



# SCEGGS Moss Vale Old Girls' Union

## Newsletter April 2013

Greetings,

Welcome to the April newsletter. We have the usual reunions planned for the next twelve months:

**Old Girls' Weekend** – July, falls on the weekend of the 4th Sunday - Dormie House, Moss Vale  
**Queensland Combined OGU** – Gold Coast Breakfast; Brisbane AGM – [www.sceggs.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sceggs.nsw.edu.au)  
**Lunch in the City** – March, first Saturday - Restaurant Mosaic, Westin Hotel, Martin Place, Sydney.



Numbers were down for the November dinner which led to its cancellation, which is a shame because Jan Gluth (Kirkwood), Judy Chapman and I celebrated in India.

We went on one of Judy's wonderful tours, Judy is an India expert with many years experience in tourism. We took some photos of course!

After we painted the elephants Jan and Judy rode them bareback!

**Martha would like expressions of interest in the November dinner for this year, please phone or email her if you would like her to organise a dinner in Sydney this year.** Details will be included in next newsletter.

We would like to welcome the class of 1963 to Old Girls' weekend, please contact Anne or Martha with details if you are organising your class reunion this year.

Please note that *Old Girls' Weekend will be held on the third weekend in July* and not the fourth, for this year only.

*Luceat Lux Vestra, Anne Worboys, Hon President*

### Treasurer's Report 2012-2013

25.4.2013	Balance			\$9,117.63
		Income	Expense	
8.5.12	Membership	\$50.00		
8.5.12	Newsletter postage		\$100.00	
8.8.12	Website fees		\$55.00	
14.9.12	Website fees		\$165.00	
17.9.12	Newsletter postage		\$92.25	
18.10.12	Website fees		\$137.50	
16.11.12	Membership	\$50.00		
24.12.12	Term Deposit Interest	\$337.53		
1.3.13	Membership	\$50.00		
	<b>Total Balance</b>	<b><u>\$487.53</u></b>	<b><u>\$549.75</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,055.41</u></b>
	Term Deposit	\$8,000.00		
	Cash on hand			\$160.70
	<b>Total funds available</b>			<b><u>\$9,216.11</u></b>

*Martha Birch, Hon. Treasurer*

### Old Girls' Weekend at Moss Vale – 19-21 July

To make your bookings for accommodation or Saturday dinner contact Dormie House: phone: 4868-1800 [dormie@mossvalegolfclub.com.au](mailto:dormie@mossvalegolfclub.com.au). Contact Anne to book for Saturday and Sunday Lunch.

## Room Rates

### Bed & Breakfast

Deluxe room \$229.00 per room (2 People)

View room \$239.00 per room (2 People)

Standard single room \$135.00

**Dinner only** 1 course \$22, 2 courses \$35 and 3 courses \$45

### Dinner Bed & Breakfast

Deluxe room \$315.00 per room (2 People)

View room \$325.00 per room (2 People)

Standard single room \$179

## Program

**Friday** **Dinner** Moss Vale, TBA – please contact Anne for details

**Saturday** **Lunch** 12pm at Robertson Cheese Factory Cafe

**Dinner** Dormie House - Drinks 6.30 pm followed by Dinner 7.30 pm

**Sunday** 9am Service and morning tea at **Christ Church Bong Bong**

**Lunch** The Briars 11.30am

## Lunch in the City 2013

We had a superb lunch at Restaurant Mosaic attended by 16 of us, mostly, but not all, 'Mary's girls' from the 50's.



Robyn Weller (Witney), Jill Fisher (Slade), Shane Leddin (Browne) Anne Tyas (McGrath) and Ann Hardy (Roberts) (hidden), Rosemary Millard (Evans), Susie Kennedy (Wright) Janelle Ruiz-Avila (Irvine), Sue Entwistle (Moore) Mary O'Connell (Bouffler).



Roslyn Currie (Shaw) and Margaret Rockwell (Dean)



Julie Brackenreg, Ann Bartlett (Saunders), Sue Cooper (Wilson), Roslyn Shaw and Margaret Rockwell

## Correspondence and feedback from the web

18.9.12, Hi Martha, I really enjoy receiving the SCEGGS OGU newsletters - I do remember some other names, unfortunately I rarely see any names of girls who were in my year, I attended secondary school at Moss Vale, completing my HSC in 1968. Hopefully, if not this year then 2013 I will get to catch up with some of you. Regards, *Yvonne Pomroy*

Dear Martha, Thank you, and Anne, for keeping us all together with the luncheons, dinners and weekends. I love reading the news and will try to submit something for the next newsletter. Kind regards, *Barbara Carlsen*

Thank you for posting the newsletters through to me. We have finally given in and have the internet, thanks to a dongle (?) as reception at our place almost useless. I would be happy to receive the news through this and it should make your task a bit less arduous I hope. I noted Jane Jenkins death which was a bit of a shock, though I don't know why as it seems all too frequent to hear of people our age suddenly not with us. I hope all is well with you. I hear scraps of news through Janet but am not that good at keeping up. I found the reunion I went to a bit overwhelming and it was seriously pathetic on my part to find I hardly remembered anyone, (you are one I certainly do remember as you have been a constant presence in the school newsletters. You do a great job. Many thanks for keeping me in the loop, *Rosemary Nurse (Young-Whitford)*

September 2012, Hello Martha, Since leaving school, I have studied Music in England and then taught music in Australia. I also run our 1000 acre beef cattle property here at Moss Vale with my husband. We have one son (15 years) boarding at Scots at Bellevue Hill. I have played polocrosse for many years with the Burradoo Polocrosse Club. I have been singing in a local choir for nearly 35 years and still play piano and organ occasionally in concerts. *Ros (Murphy) Brackenreg (1974)*

I am seeking information about my aunt *Joan Donald* who I understand boarded at Moss Vale . I think she would have been there 1936~38 or thereabouts. Jill Redmyre email provided.

I have had an enquiry from the great niece of Miss Amy Brooks who would like to write a history of her life. You may remember her from your years at Moss Vale. Miss Brooks was the House Mistress for some years (c1960s - 1970s). If you have any memories of Miss Brooks that you would like to send to Christine Ball, you can email her direct at email provided I have copied her original email below: (*Martha*)

Hello, I'm a great niece of *Amy Leila Brook* who was house mistress at SCEGGS Moss Vale for some time (c1960s - 1970s). Recently I have been going through old family photos and have found many of Auntie Amy. I would like to write a short history

about her life to leave with her photos. I was very fond of her and I'm keen for her not to be forgotten (she didn't marry or have children). So I'm wondering if any of the old Mossvale girls have stories or memories of her. Thank you, *Christine Ball*

Hi, My name is *Ray Baker*, I recently contacted Prue Heath Archivist from SCEGGS Darlinghurst in regards to finding out more information about SCEGGS Moss Vale as I'm putting a book together for my Mother I had recently been down to the old school and had taken some pictures which will be passed on to you ladies. I am a keen photographer and was wanting to take some more pictures with my daughter and her friend with the old school as a backdrop. I was wanting to make these picture as authentic as possible as I was going to do a sepia effect to them..I had been trying to source out school tunics of the school or the pleated full length dress so as to dress my daughter and friend. I had tried various OP shops in the Southern highlands without any success and was wondering if any of you ladies would still have the uniform of the school and would like to sell them...regards Ray email provided (my apologies this item should have been placed in an earlier newsletter!)

Thank you for the luncheon invitation, but we will be leaving on 23<sup>rd</sup> February for our home – boat in the Med., having spent our usual 3 months in Sydney. I very much look forward to being in Sydney when one of these reunions comes about, but for the next 5 years we will be away except for the festive season here. Then we will be hopefully settling in Sydney and perhaps then I will be able to attend one of these. I appreciate being on the list and being informed about these functions, so please keep me there...one day. All the very best to you and a big hello to anyone who left SCEGGS Moss Vale at the end of 1965, which was the year I left having done the leaving certificate. Enjoy the lunch and each others' company. *Carolyn Mitchell (nee Hellicar)*

Dear Anne and Martha, Thanks again for the newsy info. which was great to read. I knew Ann Tedder (Cotter ) and her sister Margaret at School..... Should you be free to forward Ann's email address, or vice versa ---great. I see Ann lives in Canberra , a city I'm getting to know quite well.

Anne, I'd be pleased to have a reminder of the Luncheon at The Westin in March next year as I do hope to attend.

Martha, I will be attending the Dinner at Twin towers And will send my cheque to your address. Thank-you and my regards to you both. *Robyn Weller*

Thank you for the info. Will send Robyn an em, Fun! *Ann*

Good to hear that there are still some of us around. Unfortunately I will not be able to come along to the luncheon due to a prior arrangement, however, please give my best to all the "girls" and I hope to catch up in due course. Cheers *Barbara ("Lucy" Harman) Steel*

Letter to Kathleen Bone (Bong Bong)

... many thanks for sending the SCEGGS Newsletter. I can't remember who spoke to me re SCEGGS and the big re-union Actually I was told it was a "Briars" re-union and I was very thrilled to hear something of the 'Briars'. However, I realise the only mention of the Briars was the meal the "girls" went to! My interest in the "B" is that I was working there in 1974/75 as House Mistress to 12 little Primary girls (boarders) at the time the school folded up so I'm not an "Old Girl".

I've wondered all these years what happened to those "little" girls who now would be about 48! It was a terrible time for us all. I returned to Sydney to work and the girls (together with the older girls) all had to find new schools! Most of the girls you mentioned were at the school before 1970 so obviously I didn't know them. I did teach Craft and Divinity as well to the older girls and so knew how they were feeling re the school closure. However one name was familiar – Penny Clark – daughter of Colin Clark (Rev) who was the Headmaster. ...

You will realise by now that even tho' I'm not an "old girl" of the school but **am** an old girl of 86!! So why am I writing. Just to acknowledge your newsletter and I was hoping to read something of those girls of '74/75. I can remember some of their names for you to print maybe\*. Many thanks again for bothering to contact me – much appreciated, Sincerely, *Val Clements (Miss)*

\*Deidre Newman, Karen Chechick, Belinda ?, Tracey Sharp, Melinda ?, Kate Hargreaves, Kathy Swan, Heather?, ? Freeman, my off-sider was a girl called Lyn, who was a teacher in Moss Vale. *We have an address if you would like to contact Miss Clements.*

### **Can you help with contact details for the following members:**

Older Dead letters from last mail out - Roslyn Wruck (Englert) 1957 or 58; Helen Cobham 1974 M; Gillian Dodswell 1974; Helen Dodwell (Read); Debra Nelson (Eldridge) ? Gynea Bay NSW; Jenny Brown; Geraldine Caswell; Tracy Skelton (McIlisky) no details Friend of Michelle Hertz Murray; Robyn Northdurft no details 1972-73; Robin Brown no details 1950; Claire Dippert; Jan Bowen 02; Liz Varley moved to mail out; Juno Gemes move to mail out with note for email.

## **Vale**

### **Helen Anice Furner Jordan**



**Helen is 3rd from the right on the cart**

I received your September newsletter, which you sent to Helen Jordan, while I was in Sydney a couple of weeks ago. Just to let you know that Helen passed away on the 19th March in Sydney 2012. She was looked after by my father who is her cousin.

It is nice to see the SCEGGS girls have kept in contact for so long. I have a number of Helen's school photos. She was there from 1943 to 1953.

Regards, *Adam Jordan*

She was in my class (in 1947 - 1952) until I repeated 2nd year. Her father owned the pharmacy in Moss Vale and she was a day girl...lived in Avalon for many years...never married. Was a gentle girl...tall and always a bit gangly bless her. So she must have been the only other day girl besides Pamela Shaw and Suzanne Robertson. I don't remember any others. And I was correct, she was a year ahead of us, so would have left in 1955. *Helen Adams.*

**Jill Susan Phelps** passed away very peacefully at home after a courageous fight against Cancer, dearest friend and companion to Anne and Margaret, loving sister and aunt to her brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces. A Funeral service was held on Tuesday October 16th 2.00pm at St Andrews Church, Chew Magna.



**Jill in happier times on the verandah in 1951 with classmates Morna, Fran & Lesley**



**THE HOCKEY TEAM**

**R Wittey, J Phelps, L Jones, W Kelly, J. Slade, R Tomkins, V Gaden, A Crawford, J Ison, C Clarke and M Bouffler (sourced from Lux of 1951 by Jill Fisher (Slade) – Jill was also in the Cricket Team**

Jill is remembered by her school friends as coming to Moss Vale sometime in 1950 when she was in 2nd Year. She left at the end of the Intermediate and went to Abbotsleigh. Did Kinder teaching and when last located for the year of '53 50 year reunion she was living in England near Bristol. *Jill Fisher (Slade)*

**Deborah "Bud" Jane Haeata (nee Knox) 5.12.1944 - 6.3.2013**



Died peacefully in her sleep after a 2 year battle with Upper Motor Neurone Disease. She is sadly missed by her family, Lan her mother, Hiona and Sam her two children and Martha and John her siblings. Her life was a varied one and retirement made space for Line Dancing and good friends. Deb boarded at MV from 1960-62 and was in MacCallum House. She topped the State in Art for the Leaving Certificate and went on to East Sydney Tech to study. *Martha Birch (Knox)*

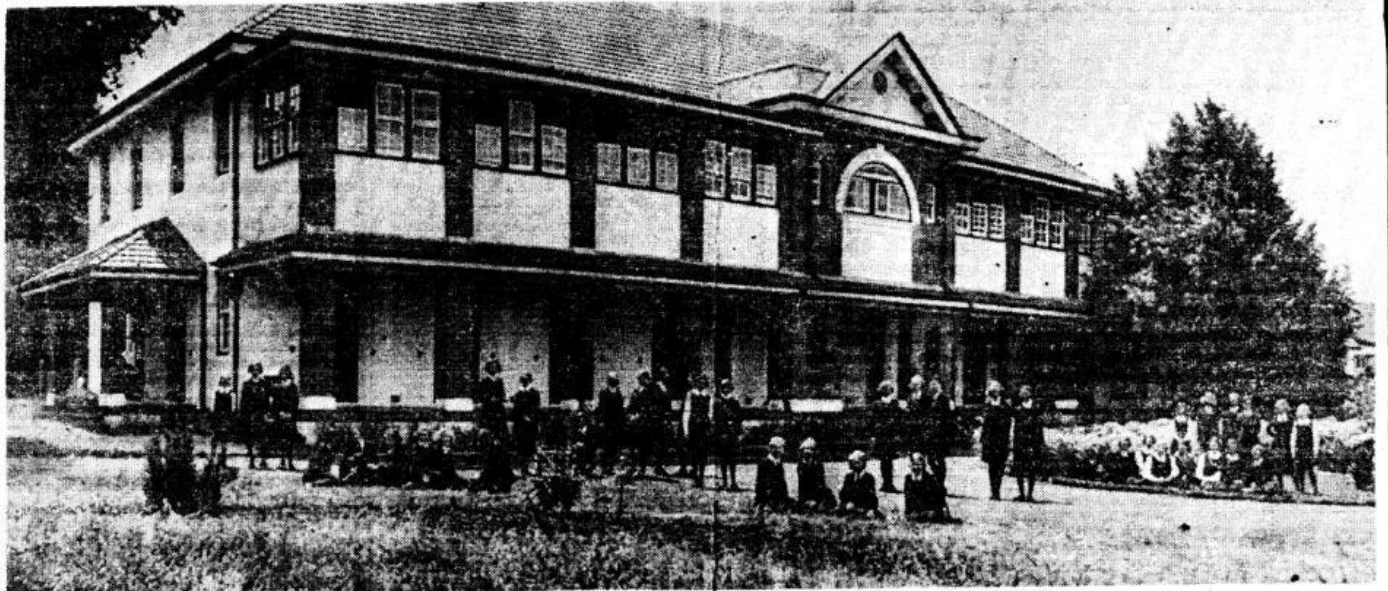
**Miscellanea**

**Angela of Stroud**  
SCULPTOR OF SPIRIT: The story of Angela of Stroud is a recent illustrated book by Faith Reid, on the life of Sister Angela of Stroud, a deeply committed and unconventional woman who lived at the crossroads of Australian spirituality. At first a distinguished Australian sculptor exhibiting in London, then an enclosed nun in Oxford, and finally an Anglican priest in Newcastle Diocese, Angela developed a contemplative way of life uniquely incorporating Christian tradition, Aboriginal spirituality and feminist theology. This is a fascinating record of the creative impulse which led to the building of a mudbrick monastery

in the tree-clad hills of Stroud on Angela's return to Australia with a group of nuns in 1972. Faith Reid has put together these memoirs of Angela's adventures. She has drawn on countless tape-recordings and conversations with Angela and contributions from others. One contributor, Tom Bass, knew her for a lifetime and has written the Foreword. The book details the tensions between being a creative artist and a dedicated nun, and the challenges for a woman priest in the patriarchal hierarchy of the Church. The cost of the book is \$30.00, if paying online at [www.sculptorofspirit.com.au](http://www.sculptorofspirit.com.au)

**The ongoing life of the monastery at Stroud**  
The Friends of Stroud Monastery Management Committee manage and maintain the Monastery for workshops, retreats, and individual stays. Please consider using it and helping to preserve it and the original vision for which it was formed. Bookings are made through the Samaritans, Newcastle. Phone 49607100. [mail@samaritans.org.au](mailto:mail@samaritans.org.au) If you have any past connections, stories or artifacts relating to the history of the Monastery, the Archive Committee would like to hear from you, c/- Rosemary Christmas, [rosemary.christmas@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.christmas@gmail.com)

**Rosemary Waugh-Allcock**  
“Eventually I went to school at SCEGGS at Moss Vale. They gave me a room by myself and I do distinctly remember, on the bedside table, a chunky book which I had taken with me. It was called The Australian Stud Boo,. That was the beginning of another part of my life. The headmistress at SCEGGS was Miss Margaret Steele, an English woman educated at Cambridge, a Greek scholar, who had lost her boyfriend in the First World War. She was absolutely gorgeous to look at even if she was square and plump and jolly. Most of the mistresses (this being war time), were English, Austrian or French. And, really I had a ball there, for three or four years. When I first arrived Miss Steele took a long look at me and said, “Ah, hmm, I think the best thing you can do: the art room is over there, and the library is over there, and you can sit in on any class you would like.” So I did! I have never sat for an exam in my life. My mother, I think, was very disappointed actually that I didn’t go to university. But I’ve been too busy all my life. After I left school I stayed at home and helped my parents.”  
**Excerpt from Clarence Valley Women – Discover Our Way, the oral histories of nine fantastic and diverse women; Colleen Hattersley and Robyne Bancroft.**



Moss Vale and Mittagong, nestling in the Southern Highlands, have two things in common — they boast two of the State's most exclusive girls' boarding schools.

The common factor will be lost when, at the end of the academic year, in December, the Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School (S.C.E.G.G.S.) in Moss Vale will close.

By Staff Journalist  
ANDY DAWSON

Frensham, part of Winifred West Schools Ltd in Mittagong, will continue with a bright and healthy future.

The two schools, founded on like principles and for similar reasons, have developed in different ways.

During the early part of the century the area was favored by several people associated with education, as an ideal situation for boarding schools.

In 1906, S.C.E.G.G.S. opened a country branch at its Darlinghurst school, at Bowral, and in 1930 moved to Moss Vale.

The reason for its departure from a wholly city-based school organisation was the same as that given by the late Miss Winifred West who, on her return from England, with the assistance of the late Miss Phyllis Clubbe, founded Frensham, at Mittagong, some 10 miles from Moss Vale, in 1913.

Their reason: simplicity and space of country life was desirable.

Both were, and still are, girls' schools, which cater predominantly for boarding students. They both rely on fees.

There the similarities become less noticeable. S.C.E.G.G.S. is a church school. Frensham, the founder member of the growing Winifred West School's Ltd education complex.

Although at face value both schools would appear to be serving the same purpose, and drawing from similar sources, they are different.

S.C.E.G.G.S. will close at the end of the year, due to economic pressure. Frensham has no intention of closing.

S.C.E.G.G.S. a single school set in 500 acres of dairy land on the outskirts of Moss Vale, has about 190 students and 24 teachers.

The school has about 30 acres for its immediate use,

but the farm is an integral part of student life.

It is a small school facing high costs. The raising of fees at present \$680 each term for a senior girl was considered an alternative to closure.

That alternative was discussed.

The headmaster the Rev. Colin Clark, said "It would put the school beyond the reach of many parents and in consequence would mean further increase in fees.

"It would defeat the object of the school: to provide an alternative," he said.

The costs were mainly those of rising wages.

Frensham, like S.C.E.G.G.S., is Christian, but unlike S.C.E.G.G.S. is not under the auspices of any one denomination.

It is a school of about 300 students of which all but 13 are boarders. School fees for a senior boarder are \$807 each term.

The school is one of a group covering all aspects of education. Sturt, a craft workshop which combines professional production with student training and adult and pupil teaching, opened in 1941. Gib Gate, a primary day and boarding school, began in 1953, and Hatfield opened in 1968 as an alternative progressive education for senior senior students.

Headmistress Miss C. Parker said the organisation has developed where needs arose, each individual school is autonomous, and tries to be self-supporting.

"Because we have to make ends meet, the fees charged exclude many parents," she said.

Both schools, in the early 60's saw the closure of a third girl's school in their locale. Annesley, a Methodist school was forced to close.

S.C.E.G.G.S. faces a similar demise, and in turn, Frensham, the remaining school of the three will ex-

# The bells toll for old school

● S.C.E.G.G.S. as it was in happier days before the 60s. Students stand in front of what is now the dining hall.

The school prospectus describes it as "alternative progressive education for senior students."

"Not everyone has to go to university. Some have other talents, which can be found and developed," Miss Parker said.

The school is part of Mittagong. Clubbe Hall, built as an auditorium has become a focal point in the district, and Sturt workshops link the school with other parts of the district, and in some cases with the world. The diversification has occurred as it was warranted benefiting not only the school, but also the community.

"It would be ideal to be in the community, but we are a restricted part of the community," Miss Parker said. Two schools of similar concepts, each offering an alternative education.

S.C.E.G.G.S. will close in December, Frensham will continue.

S.C.E.G.G.S. has served the community, and educated thousands of girls from walks of life, from all parts of Australia and from overseas.

Its closing marks the end of an era.



● REV. CLARKE



● MISS PARKER

tend an offer of places to about 40 students.

Frensham headmistress Miss Parker said the school was a little pushed on the boarding side.

The two Sydney S.C.E.G.G.S. and Wollongong S.C.E.G.G.S. Gleniffer Brae, have guaranteed day girl places to all the girls.

S.C.E.G.G.S. School Council chairman Canon Prescott has said they are considering taking a large house in Wollongong and Darlinghurst to enable them to increase boarding accommodation.

Rev. Clark pointed out a boarding school by its very nature is operative 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"This fact produces its own difficulties," he said.

"The academic staff don't feel the end of the school bell marks the end of the day; they work as an integral part of the school."

"However, union rates our salary bills prohibitively high.

"The irregular hours for non-academic staff are governed by penalty rates.

"For example, our food budget for the year was in March estimated at \$50,000. In July, a closer estimate would be \$65,000.

"The ratio between food and staff pay which these figures cover, was about 50-50. It is now estimated as 30-70."

Pupil population is probably the main factor in the ultimate decision to close the school.

ternative style of education, and the opportunity of choice in education.

The school has moved with the times. It began life in Moss Vale in the Lackey's family home, and added buildings and extensions as required.

The most recent addition has been the library with a comprehensive video-tape unit, which is piped into every classroom. The students installed and wired in the equipment. The unit is also used for the other schools in the group.

There is also the opportunity for the girl who does not wish to continue to university, to study a commercial course, including shorthand and typing.

The chapel was extended in 1963, but had been in the public eye in November, 1961, when tragedy struck during a morning service.

A man entered the chapel, shot dead a senior student and wounded the then headmistress, Miss Jean Turnbull. Students held the man until

police arrived.

A boarding house was added in 1962 to accommodate students from the defunct Annesley Girls' School.

"Parents of the girl's here have always been helpful," Rev. Clark said.

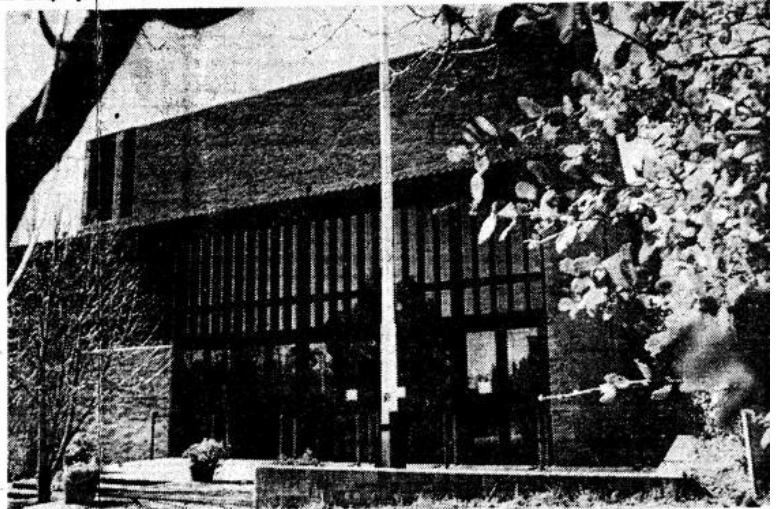
"We owe a great deal to them, apart from the new buildings they have raised money for.

"The loss of the school will affect a great number of people in the community, and will produce a great gap in the education structure," he said.

Frensham was the first of a series of educational centres under the auspice of Winifred West School Ltd around which others grew as the need arose.

Miss Parker said: "As a group we can dare be innovative, be looked at, and gauged."

In 1968 Hatfield was started for senior girls who may not be academic.



● Clubbe Hall, named after a foundation member of Frensham school, the late Miss

Phyllis Clubbe. It is the School Hall and auditorium, seating 750.



All historical photos courtesy of the Grey family collections. They were taken between 1957 and 1961



# A school in the country

by Emma Biscoe

**“The more delicate girls could benefit from the bracing country air”**

*SCEGGS governing body, 1906*

IN 1906 the SCEGGS (Sydney Church of England Girls' Grammar School) located in Darlinghurst decided to open a school in the country, for the benefit of its more delicate students. And the rest, they say, is history.

Some of this rich history of SCEGGS in Bowral was discussed at the recent reunion of former students late last year.

The SCEGGS Moss Vale Alumni Year of 1962 celebrated its 50th year reunion, continuing the long tradition of an annual “Old Girls’ Weekend” who meet for a lunch at Exeter, an evening dinner at Dormie House, followed by a Church service at Christ Church, Bong Bong, and lunch at Briars.

The 50th year reunion of the class of 1962 was attended by more than 30 former students, along with students from other years, and organiser Mrs Shane Leddin said she was very appreciative of the Moss Vale community for hosting the group so well in terms of accommodation, shopping, food and wine venues and the welcome extended to them in local shops and craft outlets.

The alumni reminisced about the places their parents stayed in the 50s and 60s, Christ Church Bong Bong, the Railway Station, Whytes (who provided clothing required by boarders at the school), the Moss Vale Show and many other community spots.

The school complex, which still contains the original dormitories, administration building, theatres and science labs is no longer very visible from surrounding roads due to the encroachment of private industrial land.

The location of the former boarding school was in the current open land off Sutor Road where the avenue of trees can still be seen leading past the lake to a remaining building.

Although SCEGGS originated in a variety of forms in Bowral in 1906 it became a dedicated boarding school in Moss Vale from 1930 to 1974.

The school history dates back to the Sydney Church of England Girls' Grammar School (SCEGGS) Darlinghurst, whose governing body opened the Bowral branch in 1906, so “the more delicate girls could benefit from the bracing country air” according to the SCEGGS Darlinghurst Archives.

The school moved to various Bowral locations until it eventually acquired its own property “Yerenbah”.

However, as numbers increased, there was a need for a new expanded school, and an opportunity arose to acquire an existing property at Bong Bong which was set on a large area of land with river frontage and a lake.

The original school building, Hammond House, had been built by a benefactor for a boys' home but it did not go ahead and the property was sold to SCEGGS which then became SCEGGS Moss Vale, a truly country boarding school, now with a permanent home, the move taking place in term two 1930.

“There was a large lake, splendid paddocks and fine paying fields for cricket, tennis, hockey and basketball. Flower gardens were laid out and a long driveway led from the roadway entrance to the main building Hammond”.

Numbers of boarders swelled during war years and the school farm was developed and provided food items for boarders.

The School Chapel and the School Hall were built in the 1950s and The Briars (which adjoined the school property) was purchased in 1960 for use as a home science building, but

also conveniently provided accommodation for many girls after a fire in one of the dormitories that year.

Unfortunately, by 1974, due to changing economic factors the SCEGGS Council decided: “A small country boarding school could not survive without immediately doubling the enrolments and existing facilities already strained to the limit”.

So SCEGGS closed after 69 years of dedicated service to “thousands of girls from all walks of life, from all parts of Australia and from overseas”.

For many years, Christ Church, Bong Bong, the oldest Church in the Highlands, was the school's primary spiritual home (as well as St. John's, Moss Vale). The President of the SCEGGS Moss Vale Old Girls' Union, Mrs Anne Worboys, and Mrs Leddin gave special thanks to the Christ Church community.

“The clergy and congregation always welcome us when we meet each July. Special thanks to Mr David Edwards who led the service and to the Rector, Dean Reilly whose sermon was really inspiring,” Mrs Worboys said.

The visitors also complimented those who have returned the church to its former glory, in reference to the recent extensive interior renovations to the NSW Heritage Listed Church. Mrs Worboys added: “Their morning teas are to die for.” Services are held every Sunday at 9.00 am.

*Acknowledgement for all resource material to SCEGGS Darlinghurst Archives and appreciation for the cooperation received from Mrs Mary Maltby, Archivist.*

