



## SCEGGS Moss Vale Old Girls' Union

### September 2010 Newsletter

Greetings!

What a wonderful time we had in Moss Vale this July, especially the service in Bong Bong and the following lunch at the Briars. Unfortunately the Memorial Board wasn't ready in Bong Bong as it was still at the sign writer. Do drop in to have a look the next time you are passing.

Check out our website, [www.sceggsmvogu.org.au](http://www.sceggsmvogu.org.au), lots more photos there, together with copies of recent newsletters. If you don't have a computer at home, do it at a friend's or the local library. If you have any school photos, email them to me in .jpg format. Remember that email is still the best way to receive your newsletter, saves paper, resources and time – so please advise us of your email address and let us know if you change it or suddenly get your Newsletter by Australia Post.

I have a question to which someone must have the answer, when did our Old Girls' Union begin?

*Luceat Lux Vestra*

Anne Worboys (Honorary President)

### Old Girls' Dinner – Monday 8th November 2010

Twin Towers Motor Inn, Pacific Hwy, Artarmon. Bookings: Martha Birch, 25 Stuart Ave, Normanhurst NSW 2076

### Lunch in the City – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Meeting at the Mosaic Restaurant in the Westin Hotel, Martin Place, Sydney. (Almost under the GPO clock) The cost per person will be around \$50 for two courses plus tea/coffee & petit fours. I will confirm details early in 2011 by email or phone, so please let me know you are interested. Contact Anne for bookings by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### South Coast Reunion

Jan Gluth (Kirkwood) and Heather Bray (Newport), are organising a reunion lunch for all Southern old girls', ?in Berry.

### Alumni Year 1961 Reunion

Is anyone organising the 1961 or 1971 reunions for 2011? Please let us know any details for the April Newsletter.

### Old Girls' Weekend at Dormie House – 23-25 July 2010

We met for lunch, dinner, breakfast and lunch again – different groups at different events, the lunch in the Bong Bong room at The Briars was voted the favourite – did we all just feel a little inspired after the excellent sermon and morning tea at Bong Bong. We have booked again for the weekend in 2011(23/24 July) – ring Dormie House now, if you have a favourite room. Encourage your pals to come too, though you will still have a wonderful time even if you have never been before and don't know anyone. Alumni Year 1962 - I believe some of them they are planning to join us in 2011, perhaps to plan their 2012 reunions?





### Photos: Sunday at Bong Bong and The Briars

It was great to see over the weekend: Heather Galvin (McIntyre) 1952-61, Denise McDougall (Reynolds) 1953-58, Jo Surgeoner (Sutton) 1952-56, Pat McKay (Walsh) 1959-60, Pat Alliston (Wallace) 1959-60, Roslyn Currie (Shaw) 1956-60, Margaret Duckworth 1947-48, Penny Galbraith (Young) ?-1960, Lynne Read (now retired!), Julie Brackenreg 1958-60, Julie F Hughes (Gibbes) 1959-60, Robyn Moore 1959-60, Janelle Pegler (Harris) 1949-51, Robyn Weller (Witney) 1948-52, Sue Milliken 1954-56, Jan Bowen (Oldfield) 1951-56, Geraldine Wegner (Elliott) 1955-56, Jan Gluth (Kirkwood) 1955-57, Heather Bray (Newport) 1956-57, Rae St Clare-Groth (Abernethy) 1951-52, Kerrie Miller (Grey) 1959-60 and Anne Worboys (Bennett) 1953-58. *Anne*

### Combined OGU lunch in Brisbane – 31 July 2010

Robyn (Smyth) Palmer (1958) and I attended the AGM and lunch at The Tattersall's Club in Brisbane. We felt very special with silver service, excellent food and company. Jenny (Arnott) Caro (1956) who went to both Darlinghurst and Moss Vale was there. We are persuading her to join us in Moss Vale, and to travel there by train after flying in from Queensland! *Anne*

### Alumni year 1965

For our 45th Reunion, we met for lunch at the Harbour View Hotel in North Sydney, a beautiful venue. It was certainly a meeting of old friends - some hadn't been to a reunion before so it was 45 years since they had seen classmates.

We had a tremendous time with many reminiscences, inspirational life stories and much nostalgia. It was great to see everyone. Girls came from France, New Zealand, WA, Queensland and Victoria as well as from Sydney and the Southern Highlands.

We are going to do it again in 2015 for our 50th reunion. *Lynne Ross*

(Left to Right)  
 Jayne Beverley  
 Helen Irvine  
 Verrian (Phlabb)  
 Felgenner,  
 Ruth Hando  
 Judy Chapman  
 Lynne Buckland  
 Wendy Burnham  
 Vicki Bradford  
 Chris Bradford  
 Pam Vincent (F)  
 Helen Baxter  
 Elizabeth Symons (B),  
 Deborah Auchinachie,  
 Denise Jones (Chook).



### Alumni year 1960 Reunion at Old Girls' Weekend

This was a wonderful reunion, as many of us hadn't re-met each other for fifty years, so had much to talk about. Though we had changed somewhat in appearance, some more so than others, we were still recognizable. After some initial 'paddling,' we soon found we were beginning to flow together in conversation as memories flooded back of our SCEGGS days together.

Photos and stories were exchanged and the time went so fast. We decided that due to such 'information overload' in order to preserve the new found information it may be a good idea to each write a short summary of the years in-between, from which we could build slowly, and share and thus stay in keeping with the motto to keep the light shining. 'Lucent Lux Vestra.' Some have begun their stories already, so we recommend it to other OG's. We were indeed thankful to the organisers that made all this possible as big events like these don't just 'happen' without a great deal of planning and preparations. *Julie (Gibbes) Hughes* (Day girl 1959-1960).

Miss Holt made a comment that I would never be a Maths teacher, and I was! Mrs Sherman would have been proud of me as I wrote a contract for one of our artists Glen Preece in French and the exhibition was a success as Glen is up to his 5th exhibition in London as a result of going to France. Now I have put them both together and work at Artarmon Galleries - loving Art and doing the books. *Julie Brackenreg (1960)*



Julie Brackenreg, Anne Worboys, Pat McKay, Roslyn Shaw, Pat Wallace, Robyn Moore, Denice Reynolds, Kerry Grey, Penny Young & Julie Gibbes.  
Robyn Weller & Margaret Duckworth in background.



Robyn Moore, Kerry Grey, Denice Reynolds, Penny Young, Patricia Wallace, Anne Worboys, Julie Brackenreg, Pat McKay & Roslyn Shaw.

## Alumni year 1970 reunion

What a lovely tie we all had! 27 came in total (from a class of 50) either to the informal lunch at the Briars on Saturday and/or the dinner at Dormie House on Saturday night and/or the breakfast at Elephant Boy in Bowral, on Sunday morning. It was fantastic how we all felt so comfortable being together after all this time and we welcomed some long lost buddies back into the fold, from as far afield as New Zealand, Darwin, Victoria, and all over NSW.

We have resolved to do this every 2 years at least, with dinners in between in Sydney and Canberra. They will be on a Saturday night to make it easier to get there and back for the long distance travellers.

Thank you all for making this weekend such a great gathering and please send me photos of group shots for the Facebook site that Anne (Fieldhouse) Nelson has set up for us. We were all so glad that so many of us could make it and hope that those who couldn't will feel more encouraged to join us next time, as we would love to see you all. If you have an email can you let me know, to save postage? *Martha*



1970 Reunion, Photo Line up (left to right):

Back Row: Marion (Gibson) Huho, Janet (McKay) Reeve, Bronwyn (Jones) O'Brien, Philippa Gray, Debbie Vidler, Margaret Fenbury, Leonie (Edwards) Bisiker, Jann (Piddington) Harry

Middle Row: Jenny (Hind) Schneller, Anne (Fieldhouse) Nelson, Michelle (Shaw) Onikul, Pim (Ross) Grogan, Robyn (Warner-Bubb) Geale

Front Row: Martha (Knox) Birch, Joy Batty, Sarah (Thompson) Bursle, Jan (McDonald) Jennings, Susan Booth, Diane (Booth) Meurer, Susan Berry

## Vale

**The Reverend Ralph William Fraser, aged 84 years. Forever with the Lord.**

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of the Rev Ralph Fraser on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010. His devoted wife, Rosslyn (Nicholson) Fraser (1947), is a Life member of the Old Girls and we would like to express to her, and their family, our deepest sympathy for their loss. Rev Fraser was rector at St John's Church, Moss Vale and Christ Church, Bong Bong, for a number of years and is fondly remembered by SCEGGS members of the congregation.



**Pamela Dorothy (Nisbet) Patterson (Year of 1945).** 25 May 1927 – 12 February 2010

My apologies for including an incorrect photo in the last newsletter, this is the correct photo of Pamela, sadly missed. *Anne*

## Sick List

### **Barb Williams (1943)**

Barb has been transferred to Holy Spirit Nursing Home, 6 Brighton Road, Croydon 2132, Ph 87412900. Her diabetes has affected her badly and she is losing her sight and mobility. I am sure she would love to hear from those of you who have stayed close to her over the years.

### **Anne (Bennett) Worboys (1960)**

Anne is recovering well from her “pet induced” fall, which caused a small sub-arachnoid haemorrhage and some associated fuddledness and unsteadiness. She has managed to pull together most of this newsletter and will be raring to go by the March Lunch!! All good wishes and flowers were very welcome and she is very grateful for the many kindnesses shown to her.

## Throsby Park Handover 26<sup>th</sup> September 2010

The Historic Houses Trust became the owner of Throsby Park, Moss Vale, on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2010, an acquisition that marked the HHT’s 30th birthday. The property was transferred from the National Parks & Wildlife Service, which has owned it since 1975. The HHT will conserve and lease Throsby Park through the Endangered Houses Fund program.

Throsby Park was acquired by the New South Wales Government and reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act in 1975. As part of the purchase, the State Government agreed that Miss Del Throsby and her mother could reside in the rear section of the house. The National Parks and Wildlife Service undertook extensive restoration work at a total cost of more than \$2 million including reinforcement of the roof, underpinning the building, repairs to internal floors, walls and ceilings and electrical rewiring. Del Throsby continued to run the Throsby Park Riding School, which was established in 1934. Mrs Throsby died in 1977 and on 1 July 2006, Del passed away in the paddock feeding her much-loved English riding pony, Peter. Del’s death ended five generations of family occupancy of Throsby Park.

Throsby Park has embarked on a new chapter as a property of the Historic Houses Trust, managed under its Endangered Houses Fund, which conserves historic properties and returns them to community use under long-terms leases. For more information go to: [http://www.hht.net.au/support\\_us/ehf/throsby\\_park](http://www.hht.net.au/support_us/ehf/throsby_park)

## Correspondence

I have very fond memories of SCEGGS but was unfortunately only there for two years and only in primary school, years 4-5. I do have a few photos that I will have to get transferred to digital media and will send them in as that happens. I always remember that all the primary school borders had to stay at what we now call Briars.

I was there recently and was able to get upstairs and see the old bedroom, aaahhhh!! what mischief we used to get up to. As I never actually graduated from there, it is nice to read all the stories of the girls who were able to attend this school for a lot longer than myself, being an army brat this was not an option for me but I did end up at Canberra Girls Grammar so never strayed too far from the flock. Could you please pop me on your contact list as I love seeing the old photos and though I don’t really remember anyone from the other years I do have good memories of my classmates and if you do ever hear from anyone from these years in primary school it would be great to hear from them. Keep up the great work  
*Kate (Hartrydge) Akers 1972-73 (1982)*

I attended SCEGGS Moss Vale, as a boarder, for 1 year in its final year. I had transferred from SCEGGS Darlinghurst. I would love to catch up with some of the girls from my year as well as Michelle Hertz Murray from a few years above me. Please let me know of any reunions or websites that I can attend in the future. Kind Regards  
*Tracy Skelton (McIlsky) 1974*

.....I was at Sceggs from 1954-1957 and I’m still in the work force, at Sydney University (an old croc like me?). I am now living at Pearl Beach so it’s a bit further for me to travel each day to work but the joy of opening my front door and hearing the moore hens squawking on the lagoon at the back is well worth it. Thanks again for your efforts. Regards  
*Jane Borton (1947)*

.....I live on an island just off the coast of Juneau and as yet no signal to receive the internet, but when I next go into “town” (Juneau) I will look up the new website with much anticipation. Hopefully, one of these days, I will make it to the March lunch in the City. I do come to Australia and stay with my sister between Wagga and Junee NSW some years, usually between Christmas and April. I would love to see Bong Bong again as I used to play the organ there. Sincerely  
*Pamela (Geddes) Whiting (1964)*

.....Last June I went O.S., and visited Nancy (Baume) Ward in Scotland. She had been ailing for some years and I was fortunate to spend 2 days with her before she died. She was lucid and very happy to talk about school days and the years of our association, mostly long distance, the ensuing vs. intervening years – 60 years! How time flies when you are having fun! Our ranks are thinning. I was sad to see the notice of Pam Nisbet’s death. I think I only know Judith (Smith) Bray and Barb Williams in the photos of reunions. I must be sooo old! Nuff sed – too much navel gazing. I’m disappointed that I don’t get to the dinner now. My greetings to Anne and thanks to both of you for your stirring efforts. Warmest wishes  
*(Lett) MacDonald (1941)*

..... I have been thinking of you lately as I am now in the very final phase of going through all of Mary’s (what she would have

termed) "treasures". These are items – objects, papers & photographs – collected over a lifetime that, after the previous sporadic 3 ½ years of my filtering through her (Mary Blomfield's) congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday;

### Speech: Mrs Mary Blomfield (followed by Moss Vale School Hymn)

On Behalf of SCEGGS Moss Vale – to Head School: Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday; and thank you for having us here tonight. SCEGGS Moss Vale no longer exists as we knew it but it lives on in its members – in our minds and hearts.

I've been thinking of things that meant a lot to us all –

The lake; The silhouetted trees at sunset on that hill behind the School; The great oak tree outside Howard (or Senior) House and Wendy Solling's sculpture, "Thanksgiving", under that oak.

That's what we're on about tonight – thanksgiving to God for all that SCEGGS Moss Vale was and what it has made of us; for our friendships; for the rose garden; for that beautiful lime tree in the corner near the office; for Miss Hammond's sunken garden; for Bong Bong Church; for the frosts and occasional snow; for the sports field and the joy of school sport and great Annual Sports Days; for Miss Hudson's art lessons, for the school hymn which we'll be singing soon –

Winds, off these uplands blowing...; what means your speechless call? *Lucent Lux Vestra*

So it's wonderful to know that the honour board is underway and will be finished soon, particularly as my dear mother makes mention of the church here (above). Thanks, too, for sending the Newsletter – to tell you the truth, I haven't been receiving any but am glad of this one. Best wishes,

*Tim Blomfield*

Just to let you know that the plaque (actually an honour board) is underway and will be finished soon.....Because of space etc, it will just be the one board with names of principals and the years they were head at Moss Vale. I didn't have this information when I finalised the newsletter last week.

*Anne Worboys*

... Of course, you may certainly use what I have quoted (below) for the next newsletter and am glad now that I have found "it" and the time to put it into electronic media for easy transmission. That's great that the plaque is nearing completion and glad that Margaret Duckworth had kept a copy of David's words. Cheers,

*Tim Blomfield*

Thank you for your email dated 5th August. My goodness! What activity you created with your question about the beginnings of the Moss Vale Old Girl's Union!! I have not really found any mention of the actual beginning of the Union, but have come across some interesting history of the School. Perhaps you already know all this.

In June 1945 the S.C.E.G.G.S. group of Schools produced a magazine entitled "Lux - Jubilee Number " to celebrate the Jubilee year.

I have a copy of this, which includes a section on the beginnings of the Bowral School which eventually became our Moss Vale School. After some instruction from the very knowledgeable Programme Officer of our Computer Club here in Sussex Inlet, I have managed to copy this section and (hopefully) attach it to this email !! (Available on our website soon, *Anne*)

You will see on, page 7, there is mention (in 1937) of Miss Hammond "barracking for The Old Girls on those memorable Foundation Day Weekends". Also on page 8 there is mention of Miss Steel enjoying the "Old Girls when they came up for the weekends". I remember there was always a "formal Dinner" on these weekends and we all looked forward to seeing the latest fashion in "evening wear" worn by the "Old Girls"! (1945). Very best wishes from

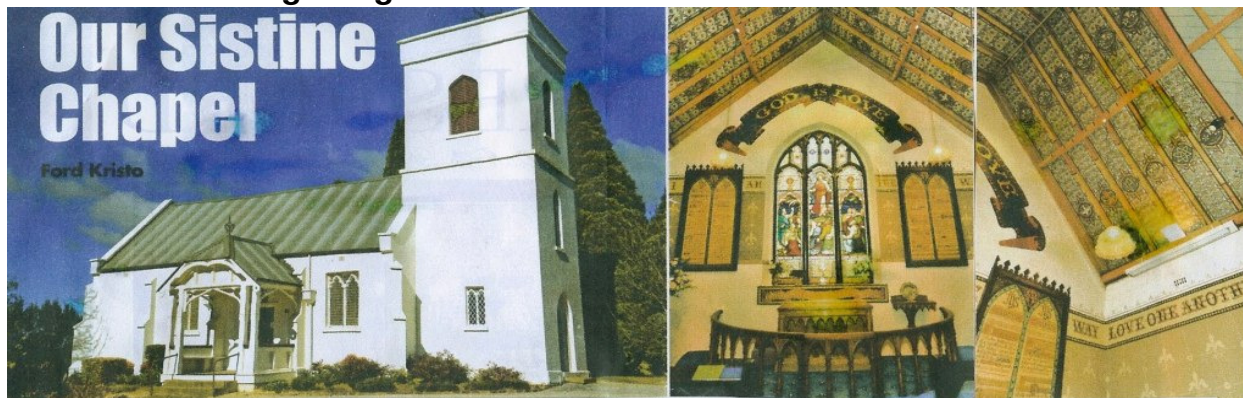
*Betty (Powe) Kramer (1946)*

## Donations

Two generous donations received from our Membership: Pamela (Geddes) Whiting (1964) and Janet (Elliston) Brown (1964) Thank you both very much. We really appreciate the thoughtfulness of all donations from Members: memorabilia, old Lux and your memories of time spent at school. Thank you all for the contributions you make to the life of the school that lives on in all of us.

*Martha*

## Christ Church Bong Bong



Though the small white church on the hill as you enter Moss Vale is a familiar landmark, it is a humble little building of modest proportions. As it stands on Church Rd, Moss Vale, overlooking the site of the long defunct village of Bong Bong, Christ Church's architectural lines are austere and strictly functional, showing little embellishment. However, the church's interior is a marvel that sparkles, demonstrating the inspiration of colonial artisans and contemporary heritage conservators. Its intricate restoration has just won the 2010 award from the National Trust of Australia (NSW) for Heritage Conservation of Interiors.

Over forty years ago George Throsby, a descendant of the Highlands pioneering Throsby family asked Moss Vale lawyer, Robin Croker, to become a warden of the church. Wardens are responsible for the upkeep of church buildings and grounds. At the time, Throsby did not know that he would die a year later, nor that his request of Mr Croker would lead to such a magnificent restoration.

It is a church that almost wasn't built. In 1836, a committee of trustees, including the pioneer settler of the district, Charles Throsby, was tasked with building an Anglican church in the Moss Vale area. For years the trustees vacillated over plans, but Throsby wanted a result. In 1845, he paid £701.4.6d for the church to be built on his own land using plans by the colonial architect, John Verge. On 31 December of that year, the first Anglican Bishop of Australia, W.G. Broughton, consecrated it. Throsby was not only a philanthropist, but he also knew how to get things done.

A donation of £400 in 1880 by Charles' widow, Elizabeth, enabled the first major renovation work on the church. This included the ornate interior decoration that has been recently restored.

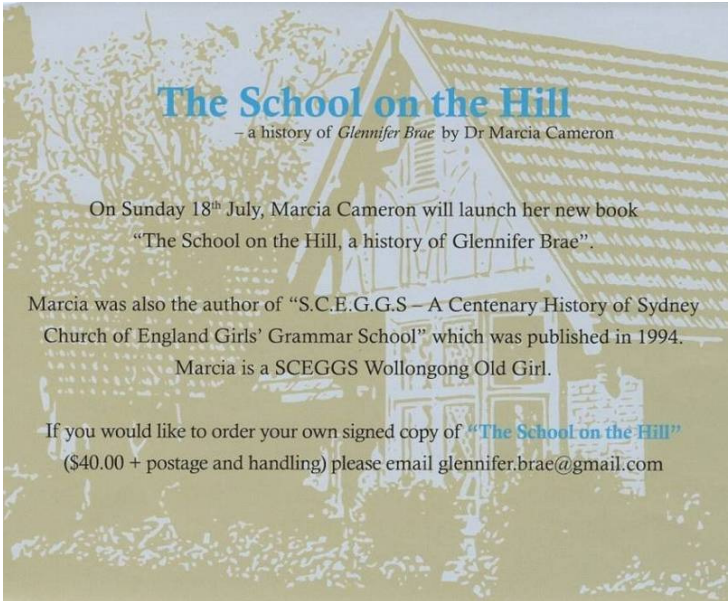
Charles died in 1854 at the relatively young age of about 55. Elizabeth lived to age 87, after raising seventeen children. Six of her sons are buried side by side in the Christ Church Cemetery. She regularly attended what she must have regarded as her church.

It is dearly loved still. Painting of the church's exterior was completed nine years ago, overseen by Robin Croker and Sally Darling. This also entailed the removal, repair and cleaning of the stained glass windows. But more was in store. In 2009, church wardens Croker, Margo Merrett, David Edwards and congregation member, Harry Blackboro, undertook to revamp the interiors using heritage conservators from International Conservation Services. The works cost in excess of \$100,000. The church congregation contributed a small proportion, with the bulk provided by an anonymous benefactor. The little church has a habit of attracting generous benefactors with deep pockets.

Attention to detail is what makes the restoration remarkable. The conservators scraped the paint surfaces to investigate how the church had looked through its lifetime. One of the scrapings has been left exposed to display a layered history through time. The conservators' delving discovered far richer and ornate decoration than the church's 2009 appearance. They decided to restore the interior to its full former brilliance. Scaffolding was installed to repaint the ceilings in what Mr Croker describes as "a Moss Vale re-enactment of Michelangelo painting the Sistine Chapel". Decorative detail on the walls such as fleurs-de-lis were discovered and reinstated, as were gilt lettering, highlights and motifs. Removable varnish was applied to protect the surfaces and lighting installed to illuminate the intricate beauty of the restored interior. The visual impact of the work is stunning.

*The restoration can be seen every Sunday at 9.30am during services.*

## The School on the Hill – Glennifer Brae



**The School on the Hill**  
– a history of *Glennifer Brae* by Dr Marcia Cameron

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July, Marcia Cameron will launch her new book  
"The School on the Hill, a history of Glennifer Brae"

Marcia was also the author of "S.C.E.G.G.S – A Centenary History of Sydney Church of England Girls' Grammar School" which was published in 1994.  
Marcia is a SCEGGS Wollongong Old Girl.

If you would like to order your own signed copy of "The School on the Hill"  
(\$40.00 + postage and handling) please email [glennifer.brae@gmail.com](mailto:glennifer.brae@gmail.com)

### Fridge reminder:

SCEGGS Moss Vale Old Girls Union Annual Dinner on: Monday, November 8th, 2010,  
6.30pm for dinner at 7.00pm - 260 Twin Towers Motel, Pacific Highway, Artarmon  
\$50 per person - Organise a group from your year and make up a table!!

**Bookings essential:** Send your cheque and RSVP to Martha at 25 Stuart Ave, Normanhurst, 2076 by 1st November, please!



### Please post your cheque before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010

To: Ms Martha Birch, 25 Stuart Avenue, Normanhurst, NSW 2076

Enclosed is my cheque/money order, made out to "SCEGGS Moss Vale OGU" for \$50.00 as payment for the November Dinner at Twin Towers Inn, 260 Pacific Highway, Artarmon on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.

Name ..... Alumni Year.....

Address .....

Phone Nos. (hm / wk).....(mob).....Email.....