an exciting and action packed start to the 2017 academic year at St John's. The number of new students entering the school is an indicator of the quality of teaching and learning that happens in our classrooms. It is the calibre of our staff that sets St John's and NEGS apart from other schools.

For more than 23 years, the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEITA) has given communities in Australia and New Zealand the opportunity to formally recognise and thank outstanding teachers. The objective of this organisation is to recognise teachers and leaders who represent excellence. The award gives parents, grandparents, school boards and councils and committees of management the opportunity to formally thank and recognise outstanding and dedicated teachers, who are passionate about driving a world class education system and encouraging students to reach their full potential.

To be nominated for a prestigious award by your school is certainly an achievement, but to be recognized by our parent community is the greatest honour a teacher can receive. Mrs McCann has been nominated for such an award. Here is an excerpt from the nomination letter written by one of our parents:

"Catherine is a warm and caring teacher, and displays a genuine passion for her teaching practice. She develops a strong bond with the students in her care, and fosters strong connections between the school and families as they commence their learning journey. Families are always made to feel welcome in the Transition room, and Catherine and her team have created a vibrant and inviting space that encourages learning with a strong pastoral care focus.

Catherine skilfully balances preparing transition students for formal schooling with a rich, play-based program that acknowledges each child as an individual. She focuses not only on developing academic skills, but also implements a range of strategies to build social skills and develop positive relationships. She keeps a close eye on student progress, and works with parents to implement changes where necessary."

This endorsement would equally apply to all of the staff at St John's. The commitment and dedication of our teachers to nurture the children entrusted to our care is evident daily. 'I love my teacher' and 'I had the best day ever!' is what we want our families to hear everyday.

**SHANNON ROSEWOOD | HEAD OF ST JOHN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL**

## Year 1/2 Class Breakfast

Year 1/2 hosted a fabulous class breakfast for their families at the end of Term 1, following their study of healthy eating, and the importance of breakfast. Students brought in a range of healthy breakfast options to share with fellow classmates and families.



## STEM CLUB

In Term 2, St John's commenced our exciting new STEM club on Monday afternoons.

This program embraces an interdisciplinary approach by combining Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through a range of hands-on activities designed to allow to students to learn through construction and exploration.

What separates STEM from traditional Science and Mathematics education is the blended learning environment and showing students how the scientific method can be applied to everyday life. It teaches students computational thinking and focuses on the real world applications of problem solving.

STEM Club has been a big hit so far with a large number of students engaging in the hands-on fun that is STEM. So far, students have designed and constructed free standing balloon towers, boats which were then tested to see which could hold the most weight and wind-powered cars. We're only just getting started, so there will be many more fun and exciting STEM projects to come!

## Jess at Westmead

Following some unfortunate circumstances that one of our Year 2 students has faced, a beacon of light has arisen due to St John's diligence to improve and make available education to all of its students despite hardships.

Westmead had a new visitor recently and she wasn't there alone. With the help of Skype and the positive inclusion displayed by the teachers and students of St John's, Jess was able to be a part of Literacy, Mathematics, Science and other classroom related activities. This not only supported her education but also provided some normality in a not so normal schedule. During her stay in Sydney Jess also exposed Year 1 and 2 students to the Spiders Alive and Deadly Exhibition at the Australian Museum live through Skype as well as the beautiful Sydney Harbour. We are very pleased to have Jess back in the classroom happier and healthier.



## Yoga for all at NEGS

NEGS students had the opportunity to learn Yoga at school this year. Mrs Marcia Bell taught kids Yoga before classes and Teen Yoga was held after school as an elective class to support and supplement the PDHPE curriculum. Students had so much fun learning to stretch and strengthen their muscles, breathe deeply and do cool poses like the tree. Classes had themes ranging from trips to the beach, favourite stories and Harry Potter Yoga. Students even learned to use their bodies to support each other in partner Yoga! Mrs Bell is away on maternity leave and she misses the joy of sharing Yoga with these students very much!



## Year 3 Netball

'During Winter 2017, we started a netball team with St. John's Year 3 girls. Our coach is Jodi, and we train on Wednesdays at lunch in the MPC. We play at the Armidale netball courts on Saturday mornings. So far the team have played four games, and we are improving every week, as well as having lots of fun'.





## Junior School @ the Athletics Carnival

The sun is certainly shining on NEGS today with a great start to the Athletics Carnival. The Junior School children have got into the spirit of the events and have won many ribbons for doing such a fabulous job. Many thanks to our dedicated P & F who are serving up scrumptious treats at the cake stall. It is wonderful to see so many families and friends coming along to support the students.



## UNE Discovery Bus at NEGS Junior School

We were delighted to see the UNE Discovery bus arriving at our Junior School with their interactive curriculum-aligned activities in STEAM. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths). We definitely have a lot of little Scientists, Mathematicians and Engineers in our midst in Junior School.

Years 1 and 2 definitely looked the part in their little lab coats today in the Science labs with the UNE Discovery Bus. We especially loved the scientist's hand catching alight.

Kindergarten were delighted to get outside in the garden this morning with the representative from the UNE Discovery Bus. We definitely have a lot of little Entomologists in Kindergarten.



## Armidale Show Success

A rural show is about community spirit. It was wonderful to see our students at the show enjoying the rides, showbags and tasty treats but it was their pride in their winning artworks that made the day special. We were particularly fortunate to have several winning entries this year and it was wonderful to see the contributions that girls and boys made with items made at home. Congratulations to all our students. A big "well done" to Year 5/6 and Year 1/2 for their award winning class entries.

### SCHOOL OR CLASS DISPLAY OF THE THEME

Year 5/6 1st place.

### CLASS OR SCHOOL COLLECTION OF WORK

Year 1/2 2nd place.

### JUNIOR 9 - 11 YEARS PAINTING

Lily Lorimer 3rd, and Mae Northam 2nd place. Dimity Chalmers made an impact in the art works categories with entries in painting (1st), etching (1st) and places for her work in oils and drawing.

Sarah Kennedy came home with a 1st and 2nd in Pottery, a 1st in models and was the Under 9 Years Champion Exhibit. Eva Dabovich won 1st prize in items made from Wood and Caitlin Paddington was 1st and Champion 10yrs and Under in the Paper Category. In Vegetable People, Prue Chapman was Highly Commended, Felicity Chapman 1st and Polly Skipper 3rd. Well done to everyone who entered! Photography was a strong category with Felicity Chapman and Arabella Daggs both winning individual categories and Ashley Knight taking home 2nd in two categories.



### Hunter McDonald's contributions to the Show were outstanding!

1st and Champion specimen of needlework.

1st and Best Junior Exhibit for 6 pieces of pink and white coconut slice.

2nd in chocolate cake.

Highly commended for butterfly cakes and homemade decorated biscuit.

1st in 250g cherry tomatoes. These also won Best Junior Exhibit.

1st in three carrots.

3rd in vegetable marrow.

2nd table pumpkin.

2nd Best Sunflower Exhibit. 2nd in zucchini.

She won overall Champion in the Junior Produce section.

1st in carnivorous plant.

1st in hand post of flowers.

1st and Champion for enchanted garden.

1st in 3D project with native theme.

2nd in item made of wood.

2nd children's pottery 6-7years.

Highly commended in the colouring in competition.

3rd in painting Junior Section.







# Boarding at NEGS

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

### Boarding at NEGS Semester 1

The year began with our Annual Coast Trip which was a great success. This year we travelled a little closer to home for the beginning of the year trip - to Yamba. Mrs Garrad organised a very successful weekend for both day and boarding students which included a number of activities such as swimming at the beach, lawn bowls, shopping, hanging out at the leisure park by the pool with new and old friends and going out for dinner.

White House had a refurb at the beginning of Term 1 with new carpet in by the end of Week 4 for Year 7 & 8 to finally move into their digs for the year. This was due to A LOT of rainwater coming into the house during the Christmas holiday but meant we replaced the smelly, wet carpet on the ground floor and some lounges with brand new products. Additional purchases for the boarding houses this year have included tables for the common rooms, wall decoration and mirrors in Kirkwood.

We farewelled Mrs Dawn Shepherd, White House, House Mother during the Semester and have recently welcomed Ms Katrina Peacock as the newly appointed House Mother for White House.

Boardingware (our online management system) continues to be a success and saving the staff a lot of time and enabling them to spend more time caring for the girls. Parents as well as students have commented on how efficient and effective it is when approving leave for their daughters.

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

Armidale Show, Cinema Under the Stars, an attempt to start Orienteering, PCYC Markets in the Mall, swimming in the NEGS pool, Autumn Festival Parade and fair, Dumaresq Dam bushwalking, Dangars Falls bushwalking and picnic, Robb College Musical - Grease, movie nights, cooking and a lot more. This all on top of their academic studies and co curricular activities.

Australia celebrated National Boarding Week (14th May - 20th May) for the first time this year. Our boarders participated in three challenges at our Boarders' Activity night in the MPC on Thursday 18th May. In groups of students across all year groups they had to create posters which expressed why they love boarding, spell using every boarding student's body the word 'Boarding' and walk as a group 1km at the same time around the MPC. The girls had a fantastic time and it was great to see them laughing and enjoying each other's company - besides, it got them out of doing Prep!!! We are looking forward to next year!

STEPHANIE THOMAS | DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

The focus of the NEGS Equestrian Centre in 2017 has been to develop our High Performance and Developing Squad so that we set a standard and the girls train in a team environment.

We already have a High Performance Eventing team, we now have a very active Developing squad too. We recommenced our Show Riding Team and by Term 3, we will have a Cutting Squad and a Campdraft Squad, which will entail weekly lessons and training programs as well as planned competition schedules and logistics.

Our second focus has been on improving the facilities. I am happy to inform you that our new sand dressage arena is a great asset for girls to practice their test. We also have a practice polocrosse area with permanent goals and our new campdraft arena where we have had live cattle a couple of times and will continue to do so on a monthly basis for those signed up in the squads.

We now have an extra large tack room giving more space for students to put their tack. We are in the process of also putting a small break room together for the equestrian girls which should be completed by the end of the term.

Our third focus is on getting more official competitions at our school. We have always held our ODE, which we will continue to hold in October, but we have also added an official Dressage competition and Jumping Derby. We also plan to run a challenge including a dry and cattle work phases. This will all help our girls to compete on their home ground.

We are also proud that we have partnered with several nationally reputed companies like Barastoc, Kentucky Equine Research, Over the Top Fences, Tuff Rock and we have four Equine Bursaries, Marcus Oldham College, Australian Stock Horse, NCHA and Barastoc.

I would like to end by thanking all 18 girls and their parents for trusting me to take their daughters to the US. It was a trip of a lifetime. The girls were extremely well behaved and an absolute delight.

IMTIAZ ANEES







*Jaimie is a passionate eventer who has won the National One Star Horse at the 2016 National Championships at Sydney and is currently competing at 2 star level. Jaimie took time out to explain how the US trip has broadened her horizons.*

To say I had the time of my life is an understatement. The itinerary had been in the planning for over six months and included meeting some of the greatest eventing icons in recent history such as Nelson Pessoa and Bruce Davidson.

However, I would say, in terms of impact, Chester Weber, the United State's most celebrated combined driver, was outstanding. He told us that one should never stop learning, and if you did stop learning, you should stop riding. He also made a point about developing the ability to "cull ruthlessly." His advice really made me evaluate my future riding career and he also made it very clear that you must try your hardest before giving up on a horse. I was so inspired by his professionalism in the equestrian world and the successes that it had led to.

JAIMIE MCELROY



# USA Trip

Whilst this is a trip that many of us can only dream about, on 18 March, eighteen Years 11 and 12 equestrian students from NEGS departed for the US on a two week field trip of a lifetime incorporating master class sessions with equestrian specialists, presentations from Olympic greats and tours of stables and research farms.

Time flies when you are having fun but for these lucky students they managed to pack in more than most on their two week sojourn to the United States. In the space of two weeks the whistle stop tour included Palm Beach; Ocala; Atlanta; Lexington, Kentucky and West Virginia.

During their time overseas, the girls were invited to participate and visit some of the most prestigious equestrian locations in the world.

Highlights included a visit to the famous Ashford Stud owned by Coolmore where the students were invited behind the scenes and witnessed a mare being bred, this was further topped off by a viewing of world-famous racehorse and American Triple Crown Winner, American Pharoah.

The girls were also humbled by their meeting with Bruce Davidson 6 times Rolex winner and 2 time World Champion as well as his son Buck Davidson, the Number 1 ranked US event rider for the past five years. During the visit Bruce showed them around his stable of 80 horses and was genuine in his invitation to have the girls come and work for him any time once they had completed their studies at NEGS.

Variety was also a key component on the trip and the girls got to watch their very first point to point steeplechase in Orange County, followed by a hilarious and illuminating tour of the Piedmont Fox Hunting Kennels.

Of course, celebrity spotting at a 20 goal polo match in West Palm Beach was always going to be on the cards and much excitement ensued when American show jumping champion rider Jessica Springsteen (who also happens to be Bruce's daughter) popped by to say 'hi' to the girls. Although this was a hard act to follow the girls were almost as ecstatic about their meeting and demonstration by Pan Am Games dressage rider Susie Dutta who was happy to answer the barrage of questions by the dressage enthusiasts in the group.

For the showjumpers of the group, one of the most memorable moments was observing the \$500,000 Grand Prix show jumping where the girls also got to walk the course with the father of modern riding and co-founder of the Masters Series, Nelson Pessoa.

Three of the students, Jaimie McElroy, Lucy Ramsay and Sarah Wyatt, share their favourite moments of the trip.



*Lucy Ramsay is one of NEGS' top eventers and recently came first in the Juniors at National Championships at Camden in April in the CIC 1\* and also competed at the Sydney International Horse Trials where she placed third in Juniors. Lucy tells of meeting eventing legend Bruce Davidson.*

On day five of our equestrian trip, we were lucky enough to spend some time with Bruce Davidson, America's most prolific international event rider who has been a member of the U.S. Equestrian Team since 1971, and is 6 times Rolex Champion. To me, Bruce is one of the most inspiring individuals in eventing history and at age 67, he continues to breed, train and compete world class event and multi-discipline horses at his Chesterland Farm in America.

LUCY RAMSAY

*Sarah Wyatt, a Year 11 student, has been eventing since she began her schooling at NEGS and she recently came fourth in the EVA105 at Scone Horse trials. Sarah gives us some insight of what most inspired her on the tour.*

The biggest takeaway for me on this tour is that connections in the equestrian world are crucial. Almost all the professionals we met had only made it so far in the sport due to establishing key connections with the appropriate people who were able to offer the knowledge and support they required. Everyone we met was truly inspirational, encouraging me to work hard and have determination to achieve my goals, whatever they may be.

SARAH WYATT





## Property Planning Competition

Things are getting busy in the Ag Department with our Stage 5 Agriculture class participating in the Northern Tablelands Property Planning competition. This is a fantastic event that compliments the Stage 5 Agriculture program by including a range of practical 'on farm' experiences and then making sense of the current property. Students then come up with suggestions on how the property can be improved and reasons why. Thanks to our amazing Ag teacher Mr Mark Fisher and some hardworking staff, last year we were fortunate enough to have won this competition. Our stellar students last year (Megan Galbraith and Sophie Sutherland) then went on to be Champion property planners of both the New England and North West regions. Students will be starting their plans in class time this week. It is a very difficult and challenging competition but fantastic experience for all involved!



## Royal Easter Show

Some great efforts from our girls these holidays at the Royal Easter Show. Chelsea D posted some stellar results for the recent State Finals for Cattle Judging and came away with the prestigious title of Reserve Champion Cattle Judge. There were 25 competitors of which 13 were selected to give an oral presentation on a class of Limousin Bulls. Laura F was also chosen in this field. Our Ag students are showing off their prowess at the Easter Show with Chelsea Devenish and Laura Finlay both competing in the Junior pig judging at the Sydney Royal Show this week. Well done to Chelsea who was awarded the Champion Junior Judge! Laura also gave a fantastic verbal reasoning. Great job girls.



## NEGS Agriculture Sustainability Program

Year 8 Ag girls had a very hands on lesson in pig and chicken wrangling today. There was lots of laughter as well as lots of very loud squealing from the little piglet that was being held. Our Isa Browns chickens and Berkshire piglets are 3 weeks old and are part of our new NEGS Agriculture Sustainability Program. Food waste will be collected from our dining hall and the food scraps are offered daily to the chickens. Scraps that are not consumed that day will be collected up and composted. Our school compost system will also include Equestrian Centre waste and garden green waste. Chickens will be grown to point of lay pullets and sold into our community. A portion of pullets will be kept and grown into laying hens to supply our dining hall with eggs. Compost will be used on site as a soil improver at our school farm, Equestrian Centre and gardens.





# Sport

## NEGS Combined Swimming Carnival

### OVERALL HOUSE CUP WINNER INCLUDING ST JOHN'S

1st	Murray	383
2nd	Dumolo	361
3rd	Green	287
4th	Lyon	240

### AGE CHAMPIONS

12Yr Age Champion	Charlotte Jacobson
13Yr Age Champion	Paige Anderson
14Yr Age Champion	Olivia Strelitz
15Yr Age Champion	Grace Cassidy
16Yr Age Champion	Daisy Meehan
17Yr Age Champion	Claudia Meehan
18Yr Age Champion	Abbey Jackson

### TRIVETT CUP - MOST OUTSTANDING SWIMMER OF THE CARNIVAL

Olivia Strelitz

### CHEERING CUP

1st place - Dumolo

## NEGS Cross Country Carnival

### CROSS COUNTRY AGE CHAMPIONS

12Yr Age Champion	Polly Watkins
13Yr Age Champion	Sophie Mason
14Yr Age Champion	Olivia Strelitz
15Yr Age Champion	Grace Cassidy
16Yr Age Champion	Evey White
17Yr Age Champion	Laura Finlay
18Yr Age Champion	Charlotte Raleigh

## Cross Country House Results

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



## IGSSA Hockey and Netball

Our NEGS sports stars have done it again! 47 girls represented NEGS at Homebush for IGSSA Hockey and Netball with tremendous results. The girls showed great sportsmanship, camaraderie, as well as skill to win 11 out of 12 of their games. A huge "thank you" to the many families that came down to Homebush to support and encourage the girls. Thanks also to Mrs Halliday and Mrs Chapman for the fantastic photos.



## Tildesley Tennis

The team consisting of Lucinda Parry (Captain), Eliza White, Evey White, Heidi Powell, Hannah Stewart and Kate Earle travelled to Sydney to compete in the Tildesley Tennis Competition against the other IGSSA schools. The team is to be commended on their positive attitude and competitive spirit.

## Parkrun

During Term 2 NEGS Girls are participating in Parkrun every Saturday morning as preparation for City to Surf. Parkrun is a free weekly 5km timed run that takes place in locations around the world. They are open to everyone and are safe and easy to take part in. The girls are doing a great job working on their fitness.



## NEGS Rugby

This year the school has introduced 7's rugby to the school's sport program. We have over 30 girls training hard and they are making good progress. Rugby development officers have helped skill the girls and Mr Flynn is in the process of organising games. Mrs Watson has done a great job in organising the girls' rugby kit and everyone is impressed with the new jerseys. Rugby 7's is one of the fastest growing sports for women in Australia and NEGS is looking forward to participating in this challenging but fun game.



# NEGS Music

NEGS Music has kicked off by welcoming Mrs Sally Spillane to join our music team of Mr Phil Oxley, Miss Arlene Fletcher and Mrs Nolan. Mrs Spillane brings many years of primary music teaching experience which has benefited our wider music community across the New England. She injects a positive energy to the students and has shown a tremendous commitment to NEGS Music. Miss Fletcher continues to teach our instrumental and senior music classroom programs alongside building exciting programs for the girls to enjoy music from various styles. Mr Oxley brings his passion for music education as he continues to teach across Junior and Senior school music. This team have been busily making plans to ensure NEGS Music grows so that each NEGS girl can celebrate Music.

## Ensemble Program

February and March welcomed our new Ensemble Program and partnership with the New England Conservatorium of Music through the following ensembles:

- Contemporary Band
- Guitar Ensemble
- Jazz Ensemble
- Combined Choir
- Saumarez Strings
- Chamber Ensemble
- Handbell Ensemble
- Junior School Choir

“ We look forward to celebrating the growth of NEGS Music and welcoming you into our Music Block. ”



## Eisteddfod

The music block was busy buzzing with energy as we prepared over twenty eisteddfod items to present and share with our community. Many of our featured performances across Combined Choir, Stage 4 Band, elective music classes and instrumental students won places and stood out with many adjudicators commenting on the girls' musicality and maturity. Special mention goes to our Year 9 music student Lilli McMillan who won vocal age championship and is featured as part of the Eisteddfod Gala Concert Sunday June 18th. At time of writing we were still in competition and look forward to releasing all results in our next publication.



## Night Of Music

21st June, celebrated the efforts of NEGS Music in Semester One and showcased a variety of performances from both Junior and Senior School, including the Combined Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Chamber Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and many talented instrumental students.

This night brought together Equestrian and Music as the opening act of the night highlighted the many talents of the NEGS Equestrian students as they performed to music.

This fundraising night was a celebration of music and the funds will go to the many future plans that our NEGS music staff are working towards to embed music as a part of everyday life for every NEGS student.



## Future Plans

The aim is to raise enough funds to be able to give our students the opportunity to:

- Record and remix their own music
- Play in large guitar ensembles
- Work with visiting artists and composers to further their own performance and composition potential
- Learn music playing a range of instruments from classical and contemporary genres.
- Perform in state and national music concerts.
- Network with national and international performers across video conferencing through Monash School of Music and Julliard School of Music.

We look forward to celebrating the growth of NEGS Music and welcoming you into our Music Block.

[MISS ARLENE FLETCHER](#)



# Science & Mathematics Department

## Mathematics, Science, Agriculture and iSTEM Faculty News

2017 is an exciting year in our Faculty as we involve all students in the exciting opportunities presented in iSTEM. All students will have access to current materials and resources which integrate STEM in their Science classes, as well as the introduction of our new 9/10 elective iSTEM taught by Miss Stone.

The importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics knowledge to Australia's future workforce is indisputable.

The Stage 5 iSTEM course (Years 9/10 Elective) captures the essential aspects of STEM initiative, to create engaging and meaningful experiences for students and to reflect the skill requirements of the future Australian workforce. In July 2015 Professor Ian Chubb described this new iSTEM course as "... one of the great examples of STEM education and exactly captures the practical nature of science and engineering". Australian Financial Review.

Last Term in iSTEM, students investigated engineering fundamentals. In teams, the girls worked to solve various engineering problems, including the zipline, marshmallow, high-rise and table challenges. They also looked at the properties of materials and how they are used in construction, bridge building and multiple intelligences. These investigations utilised technologies such as simulation software, Android tablets and Google apps.

Students are currently learning how to program in Python, the language they will use as they participate in the Mars Rover Challenge. They will build a Mars Rover and learn how to apply their software coding and robotics skills to give it life. They will be able to program the Rover to sit, stay, and navigate alien terrain. Some of the topics also coming up later this year include drones, robotics, rockets and aerodynamics.

All students have access to STEM in our Faculty's PROJECT BASED LEARNING (PBL) - Sustainability & Recycling @ NEGS Project

This year students embark on innovative and creative project based learning. This Term Year 11 are researching, marketing and pitching their ideas as required for the Sustainability & Recycling @NEGS Project led by Mr Mark Fisher.

Our students were presented with this new project in Term 1 and asked to brainstorm, market and pitch to an audience ideas for this school based project.

Analysis will be undertaken to assess the parameters of implementation, costing and the science to ensure viability and sustainability of recycling food waste into an egg production farm and marketing of layer hens.

This will be achieved by researching and the creation of an advertising campaign encouraging the NEGS community to actively engage in this Project. This is STEM learning at its best!

Mathematics and Science study in class this year will be supplemented with excursions and competitions to make the learning come alive.

A group of students recently attended the recent Year 8 Maths Problem Solving Day at UNE. The following report was written by Amity Coxon and Chloe Dowd.

"On Friday, 12th May, 2017, two teams of four Year 8 students participated in the New England Mathematical Association Mathematics Day at the University of New England. We participated in a range of thought provoking mathematical challenges that included both individual and team tasks. We started off the day with 25 problem solving questions and then moved onto a puzzle activity where each team member was given a clue and only by working together as a team, could we discover the answer. After lunch we competed against other schools (head to head) and were given a series of equation patterns where we had to fill in the missing gaps without speaking to our other team members. We then moved onto a task where we had a smorgasbord of questions to choose from where we could earn 2, 3 or 4 points. Our final task was a team building challenge where we competed to attempt to build the tallest tower that could free stand for 60 seconds. Thank you to Bente and Miss Faulkner for accompanying us on this exciting and informative Mathematics day."

NEGS was fortunate to have a visit from the UNE Discovery Voyager during the month of May. This was an excellent opportunity for student to get hands on experience with engaging STEM activities. With STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) employment opportunities on the rise and employers now using the terminology of 'STEM competent graduates' it is essential that students are encouraged in this area.

Through the UNE Discovery Voyager program students were engaged and inspired to build on their natural curiosity and existing knowledge of the environment to refine their problem solving skills in a real world context. They were given real life scenarios and encouraged to draw on their expertise in STEM to solve the problem at hand. All students from Years 7 – 10 participated in these sessions.

MRS ANGELA SOLE | HEAD OF DEPARTMENT



# MR Ian Downs

THE HON Mr Adam Marshall MP unveiled a specially commissioned bronze bust of former NEGS Principal, Mr Ian Downs on Wednesday.

Mr Downs, who had his wife Shirley and close members of his family at the event, was Principal at NEGS from 2009 to 2011 and again in 2012 and was instrumental in making significant and positive changes at the school.

NEGS Chairman, Mr John Cassidy, said: "Mr Downs was instrumental in securing grants and constructing the Trade Training Centre, including the finest Equestrian facilities of any school in Australia; the new Junior Library and the Jan Millburn Room; upgrading and refurbishment of the science block; upgrading of the NEGS Junior School and starting the renovations of the St John's building."

"Financially the school is in better shape with bequests last year totalling some \$3 million with more pledged in the coming years thanks to a huge bequest from a late Old Girl Jeannie Ross-Fraser."

Mr Marshall, who was at school under Mr Downs' leadership at Farrer, said he was an "enormous" inspiration to him growing up and encouraged him to pursue his interests which eventually led to his life in politics.

"The influence and impact you have had on thousands of people's lives as an educator and a mentor is massive," Mr Marshall said. "I count myself very lucky to have been a student under your care and be inspired by you. It is appropriate that this piece of art is here at NEGS as this was the last touching point Mr Downs had with education and you were very lucky to have him."

Mr Downs, who travelled from the Nelson Bay area to attend the unveiling, said he was truly honoured "from the bottom of my heart and from my family's" to have such an amazing artwork on the grounds at NEGS that represented his time and contribution to the school.

Current Principal, Mrs Mary Anne Evans, said Mr Downs personified what effective leadership was all about. "It is about trustworthiness as well as trust-giving. Curious, intentional, determined. He modelled these qualities as well as supported their development in others, throughout his distinguished career as an educator and Principal.

"As we continue to build upon our strong heritage since 1895, we are assured that NEGS will be here for at least the next 100 years, and a significant part of that future, is thanks to the legacy of Ian Downs."

The bust was created by sculptor and NEGS Old Girl Tanya Bartlett.



# OGU President Report

This year's Old Girls' Reunion Weekend will be held on Friday, 8th through to Sunday, 10th 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 reunion groups from 40, 30, 20, 10 and 5 years ago.

The current Framed Art show committee are very excited to have many new members join the committee. We wish to welcome them and look forward to their input of ideas and time. This year the exhibition will be hung and ready to be viewed on Friday, 8th September. Festivities will start on Friday, 8th September with Grandparents' Day. 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 of you as possible to this fun filled evening. This event is our major fundraiser to support the Old Girls' Scholarships. If you are unable to attend and would like to assist us with a tax deductible contribution, please contact the school. The Old Girls' Union AGM will be held at 9am on Saturday, 9th September in the WH Lee Room in Akaroa. This will be followed by morning tea and the Spring Fair. School tours will also take place throughout the day.

On Sunday the 11th September the Annual Old Girls' Chapel Service will be held followed by breakfast in the dining hall. There will be another opportunity to attend a school tour after breakfast.

I would like to thank Sara Schmude for taking the initiative to organise casual meetings for drinks with any Old Girls that may be in Armidale on the given date. This is a wonderful opportunity to catch up. If you have not heard about these and you would like to be included, please let the school know your updated contact details.

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 also take the time to have a look at the school website - www.negs.nsw.edu.au.

**LINDY CANNINGTON (KEATS 1983) | PRESIDENT  
NEGS OLD GIRLS UNION**

## 2017 framed

**NEGS • Old Girls' Union Annual Art Show & Sale**

You're invited to join us at the

### Art Show and Sale Opening Night Cocktail Function



2017 Raffle - This painting is donated by Margaret Duncan.

**When:** Friday 8th September 2017  
**Where:** NEGS Multi-Purpose Centre **Time:** 6.00pm - 9.00pm  
**Cost:** \$30.00 prepaid \$35.00 on the night  
 (champagne, supper, live entertainment & drinks)  
**RSVP:** 5th September 2017, with payment advice  
**Bookings:** www.trybooking.com/PPKN  
**Cheque:** NEGS OGU, C/ NEGS, Uralla Road, Armidale NSW 2350  
**Contact:** Mrs Jo Campbell E: [archiec@bigpond.net.au](mailto:archiec@bigpond.net.au)  
 P: 02 6772 2048 or NEGS Reception for tickets

Proudly Sponsored by:





FRAMED welcomes all school families and their friends - please pass this invitation on.  
 Exhibition will run until 1.30pm Sunday 10th September 2017.  
 Painting Raffle tickets available at Akaroa or on the night.

## OLD GIRLS' Luncheon

NEGS hosted a luncheon for Old Girls with their children who are current students at NEGS.



Atlanta Bynon (Yr 9) with Mum, Rochelle Bynon (Jarrett '92).



Chelsea Eichorn (Yr 10) with Mum, Tina Eichorn (Smith '89).



Eleanor Fulloon (Yr 11) with Mum, Jennifer Fulloon (Cameron '87).



Ruby Harvey-Lynn (Yr 2), Bailey Harvey-Lynn (Yr 2) with their Mum, Georgina Lynn '99.



Estella Martin (Yr 8) and little sister, with Mum, Melanie O'Gorman ('89)



Sophie Sutherland (Yr 10) with Mum, Cathie Sutherland (Reed '83).



Anna Jarvis (Yr 9) with Mum, Tara Moxham-Jarvis (Moxham '86) and Maggie Halliday (Yr 9) with Mum, Erica Halliday (Steel '89).



# 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).

This year ABM asked for donations towards the Anglican Church of PNG's Adult Literacy Program which has over 80 schools and 2,500 learners enrolled across eight provinces in PNG. In the age bracket 15 to 24 years, 76% of females in PNG are literate and 66% of males. ABM partners with Anglicare PNG which works closely with Anglican dioceses around PNG. The syllabus incorporates literacy and numeracy as well as social issues such as domestic violence, HIV, child protection, alcohol abuse, law and justice. This program provides literacy classes in remote, rural and peri-urban area of PNG. Since the Australian Government has reduced funding through Australian Aid, the need for our financial support to ACPNG is vital.

Bush Church Aid has been reaching Australia for Christ since 1919. BCA Missioners are located throughout the six states and in the Northern Territory. The Rev'd Capt Rod and Mrs Christene Oldfield began serving with BCA in 2002 and have ministered in Coober Pedy, Norfolk Island and King Island before

moving to Cloncurry in north west Queensland. Their area extends to Julia Creek, Normanton, Croydon, Georgetown, Karumba and Burketown. In Cloncurry the Uniting and Anglican congregations combine sometimes. In Georgetown the church is dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels as is our Chapel.

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in Cairns is one of the treasures of the Australian Church. Run on a shoe-string budget, the College provides certificate and diploma courses in Theology and Ministry as well as courses in Community Development, Alcohol Counselling, and Indigenous Mental Health. The Theology course includes subjects such as "Relate the Old Testament to Indigenous Christians", "Relate theology of the Holy Spirit to an Indigenous context", and "Conduct public worship." The Wontulp classroom is a vibrant conversation between people from all over Australia, working out what Christian faith means for them as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Students can access government funding towards travel and accommodation but the college depends on contributions from churches and private donors for its core expenses such as staff salaries. Rev'd Victor Joseph, Principal, wrote in his 2015 Appeal Letter: "The emerging leaders are making a significant contribution to "Closing the Gap" from within, where it is the most effective."

Over the years, many Old Girls have gone overseas to serve as missionaries. Helen North, Judy Pipher, Judith Blackman, Joan Bigg, Carolyn Blomfield, Lyn Dickson,

Margaret and Elizabeth Young have been supported by our Missionary Union. This year our Old Girl Jessica Assef (2005) has gone 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, Sydney, last November in the company of friends and family including their daughters Lydia and baby Emma. Universalism, secularism and hedonism are the priorities of most students there today. Italy's IFES Christian student movement - the Gruppi Biblici Universitari (GBU) aims to share Jesus from student to student. Simon and Jessica will be placed at a university in Italy by GBU. GBU staff Giovanni and Hannah searched for accommodation for them and are helping ease them into Italian life. They say it's very mentally draining trying to set up phones, internet, rental contracts, national and local residency permits, take children to the doctor and do everything else too, in a foreign language. They have started attending church - the Chiesa Cristiana Biblica. Every week after the church service there's a 3-course lunch for everyone, which, apart from being delicious, is a great chance for them to get to know more people. Simon and Jessica ask us to pray for them, that they grow as part of this church family and develop some genuine friendships with the people there.

The NEGSOGMU Lenten Appeal is always open.

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



In May, students enrolled in the Wontulp-Bi-Buya Indigenous Mental Health course received a theology of land visit from Patrick Dodson. Photo credit © Celia Kemp/ ABM 2016.



Teachers at the opening of the Mosa Adult Literacy School in New Guinea Islands Diocese in PNG © Julianne Stewart/ ABM 2015.



## OLD GIRLS' news

### Janice Murray (Thompson '40)

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

From left to right are, Lucy Thomas (Yr8), Jan Murray (Thompson) 1936-40, Jo Thomas (Murray) 1962-67 and Peggy Thomas (Yr 7). Jo is grand-mother to Lucy and Peggy. Jan is their great-grandmother.

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



### Helen Dangar

Helen was Head of Languages at the New England Girls' School, teaching at the school for 20 years (1985-2005); she taught French and co-ordinated the International Baccalaureate. Sister-in-law Susannah Blaxill (nee Dangar 1966-1972) and daughter Clytie Dangar (1980-85) attended NEGS.

Martha Saw, Chairman of the Friends of NERAM presented a cheque for \$10,000 to Robert Heather, Art Museum Director at the recent opening of the Cloth: Seed to bloom exhibition at NERAM in February 2017. The cheque is going towards the Helen Dangar Memorial Arts Bursary, which is being established to help local artists advance in their chosen career path and to celebrate the life and contribution of long term NERAM Volunteer, Friend of NERAM and fundraiser Helen Dangar (1944-2015).

"On behalf of the family I want to thank everyone who so generously supported The Helen Dangar Memorial Arts Bursary" said Helen's husband Bill Dangar. "The cause itself is a wonderful initiative by NERAM as it will greatly assist individual artists of all ages in the New England region to further improve their skills as well as promote the museum to a much wider audience. I'm sure Helen would be somewhat embarrassed by the success of the appeal but never-the-less humbled and proud that her name has been attached to such a worthy project."

The successful 2016 NERAMble open garden weekend was held at the properties of the Dangar and their neighbours at Gungurru Road and the funds raised were dedicated to celebrating Helen Dangar and her work supporting the arts.

To date the Helen Dangar Memorial Arts Bursary has raised over \$67,000, which will be invested by the NERAM Foundation and the income generated will pay for the annual bursary which will enable New England based artists to undertake professional and creative development opportunities.

If you want to make a donation you can find out more here or make a donation online here. <http://www.neram.com.au/support/foundation/helen-dangar-bursary/>



# Armidale Old Girls' Weekend

## FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

**6.00pm**      **FRAMED! Art Show and Sale Exhibition**  
NEGS Multi Purpose Centre. Cost: \$30 prepaid or \$35 at the door

## SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

**9.00am**      **Old Girls' Annual General Meeting**  
WH Lee Room (Akaroa) - all welcome to attend. Followed by morning tea in NEGS Library / Lawns

**10.00 am**      NEGS Spring Fair  
Jean Newall Archives Centre open

**10.30 am**      Old Girls v Students sporting matches. (5 and 10 year groups v current students) Meet at netball courts, below White House.  
Lunch available at Spring Fair

**1.30 pm**      Equestrian Centre performance

**3.00 pm**      Spring Fair concludes

**2.30 pm**      OG High Tea hosted by NEGS Principal, Mrs Mary Anne Evans  
NEGS Library Lawns

**From 6.00 pm**      Year Group Reunion Dinners

## SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

**8.00 am**      Holy Communion for Old Girls in the Chapel of St Michael and All Angels with Year 12 students

**9.15 am**      Breakfast for Old Girls in the Dining Hall with Year 12 students

**10.30 am**      Jean Newall Archives Centre open.  
Tours of the School, departing from the Archives Centre

**1.30pm**      FRAMED Art Exhibition and Sale finishes

# OLD GIRLS' Events & Reunions

## Sydney Old Girls' AGM and Luncheon

Tuesday 8th August  
Time: 11:30am followed by a luncheon at 12:30pm | Venue: Royal Automobile Club of Australia, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney  
RSVP: Mary O'Toole (Thompson '64)  
P: 02 9439 6773  
[m\_otoole@speednet.com.au]

## ACT and Region NEGS Old Girls' Branch

AGM and Meeting  
Sunday 6th August 2017  
Time: 12noon for brief meeting followed by 12:30 pm Luncheon  
Venue: Little Brother  
50 Red Hill Drive, Red Hill, ACT  
Cost: a la carte lunch, please pay cash on the day  
RSVP: Monday 31st July, for catering purposes, Lindy Armstrong (Masters)  
P: 0402 309 899  
[lindy.armstrong01@gmail.com]

## QLD Old Girls' Association AGM and Luncheon

Friday 4th August  
Time: 10:00 am morning tea | Venue: Mrs Jenny Davidson (Bassett '59)  
"Tulloch" 101 Mountain Creek Road, Buderim 4556.

## Old Girls' Reunion Dinners

*Evening Year group Reunion Dinners at NEGS or around Armidale (organised by year group reunion coordinator)*

### 5 YEAR REUNION

Lucy Hook [lucyhook@icloud.com]  
Coughing Gherkin dinner Saturday night.

### 10 YEAR REUNION

Jade Tindal [jade.tindal@gmail.com]  
The 10 Year Reunion group will be meeting at the Railway Hotel on Saturday 9th September for dinner and drinks from 6pm.  
Jade Tindal 0431 229 559  
Keira Turnbull 0427 974 785  
Pip Hunt 0429 081 189

### 20 YEAR REUNION

Danielle Norton-Chevrot [danielle.chevrot@gmail.com]  
Venue: The Welders' Dog, 120 Marsh Street, Armidale | Time: 6:00 pm

### 30 YEAR REUNION

Clare Braund, Jennie Coldham, Miranda Dunning (Ferguson), Jenny Fulloon (Cameron)  
Venue: Azka Powerhouse, 31 Marsh Street, Armidale | Time: TBA  
Like us on Facebook  
Email: [negs30years@gmail.com]

### 40 YEAR REUNION

Wendy Coombes [wendy.coombes51@bigpond.com]  
Gathering at FRAMED Art Show Friday evening  
Saturday Drinks 5:30 pm at 75 Barney Street, hosted by Sal and Althea, dinner 7:00 pm at the 'Newie', 194 Beady Street  
RSVP 26 August 2017  
[admin@dancedesire.com.au]

### 50 YEAR REUNION

Sue Robertson (Marjason) [sue.john@bigpond.net.au]  
Ph: 02 6281 6905, planning a Sydney Reunion in September/October.

### 60 YEAR REUNION

Mary Madgwick [madgwick@smartchat.net.au]  
Ph: (02) 9953 2532, planning a Sydney reunion in August.

## Leonie Jean Studdy (Carter '57)

1.3.1941 – 21.12.2016

Leonie Jean Studdy came from a family imbued in NEGS. She was the third daughter of Harry Raymond and Barbara Carter of "Amaroo", Quirindi and along with her sisters, Anne (1949-52) and Elsie (1951-55) she attended NEGS. Barbara Davies, Leonie's mother was a student at the School from 1924-26. So too were Leonie's aunts, (Edith) Joan Carter (1918-21), (Eva) Mary Mackenzie (1918-21) married to Len Carter and Mildred Thomas (1915-19) wife of Geoffrey Carter. Leonie's daughter, Joanne is an Old Girl (1975-80) and granddaughter, Anna Campell, is currently in Year 11 at NEGS. In 1959, her intention to study nursing was interrupted when she met Tom Studdy while staying with her friend Virginia Nicholls for a tennis party. After a year's courtship, Tom and Leonie were married on 14th October, 1960 at St Alban's Church, Quirindi. They settled down to married life running the property "Kareela" at Mary's Mount as Tom's parents eagerly departed to the coast for retirement.

A daughter, Joanne arrived in 1962, a son Gordon in 1963 and another son, Simon in 1967.

In 1977 the Studdy family moved from Mary's Mount to a smaller property, two kilometres north of Gunnedah. The name "Kareela" was transferred and Leonie and Tom established an irrigation and cattle raising venture. During this time Leonie supported Tom with his interest in the National Party and the executive roles he held, always with the view of improving outcomes for country people.

Leonie was very much the farmer's wife, ensuring the men were fed and clean clothes and house keeping was maintained. She was an active participant in the calf and weaner business, nurturing poddy calves brought in from the Hunter Valley and selling them on to local buyers.

Tom's premature death in 1992 at the young age of 54 was devastating for Leonie and the family. However, this allowed her an independence and freedom of decision making that she had never previously experienced in her life. Her strength of character shone through and with the support of her son, Simon, she ran the property "Kareela" until her retirement in 2006.

A number of friends including Tish Garland (Scarlett), Margaret Smith (Moffatt) and Virginia Nicholls (Winley) attended her Funeral Service in Gunnedah recognising friendships that had spanned more than 60 years.

## Mrs Jean Roden-Smith ('37 Nicholas)

Passed away 2 July 2016 and up until recently loved getting her copy of the Akaroa even after all those years. Ten years ago she and I (Shelley) made a trip to Akaroa in New Zealand where I understand Miss Green, one of the first (if not the first) head mistresses hailed from! Thank you for the enjoyment it gave her. Shelley Roden-Smith (daughter).

## Grace Nicholls ('30 Smith) was at NEGS from 1925 to 1930

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 out live them all and celebrated her 100th birthday in 2013. Grace passed away in February this year and is buried not far from her daughter, Wendy Cooper (Nicholls '62).

## Mrs Enid Kirkwood,

who taught for many years at NEGS, and was Deputy-Head Mistress until her retirement, and had the Kirkwood Boarding House named after her.

She passed away in her sleep peacefully, with family by her side at the age of 90 years, 8 months, on 22 February 2017.

## Elisabeth (Libby) Widdup ('68 Sanders)

16/03/2017 Passed away after fighting cancer for over 20 years.

# Goodbyes

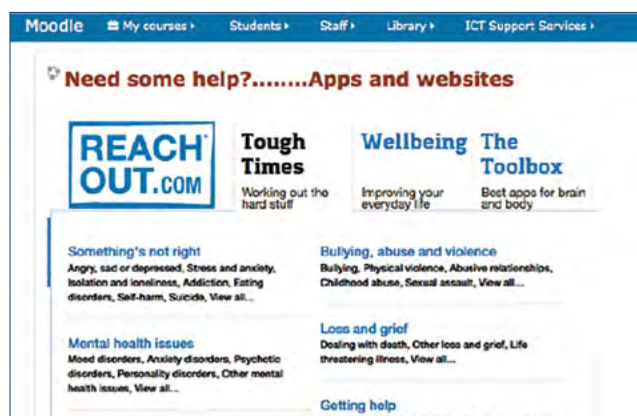






All students spend quality time getting to know their Tutors and Year Advisors and have been encouraged to nominate a "person" who is there for them to turn to when they have any issues of concern. Our students are encouraged to seek help and support from their teachers and parents.

Our students all have access to a dedicated Moodle site called "Student Wellbeing @ NEGS" which lists strategies, tips and websites that have been carefully selected to assist teenagers in all manner of Wellbeing concerns that may arise.



In Term 1 all students took active part in a Study Skills Session run by Elevate Education on Monday 6th February.

Year 7 engaged in the "Study Skills Kick Start" session to support them in their transition to Senior School. They covered how to organise their time, make effective notes in class, summarising skills and how to stay on track of their work.

The Year 8 session "Junior Time Management" helped the girls organise their weekly homework timetables as well as planning ahead to manage handing in well researched Assessments on time.

Years 9 and 10 worked on learning the more detailed skills required when carrying out research work in Stage 5 courses.

Year 11 investigated "Student Elevation" including the beliefs of the peak performing student, adopting a growth mindset and goal setting.

The Year 12 topic "Ace your Exams" was well received by our HSC students. Comments heard about this session included: "This has helped me to re-focus on concentrating on my plan of attack for this year of study" and "I feel more motivated to plan effectively this year to relieve any stress!"

## Guest Speaker a Resounding Success!

Dr Andrew Fuller delivered both entertaining and informative sessions to Years 3-12 on 26th May. He managed to convey strategies on managing anxiety, overcoming hurdles and how to build a growth mindset in a fun and engaging manner. We were delighted to include PLC students in this inaugural event of inviting a guest speaker of such high calibre to our school. We are committed to providing the best support to our girls as part of our Wellbeing Program.



## Wellbeing Program at NEGS

Our program continues to evolve as we embrace the latest research in the field of Positive Psychology. This year we have a new focus for Tutor time for Year 12.

The "Thinking Ethically" series builds on skills learnt in Years 7-11 Wellbeing Program and Character Strengths/Values and is also aligned with the Australian Curriculum General capability - Ethical Understanding.

The topics are all from recent media releases - some more controversial than others, but all intended to challenge the girls to "build a strong ethical outlook, make informed choices and become active citizens in the world, aware of the influence their values and behaviour has on others."