

To the Stars



Inside this issue



The Dolphin Project

Where in the World?

OG's Honoured in 2015

Archive Update

In the news

Remembering Margaret Milne

ST. MATTHEW'S COLLEGIATE SCHOOL
OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

Officers 2014-2015

PRESIDENT

Adie Long (Cameron) 06 3708199
tree-hut@ihug.co.nz

TREASURER

Georgie Vincent (Hodson) 06 377 5596
gbv@xtra.co.nz

SECRETARY

Amanda McLeod (Herrick) 06 306 8070
mouseandgus@xtra.co.nz

COMMITTEE

Charlotte Gendall (Miller) 021 355 097
Sarah Harris (Herrick) 06 3221709
Steph Haworth 022 676 4134
Adie Long (Cameron) 06 3708199
Amanda McLeod (Herrick) 06 306 8070
Anna Perry (Goodwin) 06 377 4363
Victoria Shaw 06 304 9070
Brigette Sims (Hargraves) 06 3725700
Vinny Schofield (Meredith) 06 370 3855
Roz Southey (Levin) 06 372 2841
Tina Tylee (Simpson) 06 308 9682

SCHOLARSHIP CONVENOR

Lynn Lamb (Watson) 06 378 7860

ARCHIVIST

Tina Tylee (Simpson) 06 308 9682

MAGAZINE DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Rebecca Tosswill (Wyeth) 06 372 7098
facebook/farmersdaughter.design



OUR COVER GIRL

Melissa Clark-Reynolds, was recognised in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours list. Melissa also kicked off your Association's initiative to have OGs return to speak at SMS.

CONTACT US

Old Girls' Association
Postal Address

St. Matthew's Collegiate
School, PO Box 462,
Masterton 5810

MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Minutes and Financial Statements will be distributed at the AGM in Masterton and are also available at any time by prior request to
mouseandgus@xtra.co.nz
Amanda McLeod

RETURNED MAGAZINES

Due to increased costs, magazines are no longer being sent to those whose magazines were returned the previous year. PLEASE ADVISE US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS ASAP
mouseandgus@xtra.co.nz

President's Message

WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW MEMBERS OF ST MATTHEWS OLD GIRLS. I AM ALSO NEW (NOT TO THE OLD GIRLS, I'VE BEEN A MEMBER FOR MORE YEARS THAN I INTEND TO COUNT) BUT NEW TO THE ROLE AT PRESIDENT OF THE SMOGA.

This year, my eldest daughter Jessica started St Matts, I'm not sure who was more excited on the first day – me or her! Not that I showed it and embarrassed my daughter who was nervously starting her secondary school career with a full leg camouflage coloured cast on – at least it matched the school uniform colours.

I started St Matts in 1981 in Form Two (year 8) as a boarder in Raukura House and left in 1986. After many years I found myself back in the Wairarapa married with a young family and living on a lifestyle block. I work at Breadcraft, a commercial Bakery in Masterton as the QA Manager. We also run a homestay cottage on our property called Tree Hut Cottage.

Due to my new appointment I am just learning the ropes of the Association but feel well supported by a great bunch of enthusiastic and passionate old girls. Thank you to Charlotte Gendall and the committee, for their support and guidance.

The committee has recently identified that times are changing and we need to change with them. There has been a lot of discussion about becoming aligned with the several other committees within the Trinity System to provide support for each other whilst keeping separate identities. This is not an overnight decision so will need to be worked through. We will keep you fully up to date in this regard.

In confirmed developments, we are delighted to announce that the BoT has ratified a designated space in the school library for the SMOGA archives. This area is for paper archives and photographs. All archive information can be electronically stored as the library has the software able to do this. This will also enable the information to be sourced by students using the library.

One of the committee's initiatives has been to invite Old Girls back to speak to the students in assembly. We have some very talented, successful graduates and would love them to share their experience with our current young women to inspire and encourage them to aim high. If you would like to speak in assembly or know of an old girl who would be keen to talk to the students please contact us.

This year's AGM will be on Tuesday 17th November, 4pm at St Matthews. All are welcome to attend, you will not be asked to take on any roles as they are already filled so come along and enjoy a catch up with old friends. – *Adie Long*



Principal's Message



DEAR OLD GIRLS IN CONSTRUCTING THIS MESSAGE I HAVE LOOKED BACK AT MY COMMUNICATIONS SINCE THE YEAR BEGAN, AND IN ST MATTHEW'S 101ST YEAR I HAVE SOME POSITIVE MUSINGS TO SHARE ABOUT THE SCHOOL'S PRESENT AND IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

Last year, when speaking to parents, I used the analogy of the purchase of a house. When you "purchase" it you live with it for a year- you make some essential changes; put your furniture in; decorate so it's functional for you- all the while noting why and how things are the way they are. You see it through all its seasons. I have done this and have come back feeling buoyant about our present and our future. I feel well supported by the students, by my senior management team, the staff and a committed Board of Trustees and Proprietors.

In acknowledging the Old Girls in this magazine, I would particularly like to note the interring of the Time Capsule in the Bell Tower at the start of the year. A commemoration service, attended by some of your members,

saw reminders of the school's past to be revisited at a time in the future.

I would also like to note the refurbishment of the Honours Board in the Cleghorn Foyer. The Academic Honours board, donated by your Association, is a very special and appropriate addition which recognises our highest achievers over the years.

It continues to my pleasure to be a part of this school. I gratefully acknowledge and accept the willing support of our community. It is wonderful to be a part of this school's present, but also valuable is to be able to recognise and see the value of its very strong foundations. - Kiri Gill

IMAGE: Kiri Gill with previous principal, Ted Dashfield with visiting Old Girl Melissa Clark-Reynolds

Chair's Message

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

Harriet Tubman (1822 – 1913)

The students at St Matthew's Collegiate are fortunate to be at a school where girls' education is valued and supported. St Matthew's has a long tradition of academic success and it was with great respect for those who have walked before me, that I stepped into the role of chair of the Board of Trustees (BoT). We farewelled Lynette Field from the Chair role in March 2015. Lynette was certainly someone who gave a huge amount of personal time and energy to St Matthew's and will be remembered for her commitment to the school.

Kiri Gill has been principal now for 18 months. Throughout this time she has offered a fresh perspective on the day-to-day running of the school. It is fantastic to have such a strong, female role model for our girls. An exciting new initiative Kiri introduced after starting with us was spending time on-site at Rathkeale College each week. Our new Deputy Principal, Sandie Sherwen, has joined this initiative much to the delight of our senior girls. This allows our senior girls to have an onsite point of contact and has been very positively acknowledged by all our Year 12 and 13 students.

We have welcomed our student representative Lucy France to the BoT table this year too. Lucy has full membership on the board and is an active participant in our meetings. It is wonderful having a 'student voice' at the table and Lucy consults with the girls regularly, so we have a picture of the opinions and needs of our students. St Matthew's has certainly experienced some changes in recent times, however this change has enabled new ways of doing things to emerge. Our girls certainly make dreams into reality and change the world! - *Rose Blackett*

SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE

We have a girl benefitting from our Scholarship at present and - apart from unforeseen circumstances - it is therefore unlikely to be available again in the near future. In any case, don't forget that in the first instance, your daughter **MUST** be enrolled **AND** accepted into SMS before you can apply for the Scholarship. This is a school requirement. - *Lynn Lamb, Scholarship Coordinator*



Great news on this front for 2015: in April of this year, the Board of Trustees approved a permanent home for the SMOGA Archives within the School Library.

Several options had been explored including space in Lazarus (the Old Gym) and even the Wairarapa Archive as a temporary solution and 'safe haven' for the documents and photographs. However, with persistence, collaboration and the backing of Principal Kiri Gill we are very pleased to have been able to resolve this long standing conundrum.

Funds remaining from the Centennial proceeds were earmarked at the AGM in 2014 for the Archives Project. With these monies, I am pleased to report we have recently been able to engage the services of Pauline Porteous, a professional archivist. Pauline comes highly recommended. She has completed many archive projects including policy, planning and implementation for community organisations and schools, along with work at the National Archives of NZ, Internal Affairs and more recently WestPac Bank.

Pauline's enthusiasm for the SMOGA Archives was evident at our first meeting. She had considerable empathy for the challenges we have faced but is very excited about the collection and has presented a proposal that we have accepted and will be underway in the next few weeks. She hopes to complete the bulk of the recording and catalogue work in 6 - 10 days (depending on volunteer assistance) Pauline will be using 'Past Perfect' a software package that SMOGA will purchase specifically. This will mean that all items will be photographed and stored digitally (as well as physically) to improve the visibility, accessibility and preservation of our archives.

Her proposal includes :

- an agreed policy on what will be kept and how the archives will be managed,
- a catalogue of the archives, photographs, objects and publications that shows what the item is, where it is and associated information,
- appropriate storage,
- a process for ongoing archive management and digitisation that will make the archives accessible and reduce handling of the original material,
- a report and guide about the archives.

It is hoped that this project will be completed by year end. Special thanks must go the the BOT, to Kiri Gill and also to former members of the SMOGA Committee for their contribution. Also to Elsje Neal the school librarian for her enthusiasm and support.

Please think of the SMOGA Archives if you have anything of interest to add to the collection. - 'Ad Astra per Aspera,' Tina Tylee, SMOGA Archives Project.



W

St Matthew's Old Girl Melissa Clark-Reynolds, an advocate for women in business and technology, was recognised in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

The Wellington entrepreneur and professional company director was appointed an Officer of The New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to the technology industry.

Melissa has been the founder and chief executive of several technology business over a twenty-year period, including Looxie, MiniMonos, software firms PayGlobal, Intaz, GMV Associates (sold to Southern Cross) which became Fusion – New Zealand's largest private ACC insurer. She is one of the few New Zealand women

to raise investment money both nationally and internationally. In 2012 she was named one of the top-10 female company founders to watch by Forbes Magazine.

The businesswoman who has represented New Zealand at the APEC Forum on encouraging women said she felt honoured and humbled to receive the honour.

She is now working as a full time director for Radio New Zealand.

The entrepreneur is also on the board of ACCURO Health Insurance, and a number of private technology companies, as well as being a member of the Ministry for Primary Industries' PGP investment Advisory Panel. stuff.co.nz

The University of Otago researcher, **Professor Catherine Day**, was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Prof Day, of the biochemistry department, is described as a “highly innovative protein biochemist and structural biologist.” She has made advances in understanding protein interactions that are regarded as critical in both normal human development and in cancer.

Following her days at St Matthew’s, Catherine progressed as a Biochemistry graduate of Massey University who, after postdoctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley and again at Massey,

established a research group at Otago. She is a protein biochemist who relies on structural approaches, enzyme assays and the biophysical

analysis of proteins to develop a molecular understanding of protein function. Much of the research in Catherine’s laboratory has been conducted by a motivated team of young scientists.



Lydia Wevers, a professor at Victoria University, has been awarded a Royal Society of New Zealand Pou Aronui Medal for her career-long dedication to promoting the study and enjoyment of New Zealand literature, history, arts and culture.

“She has been a tireless and effective champion of New Zealand’s literature, history, thought and culture,” the award selection panel said.

Professor Wevers is a literary critic and historian, as well as an editor and reviewer. She has been Director of the Stout Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington since 2001. Professor Wevers founded the Journal of New Zealand Studies in 2002, has served as the chair of the Trustees of the National Library, chair of the Guardians/Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library and has assisted in the development of Te Ara: The Encyclopedia of New Zealand since its inception. She is



former Vice-President of the New Zealand Book Council.

She has also played key roles in administering the academic humanities, serving on the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) Humanities and Law Panel and as a member and chair of the Humanities Panel of the Marsden Fund.

Professor Wevers has also served the wider arts community through her involvement with Creative New Zealand and Writers and Readers festivals. In 2006 she was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Literature.



Sarah Crofoot was one of six New Zealanders representing this country at the second global Youth AgSummit in Canberra.

Sarah, who is a meat and fibre policy adviser for Federated Farmers, grew up on Castlepoint Station having moved there with her family when she was eight years old, from a farm in New York state.

The summit, themed “Feeding a Hungry Planet”, gathered 100 delegates between the ages 18 and 25 from 33 nations.

She was chosen after an essay competition

she found in a Young Farmers newsletter, having previously completed a Bachelor of AgriCommerce at Massey, graduating with 1st Class Honors.

She has also completed a post-graduate course in International Trade and Agri Food, half of which was completed while studying at the University of Missouri in the United States.

AN HONOURABLE MENTION

An ongoing OG project in recent years has been the dedication of an Honours Board to recognise academic excellence, specifically the top performing senior student at St Matthew’s each year.

Past president Charlotte Gendall (Miller) championed the “Dux Board,” which has been refurbished by local craftsman Graham Howard from an existing structure, also donated by the OGs, which recognised previous Bursary winners.

The new Honours Board, dating back to 1933, was installed in the Cleghorn foyer in July and Principal Kiri Gill says it’s an appropriate recognition of high achievement.



2014 New Life Members

We welcome these new members to our Association.

Sophie Blackett	Annabelle Capes	Jessica O'Connor	Rebecca Perry
Caitlyn Casey	Sarah-Marie Davies	Emily Robinson	Gianina Schwanecke
Victoria Draper	Merryn Hamilton	Jessica Stirling-Walker	Lucy Terry
Michaela Hickey	Rebecca Holmes	Grace Tylee	Natasha Wall
Ashley-Robyn Howard	Emily Kitchenham	Harriet McKenzie	
Anna Lawrence	Isabella McDougall		

BIRTHS

Alice Tocher (Davies) d. Charlotte Jessica Audrey - Inglewood

Mary Armistead s. Alexander James - Taupo

Carolyn McArthur (Sutherland) d. Catherine Elaine - Martinborough

Sarah Watson (Brooking) d. Adelaide Lila Joy - Masterton

ENGAGEMENTS

Jane Murray - Michael Cammock

Abby Bateman - Ryan Moseby

MARRIAGES

Catriona Spiers to Andrew Dickson -
living in Hastings

IN MEMORIAM

With deep regret we record that the following former pupils have died. The Old Girls extend their sympathy to those that have suffered family bereavement this year.

No. 176 Margaret Martha Napier (Heckler) - Waikanae

No. 222 Nancy Hindmarsh Evans (Beetham) - Northland / Martinborough

No. 416 Diana Lochiel Meredith (Thompson) - Masterton

No. 430 Barbara Eileen Lee - Napier

No. 448 Audrey Frances Shelton (Cameron) - Masterton

No. 616 Susan McLean Inglis (Barr) - Otaki

No. 646 Jennifer Mary Seddon (Stewart) - Tauranga

No. 821 Jennifer Ngaire McLeod (Bertram) - Taupo

No. 829 Rosemary E.T. Palmer (Armstrong) - Wellington

No. 875 Margaret Ethel Milne (Creech) - Masterton

No. 979 Annette Ragna Dalrymple (McKenzie) - Masterton

No. 1419 Lois Anne Le Quesne (Aitchison) - Wanganui

No. 2860 Ana Mary Easton (Beavis) - Greytown

A shoe that uses the natural felting properties of wool instead of glue earned a young Wairarapa designer and former OG a shot at an \$80,000 international design award.

Massey University industrial design graduate **Emma Warren's** Bound By 8 wool and natural latex shoes are designed to revive the country's extinct shoe-making industry, as well as creating new opportunities for sheep farmers.

Emma was one of three Kiwi finalists for the James Dyson design award, run annually in 20 countries and funded by the British inventor of the "bagless" vacuum cleaner. Winners are judged on creatively

solving everyday problems, while keeping the environment in mind.

Emma, now 24, grew up on a sheep farm on the shores of Lake Onoke, south of Martinborough, where she learned to love wool as a material. Later, studying sustainability in Sweden, she realised how that synthetic, mass-produced shoes lasts an average of only about six months.

For her final-year Massey project, she decided to create a wool-based product to challenge this and, at the same time, broaden opportunities for the struggling wool market and "extinct" Kiwi shoe-making industry. She has now landed an assistant shoemaker job



Jane Haste (Parsons) was named as recipient of a prestigious award from Massey University, as "Distinguished Young Alumni". This award is presented to a graduate aged 35 or younger, for significant accomplishments in business or professional life. Jane has a Bachelor of Social Work (Hons), Master of Philosophy (Humanities and Social Sciences) and a postgraduate diploma from Massey University. Her work focuses on the treatment and promotion of mental health in women, youth and children, and the professional development of social and health service professionals.

St Matthew's Old Girl and artist **Charlotte Parallel (Dick)** was among an elite group of artists recognised at the 56th Venice Biennale.

Charlotte and her collaborator Ali Bramwell were part of "Jump into the Unknown," presenting the works of 40 international artists to mark the 20th anniversary of the International Environmental Art Symposium.

Since leaving SMS, Charlotte has achieved a BFA from Whanganui School of Art and has been an MFA student at Otago Polytech.



A Different Way to See the World

BY VICKI LOWRIE (1985 – 1989)

"THE BEST THING I COULD DO IS TRAVEL THE WORLD ONE DAY" IS THE QUOTE MY DAD USED IN HIS FATHER-OF-THE-BRIDE SPEECH AT MY WEDDING IN 2008. HE'D FOUND IT IN A 3RD FORM SOCIAL STUDIES EXERCISE BOOK FROM MY ST MATT'S DAYS. I'M NOT SURE THAT I, AGED 12 WHEN I WROTE IT, OR 36 WHEN HE REMINDED ME OF IT HAD ANY IDEA JUST HOW THAT WOULD PAN OUT.

What did happen was that in September 2011, with my husband Iain and two pre-school children (Finn, aged 2¼, and Petra aged 8 months), we left the UK where I had been living for 15 years and began our travelling odyssey, bound for New Zealand. Not so unusual in itself, we are not the only family to travel together and I'd already done my obligatory OE tour of Western Europe and various jaunts to other more far-flung places, but when I explain that we undertook this adventure in a 107-year old, 28-foot wooden sail boat, it starts looking a little different. We gave up good career jobs and took a huge financial leap of faith, downsized from a 3-bedroom house to a space not much bigger than your average family car and set sail. Literally. 2 ½ years, more than 20,000 miles, 2 oceans and 23 countries later, we arrived home, to New Zealand.

Our boat, Dolphin of Leith, has history. She was built in 1904, in Leith, Scotland, a full decade before St Matt's was even founded. In her lifetime she has been used as a fishing boat, a charter boat, and a leisure boat. Iain's parents bought her in the early 70s, when Iain was still tiny. Soon after, with the true pioneering spirit of

pre-GPS adventurers, they left the familiar shores of Southern England and sailed her to Cape Town via West Africa, Brazil and Tristan da Cunha - a remote island in the South Atlantic that at the time reputedly had no insects. 12 years later, they sailed back. So for Iain, sailing Dolphin really is in his blood. For me on the other hand, not so much. I had never set foot on a boat with sails until I met him.

Not long after that first meeting with Dolphin, I, in an attempt to impress my new boyfriend, said "Wouldn't it be amazing to sail her to New Zealand one day?" Iain interpreted that as a good reason to start planning the journey that has brought us here. That planning phase included a wedding, two children, 8 months of work on the boat, a house refurbishment, and countless days of research. Opinion before we left was divided. My non-sailing family thought we were barking mad, and Iain's sailing relatives thought it sounded a brilliant adventure. Then there were others who thought it was foolhardy to expose our children to what we had planned, to the extent that they took it upon themselves to contact Social Services before we left.

So why did we take the children when they were that young? Because we wanted them to grow up in New Zealand, and while there are many “kid boats” out there home-schooling their children with fantastic success, I know my own limitations and I did not feel disciplined enough to be able to teach them the basics they needed. So we opted for being in New Zealand by the time Finn started school. We also got to give them something so many parents don’t get the opportunity to: us. For more than 2 years we didn’t rush out the door to work every morning, we didn’t feel the normal stresses of everyday life; we got to spend the whole time with our kids and watch them grow. For that I will always be grateful. It is, however, not an entirely stress-free life: Iain invested blood, sweat and tears keeping our little home afloat, and how often do you have to plan food for a family of four for literally months, knowing there is no possibility of visiting a supermarket in that time, and no fridge or freezer to keep anything in?

Life on board was just that – life. We still had to manage the meals, do the dishes and washing and entertain our children. What changes is how you do things. Our washing machine was a thin line, about 30 metres long, that we tied clothes and dirty nappies to and towed behind the boat for a few miles. Salt water works a treat for getting things clean. Really. I got very good at cooking one pot wonders with one hand because I needed the other one to hold on to something while cooking, and it minimised the dishes to wash, which were done in a bucket in the cockpit.

Being on a boat is a very environmentally friendly way to live – there are no rubbish collections in the ocean. We minimised any plastic and packaging we took on board in the first place, and carried any we did have to the next appropriate port to dispose of it. Learning to live without a fridge taught us a few things too. The only thing we could not store for any length of time was fresh meat. We managed on 10L of water per day – for the whole family. For our 30 day crossing of the Pacific we carried 500L in total. To put that in perspective, a family of four would go through twice that on land in a single day, and we had some to spare after a month.

Highlights of the trip included a pirate party on a tiny Panamanian island the size of our house for Petra’s 2nd birthday, making fresh oyster pizzas on a campfire in the Tuamotus, French Polynesia, being followed by a pod of pilot whales as we left the Galapagos Islands, having our mainsail painted by all the children of Vitau Primary School in Aitutaki, all the fantastically friendly, generous people we met, and too many more to list. But most of all the feeling of complete freedom we had. It was just us, in our small floating home living in the moment in some of the most remote and beautiful places on earth. It’s something I wish everyone could experience at some point in their life.

So what’s the benefit of doing such a trip? For Iain and I, as adults, knowing and being comfortable with the idea that you are literally thousands of miles from the nearest inhabited rock, and understanding how self-reliant you really can be was a good lesson to learn, and it really



strengthened our relationship. Perhaps even better than that was seeing the world through my children's eyes. It is a totally different experience to all that travelling I did back in my twenties. Children are wonderfully open and accepting of all they meet, and the little things are magic to them. Phosphorescence in the water was called 'stars in the sea' by my two year old daughter, and I would get a running commentary on the colours of tropical fish whilst snorkelling with my four year old son. They have seen more in their pre-school years than most see in a lifetime, and I have no doubt that one day they will want to travel the rest of the world. Maybe they will let me tag along. - Vicki Lowrie

www.facebook.com/dolphinofleith



A MOMENT IN TIME

Treasures and snapshot memories from the first century of classes at St Matthew's have been tucked away safe for posterity inside a time capsule at the school.

Your OG Association played an integral part in installing the time capsule, which has been secured in the rafters of a bell tower beside the school chapel.

The capsule contains memorabilia from the school and a collection of stories from the first 100 years of the school's history but there will still be an element of surprise when it comes to the 'big reveal' in years to come.

Items included newspaper clippings about the Big Weekend, a star cut from the centennial Prelude sculpture, a copy of the centennial book, school badges, items of students' school work, and a felt poppy to represent the WW100 Poppy Project and also the symbolism of the



school centenary coinciding with the commemoration of a century since World War I. - Story and photo credit to Wairarapa Times-Age

HELPING HANDS

Both the Dux Board and the Time Capsule are examples of the way your OG's Association continues to play a key role in the life of our school. SMOGA also supports activities such as the Leaver's Breakfast and the Old Girls Magazine. We are proud of our Scholarship Fund and have joined the School in hosting functions and helping provide facilities such as the Chapel. We have also made significant contributions to the Gymnasium. If you would like to help take the OG's name into the future, we'd love you to consider a donation. You can easily make an online contribution to our bank account, and a receipt will be issued. Please email our Secretary on gbv@xtra.co.nz at the same time you are making payment, using your name and 'donate' as a reference
SMOGA account : 01-0682-0009837-00

Where in the world...

SARAH DOYLE (Donaldson) is a clinical psychologist who helps run a sheep and beef property at Longbush near Masterton. She is also part of a ten-strong team which has launched a campaign to publicise the issue of rural mental health in the Wairarapa and Tararua districts.

JILL BAIRD is a Stud breeder of Southdown sheep and farms her "Wiri" stud east of Masterton.

REIDUN NICHOLSON (Baker) started her career in 2001 as a South Wairarapa mixed animal veterinarian. Since then she has worked on and off between having three children. She is currently working part-time as a small animal practitioner and enjoys all aspects of this work. Outside of work she helps with the family's sheep and beef farm with husband Dan, plays squash and is taxi/supporter to her children's various activities.

The NATHAN GIRLS live worldwide with only SUSAN (Goldwater) now in NZ, living in Howick, Auckland. She and husband Leon recently did a cycle tour in Europe but managed some sightseeing along the way, beating the heat with early starts. MARGARET has her own travel business in Berlin and manages to have work related trips about once a year. JENNIFER lives in Israel with husband Jeff and three daughters. She has a handcraft – dressmaking business. CAROLLYN lives in Sydney and has two primary school aged boys. Last year, she completed her BA and Bed and is presently teaching at a primary school.

CLAIRE SMITH (Andrew) and husband Matt, along with Ben and Penelope, live on the iconic and extensive Tautane Station on the Hawkes Bay Coast. The Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre leases the farm in order to provide practical experience for its students. Groups of eight at a time spend a fortnight there with Matt the manager of the farm as well as ensuring quality farming education of the students. Claire, who trained as a veterinary nurse, looks after their pastoral care with an emphasis on becoming self-reliant in cooking, hygiene etc. – and basically being their go-to person providing guidance and security. Interestingly, 30% of the students now are girls and over 50% of all of their students come from an urban background.

PATTIE O'BOYLE (Groves) is a graduate of the national Agri-Women's Development Trust's Escalator programme to develop women's skills and confidence to govern and lead agricultural organisations and communities. Hitherto she followed a banking career. She and Tony farm in the Tinui district east of Masterton, having moved down from the Rotorua area with their three children a few years ago.

ANNABELLE CHEETHAM spent 20 years abroad working as a freelance singer. Highlights included productions at Covent Garden, the Bayreuth Festival, The Opera Factory Zurich / London and the Station House Opera. Since returning to Wellington she has performed with the NZSO and Christchurch Symphony and was for two years a preliminary judge for

the Lexus Song Quest. Life now revolves around itinerant teaching. Annabelle took the alto vocal soloist role recently with the Wairarapa Singers' presentation of "Mozart in May" in the Rathkeale Auditorium.

FRANCESCA EMMS is an actress who also works in production for Radio New Zealand as a script editor and writer.

GEORGIA JAMIESON EMMS, a N.Z. School of Music graduate, is a trained opera singer who worked several years in Hamburg and has taken roles in musical theatre, opera and operetta productions throughout New Zealand. But her first love is musical theatre and she has formed a company (Wanderlust) to produce shows. Currently "Happily Ever After" is a production that has already been staged in New Plymouth, Wellington and Greytown and is a medley of about twenty songs from celebrated song-writer and lyricist, Stephen Sondheim, woven together by Georgia and sister Francesca. Another from the same sisterly team is "Noel and Cole" which was a runaway success here and in New Plymouth.

The DAUGHTERS OF DEREK AND ELSJE NEAL, the School Librarian, continue on their impressive paths since leaving St Matthew's. Whilst at school both Annelise (2009) and Bronwyn (2012) were Dux and feature on the new School Dux Board in the Foyer of Cleghorn.

MONICA NEAL completed a LLB (Hons, 1st class) and Bachelor of Commerce (Economics) double degree at Victoria University. She then studied at Tilburg University in the Netherlands where she completed a Master's degree in International European Public Law: EU

Economic and Competition Law, which she obtained with cum laude. Monica currently works at KPMG in London.

ANNELISE is in her sixth year of medical school and in December will graduate from Otago University with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. As part of her final year of study she has recently spent three months overseas in hospitals in both Tanzania and Sri Lanka.

BRONWYN is in her third year of studies at Victoria University pursuing a double degree in Law and Commerce majoring in accounting and minoring in Spanish. She is the recipient of a Bell Gully Scholarship, which includes a clerkship at their Wellington office in the 2016/17 summer break.

CYNTHIA CASS (Knox) harbours a life-long fascination for New Zealand's subantarctic islands, stemming from her grandmother's 1890 trip with her two sisters. Brought up with her Aunts' sketch book and illustrated diary, Cynthia has made two trips to the region to paint what she saw and now has held an exhibition of her twenty-seven works in acrylic and watercolour and at the same time launched her book 'We Three Go South' based on her Aunt's diary. The girls were sent off from Thorndon by their Minister of Lands father wearing high-buttoned boots, flimsy coats and essentials which included a bottle of Eno's Fruit Salts, a supply of "snuffpokes" and their violins. It was a rigorous trip with animals and birds shot along the way to help fill the larder - and they loved every minute of the voyage. The ship's carpenter became Cynthia's grandfather and with her grandmother settled on a farm at Pahiatua

on which Cynthia and her partner, Ian, have lived on and farmed for many years. Cynthia trained in art and pursued a career as a graphic designer before developing the Taj gallery and eatery in Courtney Place in Wellington.

CHARLOTTE GENDALL (Miller) recently moved to the Kapiti Coast with her husband Warwick. She's currently taking a break from the early shift on Morning Report but is still involved in a range of voluntary activities including RDA and The CatWalk Trust.

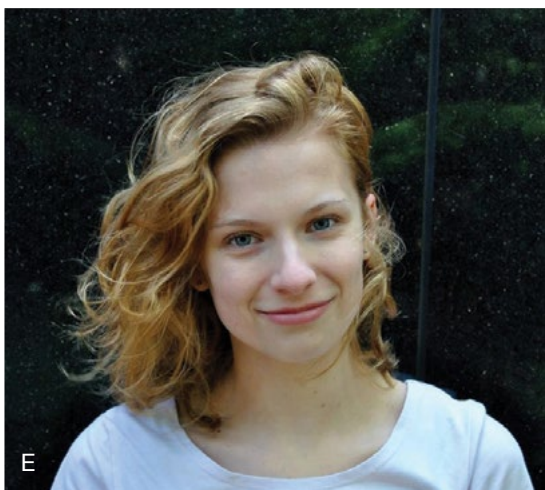
EMMA-YVONNE SIMONS is studying the performing arts in Wellington and played a leading role in the Summer Shakespeare production staged this year in the Botanical Gardens. The Whitireia student says her years at St. Matthew's helped lay the foundation for her dramatic talent having enjoyed roles in junior shows before appearing in Senior College productions and in the Sheilah Winn Festival.

CHARLOTTE MEO is now teaching Year 1 pupils at Douglas Park Primary School in Masterton. Charlotte and Harriet Cameron and Libby Monaghan played hockey together whilst students in Christchurch.

LEIGH HEALY (1978 – 81) is the proprietor of the "must visit" Hightide Cafe/Restaurant on Highway One along the Kapiti Coast, according to replete Old Girls.)

KATE BLACKWOOD completed her PhD in Human Resources at Auckland University and is now a researcher there.

BECKY CORKILL (Blackwood) is now living at Hinewaka, Gladstone, working on the farm and doing relief teaching.



PEGGY BLACKWOOD (Booth) has sold her home and is now living at St Andrews Village, Glendowie, Auckland. She keeps in touch with Marion Timpany (Hugo) and Judith Brady.

Marine expert INGRID VISSER was back in the news recently, as supervisor in a research project which successfully proved that orca migrate thousands of kilometres between the Antarctic and Northland. Ingrid was also in the headlines when she took on the might of Seaworld for wrongly using one of her earlier research papers in the controversy over keeping orca in captivity.

SUE CASWELL (Ashford) writes that she is now the health safety environment quality and HR manager for a medium sized civil contracting company in Bunbury WA, which is about 2 hours south of Perth.

"I have worked on a cattle station in the Pilbara as well as contracting in the HR space with a brief stint as the Account Manager for a commercial cleaning company where I was responsible for the cleaners who cleaned the hardfloors, back of house and amenities for 80 Coles supermarkets in WA. I had around 240 staff and 4 area managers. The hours (most of my teams started at 4am or 9pm) got me in the end.

"I have been in regular touch with STEPH HAWORTH, ONDY HERRICK (Tomlinson) and of course DI ASHFORD (Fagan) who is my sister-in-law. Di and Paul (her husband) now own a plumbing and drain laying company in Whangamata.

"My children have all grown up and Daniel Saunders (ex Rathkeale Head Boy) is a barrister and solicitor in the City of London

while Campbell Saunders has his own project management and fit out company in Perth."

SALLY CALDWELL (Warren) continues her nursing career in Masterton and was recently featured in the news testing out a new optical coherence tomography machine, donated to the local hospital by two benefactors. The OCT machine is worth about \$70,000 and will mean patients no longer having to make costly trips to Wellington for assessment.

FRAN SCOTT (Algie) continues to sing the praises of Wairarapa, and particularly Featherston. Fran's Patrick & Scott Professionals real estate branch has expanded over the past 12 months, coping with an influx of Wellingtonians seeking to escape the rat race for life over the Rimutakas.

After two years in the UK, ALICE AMES-DUREY has been in Italy, teaching English to teenagers at a summer language school.

ROSIE DAVIES, currently teaching at Douglas Park School in Masterton, took leave during 2015 to meet up with Alice. Together, they planned to travel to Turkey where they would spend a couple of weeks on tour.

GENEVA TOPP is completing a four year degree specialising in textiles at Massey University, with plans to go to New York. Earlier in her career, Geneva spent a gap year in England grooming polo ponies, among them Prince Harry's.

TRINA DICKSON (Spiers) married Andrew. They are now living in Hawkes Bay, and Trina had Amy Ames-Durey as a bridesmaid.

This information is correct to the best of our knowledge.

DANIELLE BURKHART (Matthews) continues to make an impact in the world of fashion. Already the founder of Wellington startup label My Boyfriends Back, Dani has recently expanded her interests to boutique fashion store Hebe in Kuripuni. Husband Johnny has continued his own career as a commercial fisherman while helping fit out the shop, and the young couple are also kept busy raising son Jett.

JENNY LUND (Stewart) now lives in the Masonic Village in Levin.

DEBBIE COOM (Commin) travelled to Florida in November where she was a member of the "International Pink Sisters" breast cancer dragon boat team. 101 teams from all over the world competed, all breast cancer survivors. The IPS team members were from Canada, USA and three New Zealanders. Husband Peter reportedly said he'd never seen so much pink! They combined the trip with 24 days in a camper van, exploring the eastern seaboard of Canada.

And finally, a great group of friends got together in March, with 34 Old Girls meeting for lunch in Palmerston North. They came from Hawkes Bay, Taupo, Wairarapa, Levin, Feilding, Woodville and Marton, as well as from the local area. OG's

known and previously unknown mixed fully and shared memories enthusiastically. It was such a success that a similar occasion will very likely be repeated next year. Any OGs who would like to join in, please contact Lynn Lamb (Masterton), Inga Ward (PN) or Bev Armistead (Feilding).

Here's the lineup: Bev Armistead (Bunny), Pam Wilson (Houlbrooke), Lynn Lamb (Watson), Mary Perry (Huntley), Sue Hall (Harrison), Inga Ward (Andriesen), Judy Lund (Stewart), Pat McFarlane (Allen), Robin Death (Campbell), Errol Warren (Ashdown), Adrienne McKay (Pavitt), Ann Hennebry (Gregorie), Kaye Levin (Mills), Jocelyn Truebridge (Morison), Sally Ford (McKenzie), Brenda Perry (Pavitt), Dale Dick (McLachlan), Jillian Williamson (Dove), Sonia MacKenzie (Hansen), Hilary Cavanagh (Wallace), Joss Gray (Hancox), Jo Williamson (Anderson), Barbara Johnson (Matthews), Nell Mountford (Darley), Joyce Collinson (Bell), Geraldine Beer (Udy), Elaine Swanney (Eglinton), Codge Hewitt (Donald), Barbara Day (Chadwick), Josie Broad (Healey), Brenda Cunningham (Harding), Judy Callisen (Akers), Maxine Mulligan (McKinstry), Diane Dermer (Beetham).

*Editors note: what a great idea!
Why don't other areas put something
similar together?*





REMEMBERING MARGARET MILNE

SADLY, 2015 SAW THE PASSING OF A NUMBER OF ST MATTHEW'S OLD GIRLS, AS WE RECORD WITH OUR IN MEMORIAM COLUMN. ONE OF THOSE WAS MARGARET MILNE (CREECH) WHO PRIOR TO HER DEATH WAS RECOGNISED WITH AN EXHIBITION OF NEEDLEWORK AT MASTERTON'S ARATOI MUSEUM. TO HONOUR MARGARET, WE REPRINT A MUSEUM ARTICLE ABOUT HER BEAUTIFUL WORK.

Margaret Milne's exhibition might well be whimsically self titled 'Four hundred shades of DMC' – DMC being the brand of embroidery thread Margaret has become well acquainted with over many decades of needlecraft.

Despite contending with a serious illness, Margaret's energy levels may be diminished but her sense of humour is not.

"There are 453 colours in the DMC range and I think I must have most of them," she says.

Handwork has been a constant in

Margaret's life ever since she was introduced to it by a cousin's grandmother, aged about six. Around this time she also learnt to use a treadle Singer sewing machine. She was born in North Carolina, the daughter of an American GI and a Wairarapa girl. She came to New Zealand with her family when she was a toddler and later attended St Matthews as a boarder. Since then, she has always had a base in Wairarapa and always regarded the region as home, despite living in Wellington and overseas with husband Derek and five children at different periods.

According to a school friend Liz Waddington (nee Cowie), Margaret was an independent spirit from early on: "She got ragged for doing sewing and stitching, because it was different from the sort of 'jolly hockey sticks' sports everyone else was doing then," says Liz.

Margaret did her teachers training in Wellington and during that time learnt about Polish needlework traditions from a friend's mother. She found the bold colours and images of birds and animals exciting. She taught at primary school level and continued with her handwork, working in almost every imaginable type of stitch from tatting and lacework to knitting and quilting, and also sewing and dressmaking for her children.

She reconnected with her American heritage in the 1960s, visiting her grandmother in North Carolina, which is known as 'the cradle of quilt-making'. "My grandmother told me she had two things to teach me: how to kill and dress a chicken, and how to make a quilt," she says.

Quilting has since become a widespread and popular hobby but its roots go back to pioneering days in this region: "They never stopped quilting in North Carolina," says Margaret.

Derek's work as a scientist took the couple to Botswana in the early 2000s and there Margaret experienced the wealth of African crafts, including beading and Afrikaner embroidery. While in Africa, she did christening gowns and decoupage, some of which was on display in the exhibition.

Margaret says she's always had to have "something on the go," and the exhibition showcases her wide variety of work and the high level of artistry she has achieved. But she insists that there's nothing difficult about embroidery: "All you have to have is stamina," she says. – www.aratoi.org.nz



CONNECT WITH US

Stay in touch with Old Girls of St Matthews all over the globe, 365 days of the year via our facebook page. Become a fan, send us a message or story of your whereabouts facebook.com/stmatthews.oldgirls

2015 SMOGA

AGM

Tuesday 17th November, 4pm

Judy Young Centre,
St Matthew's Collegiate School,
Pownall St, Masterton

AGENDA

- AGENDA
- Present
- Apologies
- Minutes 2014 AGM
 - to be distributed at the 2015 Meeting
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Financial Statement to August 2015
- General Business
- Election of Officers
 - President, Secretary, Treasurer
- Also - Committee, Scholarship Convenor

Tea and coffee will be served