

# to the stars



ST MATTHEW'S COLLEGIATE SCHOOL  
OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE 2024

## St Matthew's Collegiate School Old Girls' Association

### Contact us

St Matthew's Old Girls' Association  
PO Box 462, Masterton 5810  
Email: [info@smoga.org.nz](mailto:info@smoga.org.nz)

### Minutes and financial statements

Minutes and Financial Statements will be distributed at the AGM in Masterton and are available on our website [www.smoga.org.nz](http://www.smoga.org.nz)

### Returned magazines

Due to increasing costs, magazines are no longer being sent to those whose magazines were returned the previous year. Please advise of any change of address ASAP at [info@smoga.org.nz](mailto:info@smoga.org.nz) or message our Facebook page.

### Magazine design and layout

Sophie Jean

### Cover photo



Old Girl Emma Bassett with Ethologist and Conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall

### Officers and Committee

#### President

Amanda McLeod (Herrick)

#### Treasurer

Bridget Mathewson (Andrew)

#### Secretary

Lucy Thorneycroft (McLachlan)

#### Magazine Editor / Website Manager

Elizabeth Lincoln

#### Grants Convenor

Louise Gibson

#### Archivist

Elsje Neal  
[archives@trinityschools.nz](mailto:archives@trinityschools.nz)

#### Committee

Deb Clinton-Baker (Davidson)  
Emma Hepburn (Keown)  
George Orsborn  
Georgie Shaw (Wimsett)  
Kathryn Kennedy (Percy)  
Kristen Southey (Whitcombe)  
Kristy Broderick (Forbes)  
Rachel Bell (Broad)  
Steph Haworth  
Pip Olds (Broad)  
Amber Greenfield (Langland)  
Gabe Read (Dickie)  
Adie Long (Cameron)

### Editor's note

We do try to be as accurate as possible and we apologise if there are any inaccuracies in this publication.

# President's Message



*Welcome to the 2024 Edition of To the Stars.  
We do hope you enjoy your magazine.*

It has been another busy year for the St Matthew's Old Girls' Association (SMOGA).

### 2023 Leavers' Breakfast

Another fabulous Leavers' breakfast was held in the St Matthew's dining room. It was a great event, and for me it was lovely to attend this time as a parent with my daughter Emma being a leaver. Thank you to Adie Long for stepping in and speaking to farewell and thank the girls for their contribution to school life. Thank you to all the committee who helped with the preparations prior to the event, and to those who helped serve breakfast on the day.

### Welcome for New Parents

The school year began on Sunday 28th January and once again, SMOGA, alongside the BOT, staff and the Friends of St Matthew's, hosted the refreshments for parents of new girls. It's always a great way to start the school year and meet the new St Matthew's families.

### Decade Reunions

The Decade Reunions are a combined Rathkeale Old Boys' and St Matthew's Old Girls' event. Held annually at King's Birthday weekend, reunion events are hosted at both colleges. This year the reunion was for leavers' year groups ending in a '4', with attendees from 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014. It was a great turnout with approximately 62 St Matthew's Old Girls attending and a combined total of 166 from both colleges.

### Grants

The Spirit of Adventure (SOA) Grant recipient is Isobella Edge and the Outward Bound Grant goes to Vanessa Taylor. Congratulations to both girls. You can read more about our grants on page 24.

### Speakers in Assembly

We have had more Old Girls coming in to speak at assembly this year. In term 2 we welcomed Emma Bassett and Olivia Kirkup back to school.

Emma left school at the end of 2020 and is now a Primate Keeper at Wellington Zoo. You can read more about Emma's story on page 17.

Olivia graduated at the end of 2022 and embarked on a gap year in the UK. She joined up with Letz Live, a gap year and working holiday organisation. After working in the UK she then went on to work and travel in Europe. Olivia's gap year story is on page 22.

### Archives

It's been another busy year for our archivist Elsje Neal, working with Old Girls to identify past photos and memorabilia. Elsje has been particularly busy with identifying and naming photographs that were taken at the 75th anniversary and the 2014 Centenary celebrations. Some of the Old Girls have thoroughly enjoyed trying to name the faces in photos and there has been some fabulous banter on Facebook when they are posted. It is always such a blast from the past when we see these old pictures.



Service Prefect

This year Lila Handiside joined us as part of her role as Service Prefect. I'd like to thank Lila for all her help this year. The Service Prefect provides a pivotal link between SMOGA and the school, working away behind the scenes gathering information for the magazine from the leavers of 2023, recruiting her peers to join SMOGA and reporting back to our meetings. Lila was also instrumental in fundraising and organising the girls in their own version of the Cancer Society's 'Relay for Life'. It was a pleasure to have the services of such a positive young woman and we wish Lila all the best for the future.

John Taylor Memorial

In July I attended John Taylor's memorial, a moving and special service held at Rathkeale College. John was the second Principal of Rathkeale, from 1979 to 1987. I attended St Matthews from 1981 to 1987 and was fortunate to know John through attending Senior College at Rathkeale in 1986 and 1987. I also knew Sarah and John personally due to their eldest daughter, Lucy being one year below me and a good friend of my sister, Sarah Harris (Herrick). Speakers at the memorial were Sarah Taylor, Bruce Levick (Deputy Principal to John and later a Principal of Rathkeale), Edward Cox (Rathkeale Old Boys' Association President and old boy from 1983 to 1987) and Lucy Hall née Taylor, John's daughter and an Old Girl from 1982 to 1988). All the speakers relayed fabulous stories and shared special memories of John.

SMOGA Committee

Thank you so much to our regular committee members for generously giving of your time, your enthusiasm at meetings, your hard work, and your continued commitment and support for the school and endeavouring to make a positive difference to the lives of the girls. It's wonderful to see you all taking the opportunity to give back to enable the enrichment of school life for them.

This year we have a new Magazine Editor/Website Manager. Elizabeth Lincoln is a mum of two St Matthew's students and is a Public Relations and Communications Specialist. Her husband Andrew is the Secretary of the Friends Committee and sits on the school Board. Welcome aboard, Elizabeth.

Join Us!

We have a large committee and tasks are allocated to spread the load. If you have a daughter or niece in the system, or about to start, come and join us. It's a great way to be involved in your daughter's education. We meet once a term and have our AGM in November. We welcome new members at any time, so please do contact us if you would like to join the committee.

I do hope you all enjoy this year's edition of "To the Stars".

Amanda McLeod



Linen Tablecloths

We recently put out a request to our Old Girls asking for donations of linen tablecloths so that we have a larger collection for our Leavers' Breakfast and other events.

Every year Robyn Prior (née Stewart) very generously lends us her tablecloths, but we are also keen to have our own collection. We have been lucky enough to receive a few more.

We had two generous donations from Old Girls Paula Cheetham (née Simpson) 1962–1966 and her mother Beth (Elizabeth) Simpson (née Romley) 1933–1935. Beth recently passed away at the age of 102!

Tablecloths were also donated by SMOGA Committee member Steph Haworth who attended St Matthew's from 1977 until 1982.

Welcome New Members

- |                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Charlotte Austin    | Emma Kinvig         | Charlotte Parker    |
| Annabel Barnsley    | Emma Kitchingman    | Charlotte Pilbrow   |
| Sophie Bassett      | Charlotte Ladd      | Samantha Plimmer    |
| Zoe Bell            | Emma Lui            | Jenna Portman       |
| Lucy Boschma        | Trisha Maisuria     | Hester Radford      |
| Daisy Carter        | Hannah Mathewson    | Jessica Simmonds    |
| Bryer Clark         | Greta Matthews      | Sophie Smith        |
| Billie Cutfield     | Scarlett McCallum   | Kate Speedy         |
| Aleksandra Domanski | Aibhinn McCann-Bell | Emily Stewart-Wells |
| Hope Eales          | Ella McCready       | Sophie Stratford    |
| Hannah Fountaine    | Blandine McIntosh   | Giselle Stratmore   |
| Emily Graham        | Katherine McKenna   | Mathilde Vallee     |
| Chelsea Hawkes      | Emma McLeod         | Madeleine White     |
| Rebecca Johnson     | Kersha Napier       | Arna Williams       |
| Lucy Jurlina        | Trisha Nathu        | Katie Woodcock      |
| Isabella Kennedy    | Penelope Noble      |                     |

# Principal's Message



*Dave Dobbyn once wrote a song about the weather and that was my theme for 2023. It was a year of extraordinary weather patterns, and life seemed to parallel the many seasons that we are so used to in New Zealand.*

## Cyclones

The cyclones that ravaged New Zealand in the early months of 2023 impacted us all. As we all know, living in a small country means that everything is connected to us or our neighbour. During these difficult times, there was connection and compassion that had all of us reaching out to serve our community.

I also sent a call out to the school community to send items from their pantries so we could donate to the effort. The wonderful response to this call served as reminder of what our special Anglican character is all about: that in doing for others we grow ourselves.

## Weathering a changing world

Key messages came into play with important topics creating differing 'weather patterns' in schools: equity, diversity, inclusivity, safety, and education in the age of smart machines. No matter the position of any school, the reality

is that we must be aware that the preparation for any eventuality is in raising awareness and preparing our learners.

## Digital Footprints

Unlike footprints on the ground on a snowy day, sometimes these footprints on a digital front do not disappear when the snow and ice melt. We called on the wisdom of two experts in this area to address parents and students; Rob Cope and John Parsons. There were key takeaways to umbrella us from the perils of the online world: 'have boundaries, use filters, and talk to your young ones'. My hope remains that we remember that social media is our servant and not our master, because we each control our own destiny. The number of likes or opens you get is not your life determiner.

## Sabbatical

I was successful in being awarded a sabbatical from the Ministry for the first five weeks of term four.

My sabbatical was on 'Executive and Corporate Leadership Structuring for Educational Futures' (yes, I too had to take a wee rest part way through writing that lofty title!). I met some significant souls in the corporate and educational spheres, all

with the objective of growing myself and the strategic direction of the school of which I am a part.

## Staff

The weather zephyrs blew in some folk and blew others to new opportunities. Blown to a new course were: Manuel Negrete (Maths), Georgie Goulding (7&8), Maureen Ingham (Sport), Sue Robertson (Maths), and Doug Davidson (7&8).

Zephyrs which breezed into our shores: Aleisha Mahony (7&8), Karyn Saunders (Maths), Amanda Herrick (Maths), Joanna Wallace-Seitshiro, and Ash Larsen (TA).

## 2023 results

Despite the varying fronts and troughs, our students fared well in the 2023 academic year. Levels 1, 2 and 3 saw 100% success for all those who participated in these assessments.

## St Matthew's Collegiate 2023 Dux

Emma Kitchingman

## NCEA Scholarship

Emma McLeod – Painting

## University scholarships

Charlotte Austin	University of Otago Pacific Peoples' Entrance Scholarship University of Canterbury Hiranga Scholarship University of Canterbury Horomata Scholarship University of Canterbury Kaitoko Pacific/Pasifika Scholarship University of Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship
Annabel Barnsley	University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Entrance Scholarship
Lucy Boschma	University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Entrance Scholarship University of Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship
Pikimai Broughton	Victoria University of Wellington Totoweka Scholarship
Daisy Carter	University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Entrance Scholarship University of Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship
Rebecca Johnson	University of Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship
Zoe Kreyenhop	University of Otago New Frontiers Excellence Entrance Scholarship
Katherine McKenna	University of Canterbury Hiranga Scholarship University of Canterbury Leigh and Judith Pownall Scholarship Massey University Undergraduate First Year Scholarship
Emma McLeod	University of Canterbury Hiranga Scholarship University of Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship University of Canterbury Haupatu Scholarship



Kersha Napier.....	University of Otago Māori Entrance Scholarship
Sophie Smith.....	University of Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship
Kate Speedy.....	University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Entrance Scholarship
Sophie Stratford.....	University of Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship
Mathilde Vallee.....	University of Canterbury Go Waitaha Scholarship

NCEA Level	St Matthew's %	National %
Level 1 Overall Achievement	100	60.5
Level 1 Merit	43.8	31.9
Level 1 Excellence	20.8	16.8
Level 1 Literacy	100	82.5
Level 1 Numeracy	100	81.7
Level 2 Overall Achievement	100	72.5
Level 2 Merit	44.8	23.8
Level 2 Excellence	22.4	14.8
Level 3 Overall Achievement	100	66.8
Level 3 Merit	47.2	25.9
Level 3 Excellence	17	13.7
University Entrance	88.9	48.2
UE Literacy	98.1	69.4
UE Numeracy	100	93.0

### Literacy/Numeracy Co-requisite Achievement at end of year 10

	St Matthew's %	National %
Literacy	92.5	40.5
Numeracy	87.5	50.2

### Summary

Life is a journey. It reminds us that the destination is not our only goal. As with any form of a journey, there are times when the weather favours a safe passage and times when winds and storms compel a change of direction. There are often wonderful surprises and fun discoveries that you would never have experienced if it wasn't for the route you chose. We don't always know where we are going, but the

thrill of our travels (day-to-day living) leaves us excited and ready to see new things.

St Matthew's is a stunning school, well served by a committed community. It continues to be my honour and privilege to be here. Our children are fabulous, and in nurturing them we nurture the future.

Ngā mihi nui

**Kiri Gill**

# The Friends of St Matthew's Yearly Review

The Friends of St Matthew's Committee (Friends) wrapped up 2023 with our stall at the Rathkeale Fête to promote our Wairarapa Kitchen Tour and More fundraiser. It was great to be part of this event, supporting our Senior College students who attend Rathkeale College.

This year's Kitchen Tour was based in the South Wairarapa and included some stunning kitchens in Martinborough, Kahutara, Ponatahi, Parkvale and Carterton. We are very grateful to those who helped us bring this together: Jennian Homes for providing the registration point in Greytown, Printcraft who provided us with the artwork, and of course, all our sponsors. Last, but certainly not least, we'd like to thank the homeowners who opened up their kitchens to support this wonderful event in our calendar.



The day went extremely well with lots of positive feedback, and the Friends raised a total of \$8,000. With these proceeds, we ticked off a major goal with the deposit towards a new baby grand piano for the school. We look forward to the sound of the keys twinkling through the school at assemblies, school singing, House Music and school productions in the future.

2024 has been another busy year for Friends. We began the year supporting SMOGA and welcoming the parents of new students at Kiri and Lindsay's residence. Term One saw more successful food and refreshment tents at athletics and swimming sports. This led nicely into our Kitchen Tour fundraiser as mentioned earlier. For all these events we were extremely lucky with the weather and the summer of 2023/2024 really put on a great show!

In August, St Matthew's hosted the 'Winter Pent'. We welcomed Iona College, Woodford House, Nga Tawa Diocesan School and Samuel Marsden Collegiate School. With more than 360 students, parents and staff, the Friends of St Matthew's hosted and provided 200 sausages along with baking and refreshments for the tournament. It was a busy and successful event and we thoroughly enjoyed welcoming other schools and their staff and families to 'our place'.

Our next endeavour is a collaborative raised garden project to link with the Science, Horticultural and Food Technology departments. The produce grown in the garden boxes will be used by the students in the classroom and they will learn the valuable skills of growing and using our own produce.

For the remainder of 2024, the Friends Committee is looking forward to being present for the school at more events as the end of year draws closer. We are honoured to be supporting this extraordinary school in any way we can and we are extremely grateful to all the staff, parents and other friends who support us along the way.

Kind regards

The **Friends of St Matthew's Committee**

*Trish Thomson, Andrew Lincoln, Kim Williams, Kiri Gill, Wendy Smyth, Suzanne Lane, Sophie Kittow, Viv Malneek, Tiffany Evans-Smith, Rachel Garrity, Natasha Bond, Bridget Fleming*



## Grand Piano

St Matthew's is currently fundraising for a Grand Piano. The total cost for the piano is \$22,500. The Friends of St Matthew's have so far donated \$8000 and are continuing to raise funds, and SMOGA has donated \$7000.00.

If you would like to make a donation towards the piano, please contact [kiri.gill@trinityschools.nz](mailto:kiri.gill@trinityschools.nz).



## Graduates



**Alyssa Briscoe** completed her Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of Canterbury at the end of 2023. From there she moved into a role with the Ministry for Primary Industries in Christchurch, working in the biosecurity sector to help keep New Zealand safe from introduced pests and diseases.



**Majella Dempsey** studied and graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Commerce, double majoring in Marketing and Strategy and Entrepreneurship. After spending a month in Europe, she returned to Christchurch and works as the Events and PR Manager for a Google-integrated SaaS company.



**Gracie Donaldson** left St Matt's in 2020 and decided to apply for the Police, following in both her parents' footsteps. Gracie began Police College in Porirua in July last year and found it a life-changing experience. In October she graduated as a Constable and returned to Masterton where she now works on the front line.



**Hannah Fahey-Quine** graduated from Massey University Wellington where she completed a Bachelor of Design with Honours, majoring in Spatial Design. She is currently travelling around Europe and the United Kingdom on her "OE", with plans to return to New Zealand and work in the field of Spatial Design.



**Amanda Harris** finished up at St Matt's in 2020 and then went to study at Lincoln University. At the end of last year she graduated with a Bachelor of Agribusiness and Food Marketing. She decided to stay in Christchurch and in October 2023 took up a full time position with FMG Insurance as a rural consultant, servicing the Marlborough/Tasman region.



**Charlotte Hewitt** graduated with a Bachelor of Agribusiness and Food Marketing. She now has a graduate role with MG New Zealand Fresh Produce Group.



**Hannah Maunsell** graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Product Design, Majoring in Chemical Formulation. She secured a job before leaving UC with a leading skincare company in Auckland – Emma Lewisham.



**Maggie White** graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from Massey University. She is currently working as an Agronomist for PGG Wrightson Seeds, living in Hamilton and working towards a Masters in Agricultural Science through Lincoln University.



# We Remember

*The St Matthew's Old Girls' Association would like to acknowledge the passing of the following people since our last publication. We extend our condolences to their families.*

## 434 Nancy Elizabeth Ross (née Wilson)

**Pupil 1937–1948**

Died 8 February 2023

Prefect 1946, 1947, 1948 (Head Prefect).  
Junior Sports Champion (Hosking Cup), 1944.  
House Captain Grey, 1946, 1947, 1948.  
President Old Girls Association, 1951.  
Hockey Rep for Otago.

1937 (Primer 4) Prize List, Progress.

1942 (Form 1) Prizegiving, English, French, Arithmetic.

1944 Prize list, English, Mathematics.  
Junior Sports Champion (Hosking Cup)  
B Hockey Team; Intermediate Tennis  
Champions Doubles, runner-up: Runner-up  
Intermediate Tennis Champion Singles.

1945 A Hockey Team.

1946 Athletics Runner-up Senior  
Champion, A Hockey Team, Colours for  
Hockey; Morrison Prize, Grey House  
Captain 1946–1948.

1947 School Certificate, Credit in  
Mathematics and Horticulture; Games  
Committee; Tennis Team; A Team Hockey;  
Senior Athletics champion.

1948 (Form 6) Games Committee; Captain  
of A Hockey Team; Vice-Captain Tennis  
team; Morrison Prize; University Entrance.

## 633 Margaret Elizabeth Clements (Elizabeth), (née Hodgson)

**Pupil 1945–1948**

Died 2 April 2024

1945 (Form 3) English and Scripture Prizes.

1946 Library Committee; 25 Yards  
Backstroke Consolation Race, 1st; Plunge,  
2nd; Credits in English, French, Arithmetic,  
Science, History, Geography; Scripture  
Prize; Junior Three-Legged race, 3rd.

1947 School Certificate; Credits in History,  
Geography, English; Library Committee;  
Swimming Senior Consolation 25 Yards,  
2nd; B Team Hockey.

1948 Library Committee; B Hockey team,  
Scripture Prize, University Entrance.

1949 Debutante at Annual school ball.

## 682 Pamela Anne Sutherland (Pam), (née Bamford)

**Pupil 1947–1954**

Died 8 July 2024

Vice-Captain Wakefield, 1954.  
Navy League Secretary, 1954.

1949 Athletics Junior Stilt race, 2nd;  
Swimming Junior non-Championship  
Width Breaststroke, 2nd.

1951 (Form 3) Swimming Intermediate  
Championships, Obstacle, Open, 2nd;  
Green Drill Stripes awarded; Prize Giving,  
Mathematics.

1952 B Hockey Team; Confirmation.

1953 Navy League seven-year service  
award; Life-Saving Bronze Medallion;  
Wairarapa Representative Team Hockey  
(Intermediate); Senior Runner-Up Athletic

Champion (2nd in the 220yds, 100yds, 80yds).

1954 (Form 5) Navy League Secretary;  
Vice-Captain Wakefield; Prize Giving,  
credits in Mathematics, Bookkeeping,  
Biology; A Hockey team; Centennial  
Athletic Sports, St Matts Senior Team  
(75yds, over 15 years, 2nd); Athletic Sports,  
220yds, 2nd, High Jump, 3rd (is included  
in Athletic Champions 1953 Photo).

## 807 Mary Elizabeth Perry (née Huntley)

**Pupil 1950–1954**

Died 23 June 2024

Married Donald (deceased). The school  
choir sang at Mary and Donald's wedding,  
Saturday 4 April 1964.

1953 Prefect, 1954 Head Prefect. Captain  
A Hockey team 1953/54.

1955 awarded hockey blues at Vic Uni  
Wellington, 1956/7 awarded hockey  
blues at Otago, recognising a student's  
outstanding performance in representing  
their region and/or NZ while successfully  
progressing their academic studies.

Victoria University one year, Physiotherapy  
School, Dunedin.

1997 Awarded the Gillian Sumner (Rose  
Bowl) Award: Recognises the work of any  
member of the school community, who  
regardless of personal cost, makes an  
outstanding contribution to the life of the  
school, or to women's education.

Committee of St Matthew's Old Girls'  
Association, President of SMOGA,  
instrumental in setting up the School  
Archives for many years and Editor of the  
SMOGA magazine for a number of years.

Mary's contribution to the school and  
SMOGA was immense. Even when Mary  
resigned from the committee, she was always  
in the background helping and contributing.

Mary gave to the school in so many ways,  
donating to the Chapel and in particular  
the Chapel's stained-glass window, the  
Centenary "Prelude" sculpture, and  
helping identify names for the Dux board  
upgrade. She also spent many hours  
fundraising for the school.

Mary's daughter Susan Jane Jolly,  
née Perry (Pupil #2395) as well as  
grandchildren Elizabeth Jolly and Amanda  
Jolly all have attended St Matt's. Also,  
granddaughter Caitlin Perry (Pupil #124761)

## 894 Judith Cynthia Robertson, (Cynthia), (née Oldfield)

**Pupil 1952–1960**

Died 20 Aug 2023, aged 80

1952 (Std3) Royal Academy of Dancing.  
Grade 1.

1953 Swimming sports 2nd in the Tug &  
Liner; Athletic Sports Junior Thread the  
Needle, 1st.

1957 Athletics Senior Championship 3rd in  
Hop, Skip and Jump.

1958 B Hockey team; 3rd in The Big  
Splash; Athletics, 3rd 220 yards and Long  
jump. Cynthia broke the High Jump bar,  
sprained her wrist and twisted her ankle  
and was enveloped in bandages for days.

1960 Debutante at Old Girls' Ball.

## 940 Janis Mary Wyeth, formerly Taylor (née Hyslop)

**Pupil 1953–1964**

Died 1 Jan 2024

1953 (Primer 1&2) 15yds Primers 1&2  
Bunny Hop, 1st.

1955 (Std 1) Athletics Open Events 25yds  
Std 1, 3rd equal; Item in the yearbook  
titled "A Day at the Beach".

1956 Swimming Open Event Cork Bobbing,

1st; 15yds Std 2 Freestyle, 3rd; 8 and Under Athletics Champion Runner-Up (Equal) (50yds, 3rd, Broad Jump, 1st).

1957 (Std 3) Athletics Junior Championships High Jump, 3rd, Junior Open Three-Legged Race, 3rd.

1961 (Form 3) Junior tennis team; Intermediate A Basketball team; Athletics Intermediate Championship Discus, 2nd; Singles Intermediate Tennis Championship, Janis Hyslop.

1962 Swimming non-championship events Senior Six-Stroke medley, 1st; Colours for Junior Basketball and Junior Tennis; Senior B Basketball team; Junior Tennis Team; Inter-collegiate Athletic Sports Discus, 3rd; Received Tennis racquet presented by the Old Girls; Intermediate Singles and Doubles Tennis Championship winner.

1963 (Form 6) Colours Senior Tennis (Senior Singles and Doubles Champion) Tennis A Team; Wairarapa Tennis Tournament Runner-up in Under 19 Singles; A Basketball team; Senior Team Inter-Collegiate Athletic Sports.

1964 Prefect; Senior Tennis team and Singles and Doubles Champion; Senior A Basketball team; Inter-Collegiate Athletics Team; Athletics Senior Champion Discus, 1st.

### **1598 Philippa Abbot (Phil), (née Donald)**

**Pupil 1968–1974**

Died 16 March 2023

Wairarapa Schools Gymnastics Championships C Grade Division 1 team, 3rd.

1970 Runner-up Junior Swimming Champion; Junior A hockey team.

1971 Junior B tennis team; 2nd in the Inter-Collegiate Swimming Sports Junior Freestyle, and 1st in Medley Relay Team. College Grade representative player

Hockey, College A/ Senior B Hockey team, C Basketball team, B Softball team. Confirmation Candidate.

1972 (Form V) Intermediate Tennis Team, Life Saving Merit Award; Member of the Intermediate Freestyle Relay team that came first; Senior A hockey team; B Basketball team. School Certificate in 5 subjects.

1973 Indoor basketball team; Inter-Collegiate Swimming Sports Senior freestyle, 3rd, Freestyle Relay Team, 3rd; School colours for hockey, Hockey Senior A team; Sixth Form Certificate & University Entrance; Senior B Tennis.

1974 (Form 7 – left at end of First term).

### **3011 Kirsty Keay Ravenwood (née Donald)**

**Pupil 1955–1960**

Died 23 Feb 2024

Kirsty's mother, Betty Donald, was a St Matthew's pupil, as were her four sisters.

1956 (Form 2) Swimming sports Junior Balloon Race, 2nd.

1959 C Hockey Team. Runners-Up in the doubles Tennis Championships.

1960 (Form 5a) D Hockey Team.

### **Cliff Bucknell**

Died 27 November 2023

Husband of our Fashion Technology teacher Ruth, Cliff was a regular visitor to the school and provided generous support to the school. Living so close to the school meant one could count on his availability, and before too long he became an installation in the Boarding environment as a casual minivan driver. We became used to his positive spirit and we shall miss seeing him outside his property trimming his hedges.

### **Derek Neale**

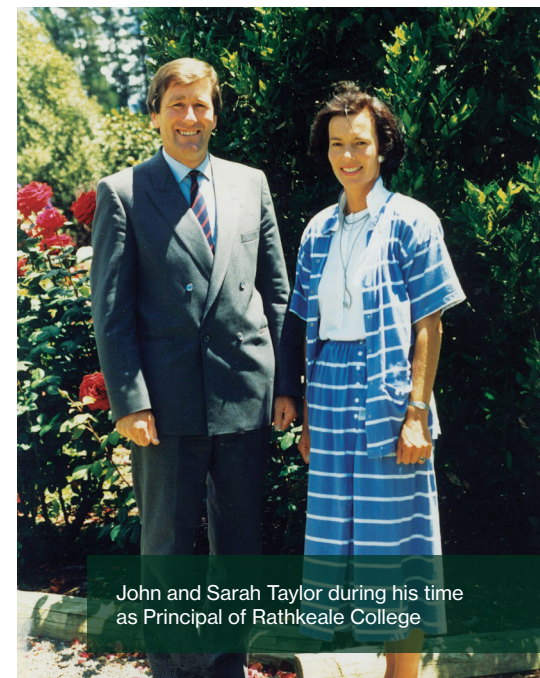
Died 8 January 2024

Derek, husband of our Archivist Elsie, and father of three Old Girls – Monica (2001–2007), Annelise (2003–2009) and Bronwyn (2006–2012). Derek was very generous to St Matthew's with his time, skills and talents. He sat on the St Matthew's Board of Trustees and was acutely interested in students' academic performance and the importance of quality teaching staff.

### **John Taylor MNZM**

Died 28 March 2024

Headmaster at Rathkeale from 1979–1987 and well known for his charisma and strength. He remained involved with the school and was Patron until his death.



### **St Matt's Alumni Rings**

Designed and made by Old Girl Zoë Porter, these beautiful rings are available for any St Matthew's Collegiate Alumni. The rings come in silver, or 9ct yellow/white/rose gold, and 18ct gold on request. The bands have the three St Matt's stars on the outside and "AD ASTRA PER ASPERA" is engraved on the inside.

Silver – \$130

9ct Gold – (yellow/white/rose) \$850

Please get in touch with Zoë to purchase your Old Girls' Ring. You will need to provide your ring size, which can be found out at any jewellers. Postage is free within NZ, with costs calculated for rest of the world. You can find these on the following link:

[zoeporport.co.nz/collections/rings/products/sms-leavers-rings](https://zoeporport.co.nz/collections/rings/products/sms-leavers-rings)

or contact Zoë:  
[zoeporportjewellery@gmail.com](mailto:zoeporportjewellery@gmail.com)



# What Some of Our 2023 Leavers Are Doing

## Charlotte Austin

This year I've headed down south to Otago University to study a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics). After a bit of a rough start, I've managed to settle into my new home for the next few years and have been incredibly lucky to be in a hall that feels just like the boarding house! (Selwyn College). Dunedin is a great city, with a lot more history than it gets credit for, and I'm looking forward to spending the next few years here before going on an overseas exchange (fingers crossed). All in all, as much as I miss St Matt's I'm super excited for this next chapter of my life and I hope I'll see some of you down here over the next few years!

## Bryer Clark

This year I've been working at Hunting and Fishing, saving up as much money as I possibly can for my trip to Canada in June. I'm going to be taking part in the Camp Canada programme. I've always liked the idea of working with kids, so I think a camp is very fitting, and I know I'll make plenty of friends from around the world. I will be a general camp counsellor for 4–5 months at a beautiful camp not far from Toronto. I am very much looking forward to it. After that, I plan to travel and see as much of Canada I can. I also hope to travel beyond Canada and see some other parts of the world.

## Lucy Jurlina

This year, I am studying at the University of Canterbury working towards a Bachelor

of Commerce, majoring in marketing and minoring in media and communications. I am in University Hall, which is one of the most popular halls at Canterbury, with almost 600 students staying there. It's a lot of fun, and I have already made so many new connections with people from all over the country. Christchurch is a lively, expanding city with many job options and a cosy, homey atmosphere. I am really enjoying university so far, and I would recommend it to anyone who is thinking about it.

## Emma Kitchingman

So far this year I have been balancing working full time at the Wee Red Barn and competing my horses. We have almost reached the end of the eventing season, and then I will be heading over to the UK to Tim and Jonelle Price's eventing yard for four months and aim to learn as much as I can. After that I'll be back in Masterton to bring my horses back into work for next season and continue working at Wee Red Barn.

## Emma McLeod

This year, I'm studying for a BSC at Canterbury, with a Biology major and an Economics minor. I realise these are two very different ends of the spectrum, but it's been truly insightful to learn not only about how the world works, but also where we fit into it. I'm absolutely loving Christchurch; it's a stunning city with loads of fun things to do, nice locals, and riverside markets that are simply amazing. I can't recommend it highly enough.

# From Film Dreams to Furry Friends: How a Job at the Zoo changed Emma's Career Plans

Emma Bassett was a graduate of the class of 2020 when she signed up for Film Studies at Victoria University. Things changed, however, when she took on a part time job in the gift shop at Wellington Zoo.

"Quite quickly after starting work, I realised that Film really wasn't for me and that I actually wanted to work with animals," she says.

"At first I thought that would be as a vet nurse but after spending a day out in the Zoo with some of the Zookeepers I decided that this was the path for me."

From there, Emma had to secure a relevant qualification to ensure entry into a competitive industry. She studied for a Certificate in Animal Management (Zookeeping) through distance learning at Unitec. The study takes 12 months and includes a placement at an authorised facility – luckily she was able to do the placement at Wellington Zoo.

"I began in a part-time role as Primate Keeper, and am now full time. I can tell you that no two days are the same – animals are quite unpredictable!"

A typical routine involves an early morning visit to the animals, feeding them and cleaning their habitats. This is followed by training and enrichment. Training is when animals are taught certain behaviours to assist with their care, management and wellbeing, while enrichment aims to enhance the animals' physical and mental wellbeing by providing opportunities that stimulate natural behaviours, encourage problem-solving and prevent boredom.



Cotton top tamarins enjoying some Banana from a puzzle feeder

Throughout the rest of the day, the animals participate in visitor experiences – such as close encounters (a group of people getting up close to the animals), and "talk times" where the keeper gives an educational overview of the animals.

After that, it's dinner time for the animals and goodnight from the keepers.

Emma says she's had many highlights during the last 18 months, including building relationships with the animals and earning their trust. A special highlight for her was meeting a world famous expert on Chimpanzees.



“My absolute dream come true was meeting Jane Goodall, who is famous for her ground-breaking work with chimpanzees in Tanzania. Jane came to Wellington Zoo in June as part of her “Reasons for Hope” tour. I had the opportunity to speak to her a little bit about some of the chimpanzees at Wellington Zoo, and ask her about her career and research.”

As for advice for those keen to pursue a career in zookeeping, Emma says volunteering is a great start.

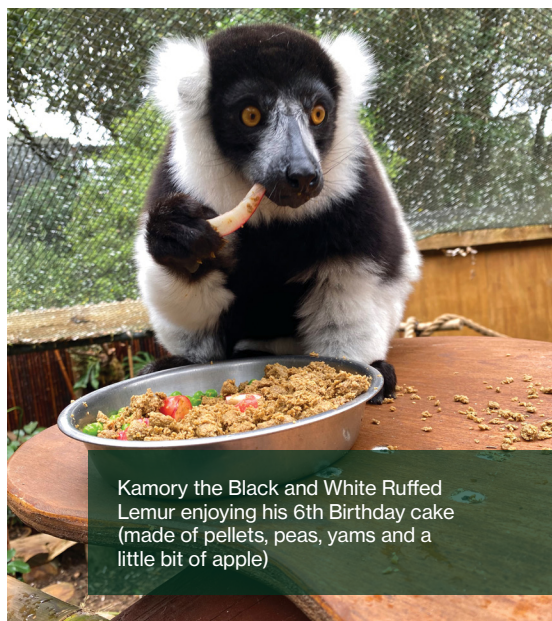
“Volunteering at a zoo, animal shelter or a conservation organisation will help to get your foot in the door. Also the certificate I completed is the preferred qualification for most organisations.

Emma says her career is now everything she had hoped for and more.

“It’s a lot more physically intensive than I realised, but still I knew on my first day of placement as a student keeper that I had made the right decision in changing career paths.”



Ring-tailed lemur  
enjoying some Beetroot



Kamory the Black and White Ruffed  
Lemur enjoying his 6th Birthday cake  
(made of pellets, peas, yams and a  
little bit of apple)

## Chair’s Message

Greetings to all members of SMOGA.

Another year has rolled over and as I contemplate what to write, I am drawn to the great successes our school has achieved over the last 12 months.

On the sporting field, our teams have represented us across the country and shown that, despite being a small school, we can always punch above our weight when we have the right mind set, great coaching and a real desire to win.

On the academic front, as many of you will have witnessed, we achieved great results across the board, and I was very honoured to present university scholarships to so many school leavers.

Culturally, again we excelled with achievements at the highest national level for music and fashion.

Finally, earlier this year we witnessed a display of students’ talents which gave real meaning to our motto “Ad Astra Per Aspera: To the Stars Through Endeavour”. The display by our senior college students in their performances of Mamma Mia certainly shows what hard work and determination can achieve. These levels of achievement we see in all aspects of the school life are in no small part attributable to our fantastic and dedicated staff and volunteers.

In my end of year speech last year, I mentioned some of our volunteers and I would again like to reinforce my comments. We rely so heavily on our volunteers to enable our students’ talents to shine. Can I comment on just three of the many volunteers we have: Amy Williams, Deb Julian and Tony Lyford. These three have dedicated their time and efforts to netball, hockey and cricket over many years (between them more than 30 years), bringing out the very best in our

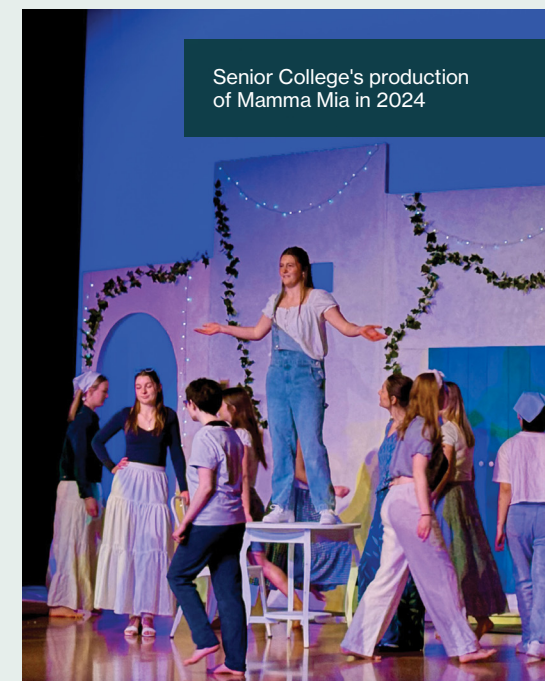
students at all levels. We thank you, and all our volunteers for your support.

Finally, I would like to thank your President. Amanda epitomises the very best of our school. Her dedication touches almost every aspect, and the example of voluntary service she sets for our students, I believe, shows what being a life member of St Matthew’s truly means.

In closing, the continued success of our school is in no small way attributable to the dedication of SMOGA and I thank you all for your ongoing support.

*“Ad Astra Per Aspera.”*

**Alistair Plimmer**  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Senior College’s production  
of Mamma Mia in 2024



# Where in the World



Amy Drysdale

Following her departure from school in 2020, **Amy Drysdale** pursued further education at Massey University, earning a Bachelor of Agricultural Science. During that time, she developed a strong interest in rural finance and business management, which led her to Warakirri Asset Management's Cropping Graduate Programme. This programme provided Amy with the opportunity to relocate to southern New South Wales, where she's currently getting some hands-on experience. In 2025, she will continue to expand her knowledge by working in two additional key cropping regions within the business: Western Australia and Southern Queensland.



Chelsea Hawkes

**Chelsea Hawkes** completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh award in December 2023. This involved pursuing a skill, service, physical activity, adventurous

journey and planning and completing tramps. "I would highly recommend taking on this award as I have learnt so much and made lifelong friends through it."



Poppy Lambert

**Poppy Lambert** went to the University of Maine 4 years ago on a Hockey Scholarship. She has excelled both academically and athletically. Graduating this year with a Bachelor of Science in Economics, with a double major in History. As well as this she was awarded the Outstanding Senior Thesis award in History. She plans to complete her Masters in History in her final year.



Kate Lewis

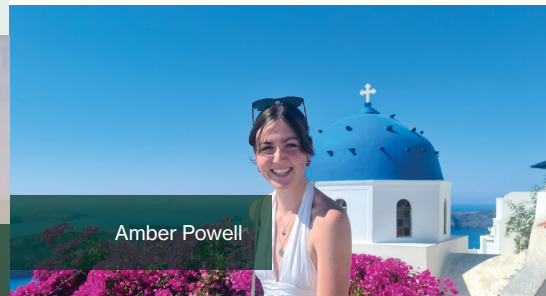
**Kate Lewis** completed her Duke of Edinburgh award by doing a lot of fun and interesting activities. "One highlight was my residential project where I volunteered for two weeks in Bali! Looking after the

turtles was a surreal experience that I'll never forget. Also nothing tops off the whole experience than shaking hands with the Duke of Edinburgh!"



Lochiel Neilsen

After leaving school, **Lochiel Neilsen** took up Nanny positions in Turangi and Waiheke Island. She then began her bachelor degree in teaching at UCOL. Between her studies, Lochiel went overseas and completed a Contiki tour in Europe. She is currently in the final year of her degree and living in Palmerston North. Recently she has been awarded the First Light Scholarship/Exchange from Clan Cameron New Zealand, which will allow her to live in Scotland next year and she is incredibly excited about this opportunity.



Amber Powell

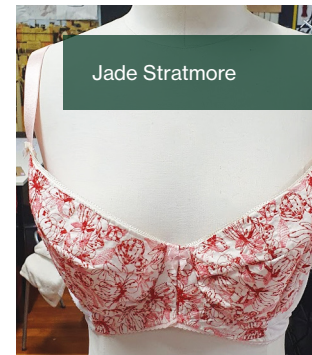
**Amber Powell** graduated from St Matt's in 2020 and followed her dream to live and work in the UK. She began working in a live-in pub job, and travelled at every chance she got. Within a year Amber was a Restaurant Manager and she has so far

travelled to roughly 25 countries. She is now an Assistant Manager and is able to travel over to Europe on her days off or whenever she can find the time. She's made friends with many different people from different countries and learned a lot about them and their culture. She has just extended her visa for three more years; "I'll wait and see what the world brings me next!"

In April 2024, **Andy and Gemma Phillips** (née Skeet) of Motumatai were named the Regional Supreme Winners at the Greater Wellington Ballance Farm Environment Awards in Carterton. Motumatai has been in Gemma's family since 1914, with the couple farming the property since 2009. After purchasing the sheep and beef farm in 2017, they have focused on both lifting livestock production and enhancing the property's natural beauty.



Jade Stratmore



**Jade Stratmore** is in her final year of study at Massey University doing a Bachelor of Honours in Fashion Design with a minor in digital marketing. She works part time as a bra fitter alongside her studies in Wellington. She is currently working on her final collection, specialising in lingerie – her job inspired her to want to make proper fitting bras. Pictured – one of her original bra designs.



# Olivia's Gap Year Adventure

Olivia Kirkup graduated from St Matt's in 2022 and decided to take a gap year while she made decisions about what she wanted to study.

"Through an organisation called "Letz Live", I became an Activity Assistant at Caythorpe Court, a summer camp located near Lincoln. Letz Live was really helpful – they assisted with getting a visa, booking my flights, organising health insurance, my bank account and orientation once I arrived in London," Olivia says.

"I was the first out of my orientation group to arrive, then a flight arrived from Melbourne and one from Sydney and suddenly I was surrounded by about 40 Aussies!"

At Caythorpe, Olivia and her group spent six months looking after school children between the ages of 5 and 18 and supervising their activities, such as the "giant swing" and rock climbing.

"If I wasn't running activities, I would have a group of kids to look after.



Olivia in front of Tower Bridge in London



Olivia's roommate Nellie in front of their Caythorpe accommodation

Once I had a group of about 30 Italian, French and Chinese children who were all there to try and improve their English. Over those few weeks I learnt just as much about the kids' cultures as they learnt about English from me," Olivia says.

"After camp had finished, I headed off to Sweden where I had found a volunteering job on a dairy farm. I found the job through an app called Worldpackers, who provide a safe environment for volunteer travel."

"It was my first time solo travelling and a great experience – I would strongly encourage people to do something like that if you go overseas," Olivia says.

The hardest part of her gap year was the thought of leaving her friends and family at home.

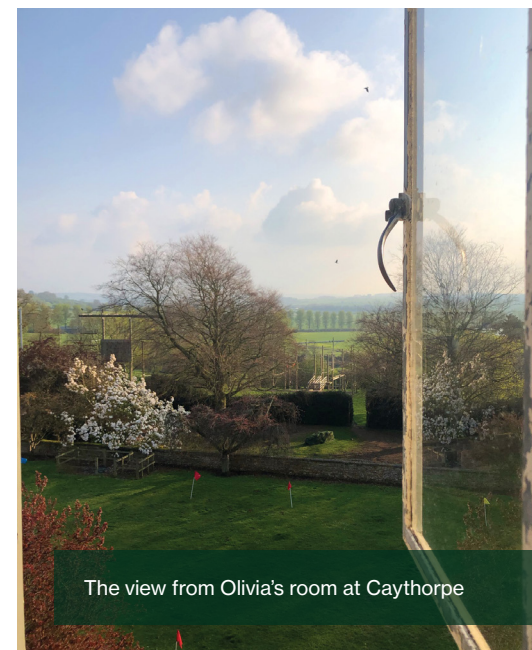
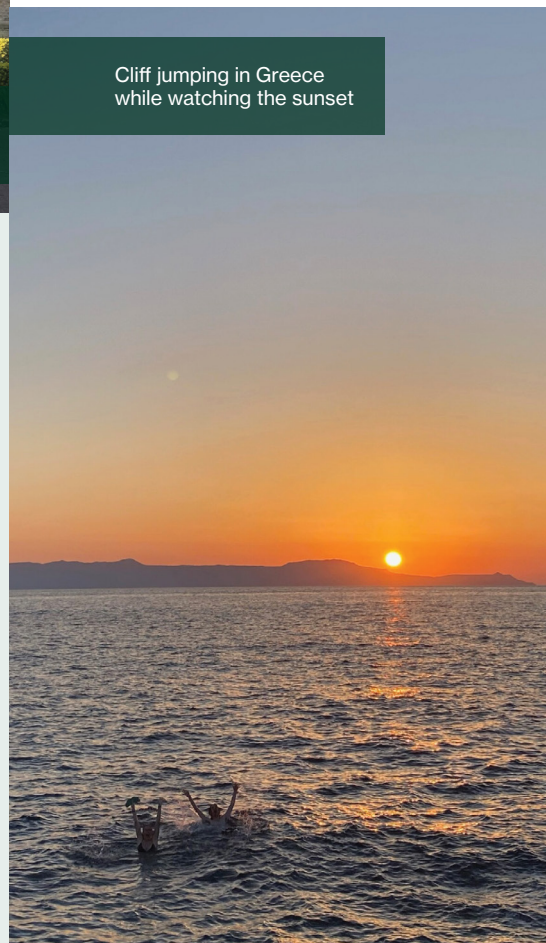
"It was very rainy during my first week in England which made me a bit homesick. After that it was fine because I was surrounded by a group of people that I ended up forming close friendships with," she says.

During her gap year, Olivia visited Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands and stopped in Australia on the way home to stay with her friend Nellie, who she met at Caythorpe Court.

"Now I'm at the University of Canterbury studying a Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability, majoring in Business. I am loving it down here, but hope to travel more once I am finished!"

"I'm so glad I took a gap year; I met lots of amazing people and experienced some incredible things."

Cliff jumping in Greece while watching the sunset



The view from Olivia's room at Caythorpe



Brie, Astrid, Nellie (Australian friends) and Olivia at the Trevi fountain in Rome



# Grants

## SMOGA offers the following Grants to current students

### Spirit of New Zealand Grant

The Spirit of New Zealand Grant funds a voyage on the Spirit of New Zealand to a current student. The Grant is open to either:

- A student who is 16 years and over that is a daughter, niece or granddaughter of an SMOGA member, or
- A student at St Matthew's Collegiate from Year 12 or 13 who joins SMOGA

The selection process will be based on a random ballot. The Grant value is currently \$2,500 per year.

### Outward Bound Grant

The Outward Bound Grant is new this year and has the same terms and conditions as the Spirit of Adventure Grant.

### Endeavour Grant

The Endeavour grant aims to financially assist an Old Girl or the widower of an Old Girl, who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford to send their daughter to St Matthew's. This grant will be available in 2025. Applications are open at the end of 2024.

For more information about our Grants, and to apply visit the Academic/Scholarships tab on the school website: **Scholarships – St Matthew's Collegiate School for Girls** ([stmatts.school.nz](http://stmatts.school.nz))

*Note: Terms and conditions for all grants apply and they are administrated by the Grants Committee which is independent of the SMOGA committee.*



### Spirit of New Zealand Grant Recipient for 2022 – Kristina Cook

Last summer I had the privilege of attending the Spirit of Adventure programme. This voyage has been one of the best things I have ever done. I made lifelong friends and created many unforgettable memories. I learned valuable lessons, such as the importance of trying even the most challenging things and putting in the effort to achieve what you want. The most significant thing I gained from this experience was the rewarding feeling of accomplishing something I thought I couldn't do.

Throughout the entire voyage, our team encountered challenges that initially seemed impossible. However, we supported each other and tackled them together. One of the challenges we faced was to climb to the top of the mast which was very hard as I do not do heights. We climbed 28.7M, and everyone came together to support each other.

One of the biggest lessons I learned on the voyage was that no matter how hard the situation or challenge is, give it all a go, as it could lead to big achievements.

I highly recommend that if you ever get the opportunity to go on the Spirit of Adventure, take it and embrace every moment as this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Finally, I would like to thank the St Matthew's Old Girls' Association for giving me this incredible opportunity.



### The Gretchen Williamson Annual Scholarship for Commerce

Old Girl Gretchen Williamson was a St Matthew's student from 1986–1992. Her successful career as a financial advisor in Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand, has seen her challenge the male-dominated investment environment, including being the first female advisor for Craigs Investment Partners. She has built a top tier business there and is the first female to be in the top five in its 40-year history.

Gretchen advocates and pushes for change to encourage other women to follow in her footsteps and gain the ability to access to the successful and fulfilling career that she has carved out for herself. Gretchen believes that education is the key determinant to improving outcomes, and is committed to doing all she can to close the wealth gap for women by investing and improving education, while coupling this with access to female investment advisers.

Looking at all the male CVs that she received this year for a prominent role in her team, Gretchen wondered what she

could do to encourage more diversity into the financial environment. She has therefore very generously offered, not only an annual scholarship for a Year 13 student looking to study commerce, but also her mentorship for the recipient throughout the scholarship term. Gretchen hopes that this support will enable a young woman the confidence to succeed and use their success to lift up others.

The scholarship will be awarded to an exceptional Year 13 student that is going to study Commerce. The scholarship would be for a total of \$5,000; paid as \$2,500 at the beginning of Year 1, and the remainder at the beginning of Year 2.

Applications will be open to current Year 13 students between 1 September and 25 October 2024. The scholarship winner will be announced at our annual St Matthew's Prizegiving in December. Gretchen has generously committed to providing this scholarship for a ten year period and we are excited to see those girls thrive under her guidance. To apply visit: [forms.gle/hSMgs6dsQmxfUFNR6](https://forms.gle/hSMgs6dsQmxfUFNR6)

## Are you interested in donating to support these Grants?

These Grants are made possible by generous donations from past students. We encourage past students to consider donating to the Grant Fund to make a lasting impact on the girls who follow in your footsteps. To donate, either donate directly to our SMOGA account: 01-0682-0009837-00. Use your name and initial as a reference. You can also donate through the Nikau Foundation **Donate now – Nikau Foundation**. Select the 'St Matthew's Old Girls' Association Fund'. As SMOGA is a registered charity, any donation over \$5 is tax deductible.





# Decade Reunions



Tour of Rathkeale



St Matt's Principal Kiri Gill speaking at Cocktail Party

## King's Birthday 2024

King's Birthday weekend 2024 was the annual SMOGA Decade Reunion where we welcomed 62 Old Girls from 1984, 1994, 2004 and 2014 year groups who attended planned activities over the two days.

Friday night was our combined Cocktail Party held at Rathkeale, where a total of 166 Old Boys and Old Girls attended. It is always a wonderful introduction to the weekend as a lot of nervous and excited former classmates reconnect and enjoy a drink and nibbles while sharing old stories and memories.

We were pleased to welcome back special guest Bruce Levick and for Kiri Gill to join us, along with other staff members. Kiri, in particular, had a special connection to the weekend, as it marked her 10-year anniversary as St Matthew's principal and her first reunion with her initial senior students.

It was great to hear from all the facilitators and their trips down memory lane from their time back at school. Lots of laughs and plenty of nostalgia made it a truly memorable occasion for everyone.

On Saturday morning back at St Matthew's, a service was held for absent friends at the Chapel, where past students were able to light a candle in memory

of those who have passed. Morning tea followed on the Chapel lawn and more Old Girls began to arrive to join the weekend.

We kept with tradition with year group photos outside the Chapel. A special request was received from the 1984 group who re-enacted their photo with Mrs Gwen Levick down the Main House stairs. The school prefects enjoyed many old stories as they led the different year groups on a tour of the school. Another tour was held on arrival at Rathkeale prior to lunch.

The day concluded with a combined lunch with the boys in the dining room before the year groups went their separate ways to celebrate the evening in their own style.

Overall, the weekend was a resounding success, and we would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed, with a special mention to the prefects and committee members for their hard work and dedication to the weekend.

We look forward to the next reunion in 2025, on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 May. We invite all those who left school in a year ending in "5" (1965, 1985, 2005, etc.) to join us for what promises to be another unforgettable weekend.

For more information contact Bridget Mathewson: [bridg.andy@gmail.com](mailto:bridg.andy@gmail.com).



1984

**From bottom right up:** Barrie (Gimson) Gordon, Gwen Levick, Tracey Faulknor, Anna (Goodwin) Perry, Raymonda (Traber) Booth, Suzanna (Meredith) Doherty, Brigie (Hargreaves) Sims, Catherine Day, Virginia (Bull) Brewer, Amanda (Barton) Adriaens, Louise (Smyth) Neho, Susan (Clarkson) Judd



1994

**L-R:** Felicity Bunny, Sophie Munro (née Jenkins), Kate McDonald (née Morison), Lisa Patrick (née Melhuish), Hellena Biasco (née McArthur), Ana Dermer, Amanda Wardell, Nikki Stewart (Guildford), Kathryn Purchase (née Tatham), Penny Baines (née Blundell), Sophie Lucas, Kate Williams (née Hepburn), Amy Murphy (née Shorten), Regan Southey (née Murphy), Megan Gorman, Anna Armstrong, Morag Pretty (née McCaw), Julia Shirley, Belinda St John-Ives, Lucy McLeod, Anthea Williams, Janine Ogg



2004

**L-R (back row):** Haley Ross, Stephanie Sim (Meredith), Annabel Sharp, Abby Moseby (Bateman), Julia Broughton (Biggs), Alexandra Dent (Lott), Lydia Issac (Holmes), Rebekah Smith, Suzanne Pentecost

**L-R (front row):** Kate Watson (Monaghan), Amanda King (Money), Belinda Taylor (Cameron), Hannah McHugh (Cullinane), Gabrielle Ruscoe (Futter)



2014

**L-R (back row):** Sam O'Reilly, Annabelle Hanekom (Capes), Kelsey Matthews (Linton), Dougal Ross, Elliot Jackson (Rowden), Becca Perry, Luke McKay, Ryan Dews

**L-R (front row):** Guy Lewis, Kirsten Vos, Harriet McKenzie, Becky Holmes, Harriet Stevens, Amy James, Aleshia Ingham



# SMOGA AGM

**Sunday 17 November 2024  
at 4.00pm**

St Matthew's Collegiate School  
Pownall Street, Masterton  
Main House Dining Room

## **Agenda**

- Present
- Apologies
- Minutes 2023 AGM – to be distributed at the 2024 Meeting
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Financial Statement to August 2024
- General Business
- New Business
- Election of Officers: President, Secretary, Treasurer
- Committee, Scholarship Committee, Financial Reviewer, Magazine Editor

**All SMOGA members welcome**