



SCEGGS Moss Vale Old Girls' Union

Annual Newsletter April 2020

Welcome to your 2020 Newsletter,

A very successful day once again for our reunion at North Sydney, thank you all for your support, it is very encouraging. We had a record attendance of 44 Old Girls, from 1953 to 1975. We were lucky that we managed to hold the luncheon before the Social Isolation put a stop to large gatherings. I hope you are all safe and well and coping with the enforced isolation.

Don't forget to note the date of next year's reunion in your diary, **Saturday 6th March, 2021**. Reunions are great fun and every year we get many first timers! Do you have a special anniversary year next year?



As those of you who were there know, we sadly saw the retirement of Anne Worboys from the Presidency of our Union. She was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers and an etched vase, displaying her years of service to us. We are all very grateful to Anne for being such an energetic inspiration for our regular meetings and the Newsletter. She will be missed.

Thank you, Pon Singh, for your generous annual donation, and Elizabeth Talbot who also donated. As you can see from the Treasurer's Report we are in a good financial position to continue the OGU Website and mailout.

Due to Anne stepping down, an election was held and we have a new President!

Rosemary Smith (CUMES 1975) has kindly offered to take over the President's role, ably assisted by Jocelyn Keller (Hegerhorst 1975) (Front Left) as the Vice President and Rosemary Smith (Cumes 1975) (Front Right)



Having new Office Bearers has given us the opportunity to change our banking status with St George Bank, from an Ordinary account to a Business account and set up online banking, a necessary progression as cheques will be phased out in the future.

The account details will not change at all.

I have contacted the SCEGGS Darlinghurst Archivist, Prue Heath, who will be scanning some more early copies of our LUX to be uploaded to our website when available. If you have anything from school which you would like to donate to the Archives please let me know and also contact Prue Heath, Archivist, SCEGGS Darlinghurst, 215 Forbes Street Darlinghurst NSW 2010.

I hope the next reunion in 2021 is as great a success as this year. If it is the 50th reunion of your year (1971) next year, organise a table for your class mates.

Luceat Lux Vestra, Martha Birch - Honorary Secretary and Treasurer

A brief interview with new President Rosemary Smith (Cumes, 1975)

Dear Members,

I hope everyone is taking care of themselves and keeping well in these current times. I also hope you all enjoyed our Reunion on March 7. I certainly did. What a great gathering, all the more cherished, looking back from COVID 19. I was able to meet a few of you at the reunion but for those of you who don't know me, your new President, here's a little about myself.

I attended SCEGGS Moss Vale for 3 years (1972-1974). Like many of you, I was the daughter of expat parents, constantly on the move. After starting high school, it was decided that some stability was desirable for my continued educational development, so at the beginning of 2nd Form, I was 'shipped' back to Australia from Malaysia on a RAAF Hercules aeroplane (an interesting experience in itself for a 12 year old).

I have memories of Mum and myself doing a 3 day shop-a-thon at David Jones' Elizabeth St store, armed with the SCEGGS list of clothing requirements and my father's DJ's charge card (remember those?), buying navy bloomers, a picnic blanket (which I still own) and a panama hat, amongst many other items! I have even more vivid recollections of being holed up in a hotel overlooking 'the Strip' in Kings Cross (another eye opening experience for a young girl) while Mum laboriously sewed Cash's name tags onto all the newly acquired purchases.

I was not at SCEGGS with my friends in that fateful year when our beloved school closed. Mum and Dad had returned to Australia and it was decided I would complete Forms 5 & 6 in Sydney, at Meriden in Strathfield. Gasp, I became a 'day bug'!

Shortly after my HSC, my life became completely stable – I settled into an interesting 40 year career in the Commonwealth Bank in their credit card section. I have been married to my wonderful husband, Greg Smith for 41 years and we've lived in the same house for 34 years. Just the two of us, no kids, or grand kids. Just for a change, I retired almost 5 years ago and spend my time indulging in our passions of friends, family, skiing and travel (50 countries and counting). We're looking forward to resuming some of these activities very soon.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank Anne Worboys for her efforts as our last President and the continued dedication of Martha Birch. Please come and say hello at our next reunion, I look forward to learning a lot more about you all.

Very best wishes

Rosemary Smith (1975)



Scenes from the Luncheon. Not many photos were taken as we were too busy with the AGM elections. A list of attendees and apologies appears later in the Newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Martha

I am always so pleased to receive your annual Newsletter, marvellous of you to keep up the good work. Now that I am 90 it is increasingly difficult for me to attend get-togethers. I miss catching up with Barb Williams, Barbara (Wise) Buckley, Margaret (Monckton) Payne, Elizabeth (Ash) Payne and Pamela (Nesbit) Patterson

I am always delighted to receive the Newsletter, thank you.

Sincerely, **Chick Gordon nee Marcia Petherbridge 1946**

Love getting the Newsletter – keep up the good work, hope this helps.

Ellen (Coombes) Talbot 1949-52, then Darlington (1954) Donation \$50 (6.5.19)

Dear Martha

I left the vase for Angela to bring up at Easter, which of course isn't going to happen now. The vase and flowers looked magnificent on her dining table, thank you. I thought the lunch was very successful..... We were fortunate to have our lunch before the lock down.

I am happy that I had the privilege of being President and wish the new President success. I look forward to attending future reunions and reading the newsletters. I also thank Martha for keeping her side of the management of the OGU on track since the OGU was handed into our care all those years ago.

I was happy to come home to the country on the Sunday to isolate myself, although I do have Sasha staying. He is doing all his Year 7 work and extra-curricular activities online and we are keeping ourselves busy with gardening and cooking, making preserves etc.

Best wishes, **Anne Worboys (Bennett) 1960**

Luncheon Attendances: Catherine Baker 1975, Susan Berry 1970, Martha Birch (Knox) 1970, Jane Borton 1957, Julie Brackenreg 1960, Sally Bradbury (Shiels) 1974, Elizabeth Casimir (Simons) 1965, Karen Caskie (Maclean) 1969, Heather Cobham 1974, Sue Cooper (Wilson) 1958, Roslyn Currie (Shaw) 1960, Sue Entwistle (Moore) 1953, Jill Fisher (Slade) 1953, Pip Friedrich (Pilkington) 1975, Penny Galbraith (Young) 1959, Jan Gluth 1957, Ann Hardy (Roberts) 1958, Trixie Hawke (Hermann) 1961, Julie Holstein (Buckley) 1969, Julie Hughes (Gibbs) 1960, Peta Johnson (Nicholls) 1973, Jocelyn Keller (Hegerhorst) 1975, Jill Makaroff 1973, Rhondda McCallum (Hellyer) 1957, Suzie Metz (Farren-Price) 1967, Caroline Mitchell (Hellicar) 1965, Katharine Moss 1967, Margaret Rockwell (Dean) 1960, Debbie Rose (Negri) 1974, Barbara Rudd (Glanville) 1975, Rosemary Smith (Cumes) 1975, Sylvia Agranoff (Snow) 1965, Jane Stening (Forsyth) 1963, Jo Surgeoner (Sutton) 1956, Lesley Thompson (Houghton) 1965, Robyn Townsend (Campbell) 1969, Judith Trembath 1972, Anne Tyas (McGrath) 1958, Helena van Breda (Boddington) 1970, Cecily Vlastuin (Williams) 1974, Jan Walker (Henry) 1969, Sheree Weston (Hedger) 1975, Bronwen Wolfson (Young) 1962, Helen Young (Reinits) 1971.

Luncheon Apologies: Jayne Beverley 1965, Sancha Donald (Grey) 1972, Margaret Duckworth 1948, Heather Galvin (McIntyre) 1977, Philippa Grey 1970, Jann Harry (Piddington) 1970, Belinda Henwood 1970, Barbara Lumley (Deasey) 1957, Judith Mendelson (Pizem) 1970, Michelle Onikul (Shaw) 1970, Suzanne Robertson 1955, Jennifer Schneller (Hind) 1970, Joan Stoneman (Ingreys) 1955, Joyce Thorpe (Milligan) 1963, Melanie White (Fisher) 1974.

Journalist, **Luke Wong**, recently contacted us and gave permission to reprint his article on **Barbara Williams**.

Wartime photos rescued from rubbish tip chronicle the life of WWII Navy servicewoman

ABC Central West / By Luke Wong

A collection of photo albums once destined for landfill illustrates the life and times of a Naval Servicewoman during World War II. When Joan Stevenson received a call from her local rubbish tip operator about several discarded albums, she knew they were worth salvaging. As President of the AMUSU Theatre and Movie Museum at Manildra in central-western New South Wales, Ms Stevenson possessed a fascination for unravelling tales. What she rescued were the visual memories of a woman who served on the home front during World War II.

From inscriptions and captions written throughout the albums, Ms Stevenson discovered they once belonged to a **Barbara Williams**. Many of the photographs depicted her early career with the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) at HMAS Harman in Canberra.

"It looks, from some of the photographs, that she was a telegraphist," Ms Stevenson said.

During the war the base provided communications for Allied ships in the Pacific.

The album's photos included a mix of candid shots, probably taken by **Ms Williams** or fellow servicewomen, and others issued by the former department of information.

Other images from **Ms Williams's** time teaching in Armidale, along with holiday snaps from around Australia and New Zealand, are placed throughout the albums.

Ms Stevenson also came across portraits of an outgoing young woman who grew up in Sydney's eastern suburbs and attended a **boarding school in Moss Vale**.

Ms Stevenson displayed the albums for museum visitors and said they showed the importance of retaining personal, tangible mementos. "Especially these days when you don't have printed photos, you only have them on your phone," she said. "But this tells a wonderful life and it should be left for those people who are left behind or to come and see what these people did for our country."

Ms Stevenson said while she would have liked to have met the woman in the photos, she found newspaper tributes and notices for a **Barbara Frances Williams** who died in **March 2019**.



Barbara Williams holidaying at Lake Conoblas near Orange



Many of the photos show the contribution of the WRANS during the war

VALE



Louise Crowder (née Wieland) (1967) died on 15 April, 2019, on the Gold Coast, after a long illness.

Lou started at Moss Vale in 1962 (1st year Secondary) and transferred to Darlinghurst for her final year, 1967. She was a Day Girl, living on the hill near Bong Bong Church, and I'm not sure if she was at SCEGGS at primary level.

My strongest memory of Lou at school is her being caught listening to her transistor in class, with the earphone lead threaded up her jumper sleeve. Much tangling and manoeuvring to extricate herself before being thrown out of the classroom. She had a great cheeky streak. **Clyth Hout (née Taylor) (62 - 67)**

In addition to the notice of (Louise Weiland) Crowder's passing I welcome the opportunity to add a little more. Those people that knew Lou Lou at school will remember her engaging & naughty but always nice personality well & over the years that even became more so.

She loved many things: wearing bright colours, expensive cars, beautiful handbags and shoes, a little bet and a good chat, along with many wonderful holidays and cruises with husband Mal, they enjoyed the Gold Coast life immensely. Unfortunately there were many health issues over some time for Lou, but she handled all challenges as they came and was always more brave than words can say. She was so incredibly strong to the very end. Sadly Lou Lou died on 15th April, 2019 in Pindara Private Hospital on her much loved Gold Coast with family & friends close by. Louise Laurissen Weiland is greatly missed. **Jann Elphinstone (Class of '66)**



I write to inform you that my mother, **Deborah Jane Bell (nee Wickman, 1972)**, an Old Girl of SCEGGS Moss Vale, died on November 11th, 2016. I apologise for this correspondence being so late.

Deborah spoke of her time at SCEGGS fondly. Her family lived at "The Ridge" Bowral following early years in Vaucluse, where she attended Kambala. After leaving school, she moved north to attend the Uni of New England and pursue a lifelong passion in the equestrian field, working at the Equestrian Centre of the New England Girls School (NEGS). She married grazier, Frank Bell, and settled at the cattle and sheep property "Farleigh" Armidale. Involved in eventing, dressage, racehorses and later show horses, she established "Farleigh Stud", winning many national titles at the Royal shows. She also judged internationally. She left behind her husband, Frank, and two sons, Jamie and Nigel. Thank you for sending the Newsletter. If you would like to use the material (if not too out of date) that would be fine and it would be great to receive a copy. I understand if that is not possible.

Kind regards, **Jamie Bell**



Jill Chauncey (Throsby) 1935

Jill was a founding member of Riding for the Disabled Association who sadly passed away Sunday, 23rd February. Jill's passion for and commitment to RDA and it's values were immeasurable. Jill held a variety of positions within RDA and was a very "hands on" patron of the Moss Vale Centre. Her enthusiasm and dedication to RDA was infectious and she will ever be remembered with fondness and love. RIP Jill

The funeral was held at 11am on Friday 6th March at Bong Bong Anglican Church. Jill was sister to Del Throsby and mother of Victoria Dodge.

An abbreviated report as we ran out of space, but we are in a good financial position

SCEGGS Moss Vale OGU Treasurer's Report - July 2019-March 2020				
Acc	161599296	Credit	Debit	
Balance carried forward 30.06.2019		\$2,405.67		
Totals		\$1,586.21	\$2,018.85	
	Final Balance			\$1,973.03
Term Deposit				
Balance carried forward 30.06.2017		\$11,200.00		
26.09.2019	Cash Deposit	\$1,000.00		
	Total Balance	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,200.00
Cash on hand				
30.06.2019	Opening Balance	\$179.75	\$0.00	\$179.75
31.03.2020	Total of all monies held			\$14,352.78