

Otago Girls' High School Alumni Association

Principal's Report

Before putting pen to paper for this article (or should I say fingers to keys), I took the time to read through the contents of this newsletter. What struck me were the connections that women associated with this school have built with each other, their local communities and the global community. From Averil Taylor meeting with our World Challenge girls in Thailand, our Prefects meeting the ex-girls at our Alumni function, or ex head prefect Lisa Dick chatting with Helen Clark in New York, these connections span both the globe and the generations.



I have recently completed an application for the Prime Minister's Excellence in Education Award. Otago Girls' High School has applied under the "Excellence in Engagement" category and our submission outlined the work we have done in recent years to achieve both equity and excellence among our students. The four areas of development outlined in the application were Belonging; Behaviour Response; Support for Learning; and Profile of Māori and Pasifika students. It is the area of belonging that has greatest relevance to the Alumni Association. Through the Association we have attempted to better engage with our community with the aim of enhancing the connection between the school and our ex-girls and between our current students and the history of the school. As can be seen by the article on the Alumni function on page 7, this has been achieved. Our first major social event was well attended and a lot of fun for all involved. The senior students who acted as hosts and tour guides on the night enjoyed the evening just as much their (sometimes) much more senior counterparts. Their pride in being part of such an illustrious organisation was a delight to see.

Our students continue to excel in their respective fields of endeavour and our ex-girls continue to return to the school to share their successes and lessons learned with our current students. At a recent school assembly Suzie Bates, a New Zealand cricket and basketball player, spoke to the girls about perseverance and dealing with disappointment. She is currently a member of the White Ferns NZ women's cricket team and was named the ICC Women's ODI and T20I player of the year for the 2015/16 season, the first player to achieve both awards. An outstanding sportswoman and ambassador for her school and country Suzie is an inspiration to the girls at school, among whom were two students who have just returned from playing in the New Zealand Women's Under 19 Volleyball team that competed at the Asia Volleyball Championships in Chongqing, China.

To keep in touch with the happenings at the school please join our school facebook page, look at our school website or read the Mid-Year Report which will come out late in

Term 2. I am sure you will be as amazed and impressed as I am when you read of the outstanding achievements of the girls in this school.

The end of the 2016 school year saw the end of the stellar teaching career of Mr Jock Murley who had served the school for 42 Years as a teacher, coach and Deputy Principal. He has been a stalwart of the school and continues to coach our Senior A Volleyball team. I know many of the readers of this newsletter will have been taught, coached or disciplined by Mr Murley and I am sure join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement. It is very well deserved.

Linda Miller
Principal



The world's top female cricket player and ex-girl Suzie Bates was a recent speaker at a school assembly.



A big thank you to the Upper Clutha Branch of Ex Girls' for their recent \$163 donation to purchase books for the school library.

Thank you too to all the ex-girls who have made recent donations to the Alumni Association. Your support really helps us in the work that we do.

From the Archives



Hall Renovation

Over the summer holidays the school hall was renovated. The area was repainted, the ventian blinds were replaced with electronically controlled ones and the salmon curtains were place with dark blue ones. The hall has had a facelift. One of the other changes is that the two portraits which have for years been hidden behind the curtains have now been relocated and all three portraits of our founders are now on permanent view. The portraits depicted here which hang in the hall are:

Left:

Learmonth White Dalrymple (1827-1906)

Founder of Otago Girls' High School

Artist: unknown

This portrait was unveiled on 16 December 1896 and funded by subscriptions.

Below right:

Reverend Doctor Donald McNaughton Stuart (1819-1894)

Chairman of the High Schools' Board 1878-1894 and supporter of Miss Dalrymple's cause of female education.

Artist: Girolamo Pieri Ballati Nerli

This portrait was presented by the Ex-High School Girls' Club and unveiled on 24 April 1894.

Below left:

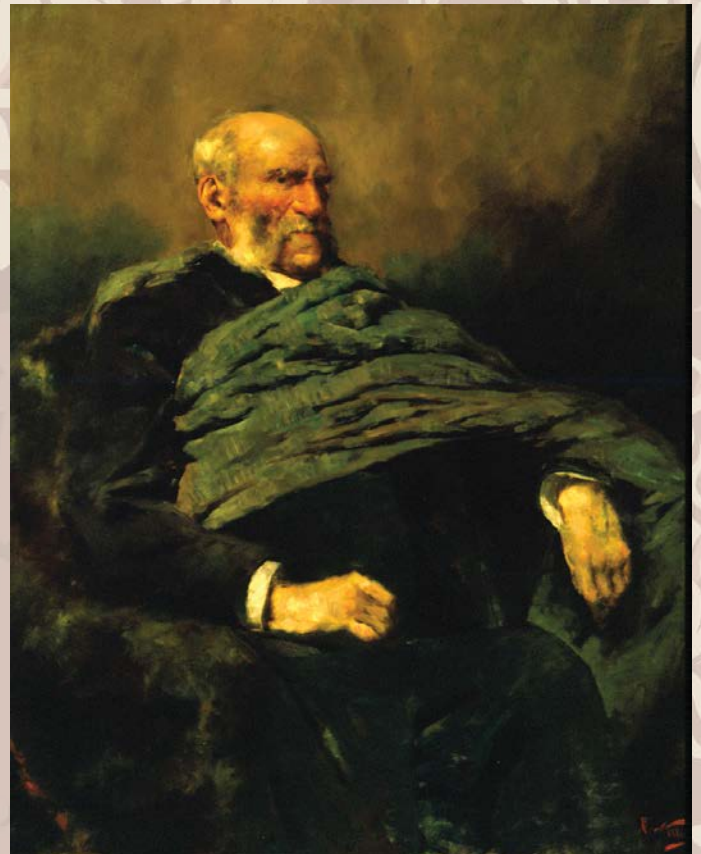
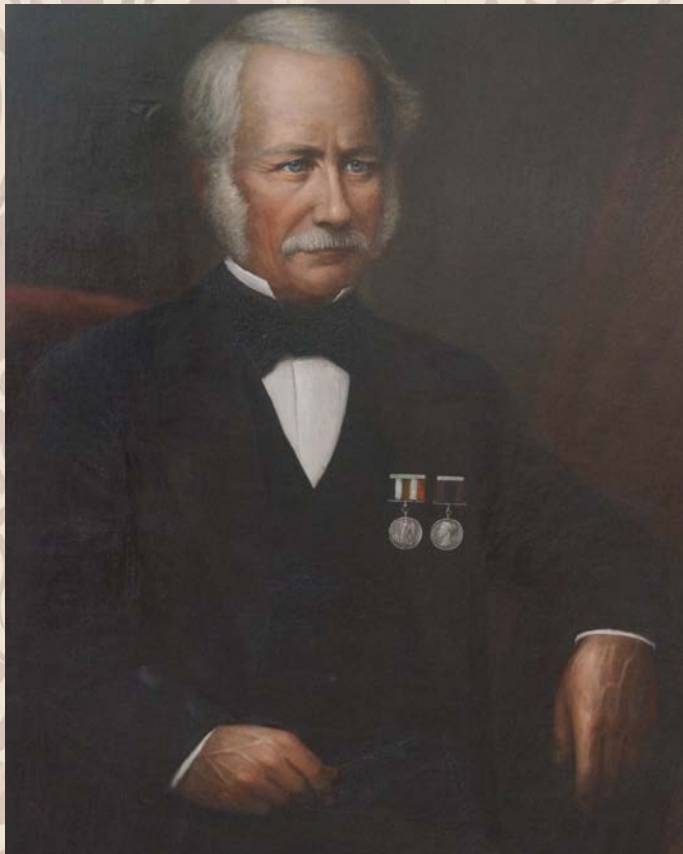
Major Sir John Larkins Cheese Richardson (1810-1878)

Superintendent of Otago, Member of the Legislative Council and supporter of Miss Dalrymple's cause of female education.

Artist: M L Lester

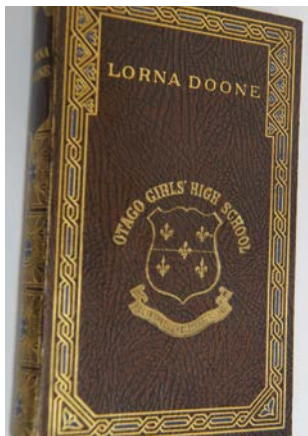
This portrait was unveiled by Miss Learmonth Dalrymple on 17 April 1884 and funded by subscriptions that she collected.

Jane Smallfield, Archivist



Donations to the school archives

As the school archivist it always brightens my day when I get given archives to add to the school collection. I have received a number of these over the past few weeks. Year 10 student Talisa Pelsler found a beautifully bound copy of *Lorne Doone*, in a second hand shop. It has Otago Girls' High School's name and crest on the front and would have been presented as a school prize.



Talisa Pelsler holding the book she purchased from a second hand shop and gave to the school.

At our recent alumni function I was delighted to receive two of our school navy felt hats. We only have a small number of these in our uniform archive so they were a valued donation.



Maia Dennison-Mann and Erika Stuart in Year 9 trying on the hats donated to the school.

In February I had a package from Judy King in Wanaka which contained the three items in the photograph to the right. These items had belonged to Judy's mother Agnes Hudson (nee Barclay) who started at OGHS in 1938 and is now 92. Judy wrote that Agnes would "often tell us stories about her high school days and how she and her sisters went to school on the tram even going back to Mornington for lunch. Her favourite subject was Homecraft and she went on to be a Homecraft Teacher. She was a great cook, wonderful sewer and she has left us with some amazing examples of her embroidery skills....she had wonderful memories of her high school days".

The embroidery pictured was produced by Agnes.

Jane Smallfield, Archivist



Agnes Hudson in her OGHS uniform walking through the Octagon with her mother.



Ex-Girl Profile

Lisa Dick

Head Prefect 2013 (OGHS 2009-2013)

Since leaving Otago Girls' High School in 2013, I have managed to maintain a strong propensity for making the most of opportunities as they become available, and overworking myself. I am currently into my fourth year of my Bachelor of Laws with Honours and Bachelor of Arts majoring in both Politics and International Relations and English (thanks Ms Neilson, the English is your doing) at the University of Auckland. As part of my studies I am undertaking honours research into the area of law and security, and I am particularly interested in the role of gender in international law and political relations.



In early 2016 I was lucky enough to be a part of the New Zealand delegation to Harvard National Model United Nations where I debated Universal Jurisdiction on the Legal Committee, and during the month around the conference, I travelled to a number of major political institutions including the World Bank, the Global Fund for Women, and the United Nations Headquarters in New York. While abroad, I was lucky enough to chat with Helen Clark as well as our New Zealand Permanent Mission Representative Gerard Van Bohem, among many other incredible political and legal minds.

Although I miss the ease of Dunedin traffic and life, I have relished the chance to leave my comfort zone and challenge myself, enjoying pleasing results in and academic competitions, as well as sitting on the executive committee of a number of University organisations. I am sure I will remain

here for longer than I originally anticipated as there are constantly new opportunities that I feel I must take advantage of.

I have kept up to date with the goings on at OGHS, and want to extend my congratulations to Jock Murley for his retirement as he will be sorely missed! Jock was a reference on my application for a University scholarship which I want to thank him for as I am now proudly a scholar with the top tier law firm, Russell McVeagh. Of course I also want to congratulate my lil sis, 2017 Academic Prefect, who makes up the other half of this OGHS sister duo, almost ready to jump the nest and wreak [socially conscious] havoc in the world as well.

Ex-Girl Profile

Kelsey Brown

Head Prefect 2009 (OGHS 2005-2009)



Ex- head girl Kelsey Brown (centre) recently visited Otago Girls' High School and caught up with staff Kathryn Dick (left) and Abbie Law.

Kia ora koutou,

I am Kelsey Brown and I was Head Prefect at Otago Girls' in 2009. I studied at the University of Otago, and graduated with an LLB/BA in 2014. During my studies I volunteered at the Dunedin Community Law Centre and led a volunteer advocacy programme, supporting children and young people at a CYF Care and Protection residence. It was through my volunteer work that I started to see how I could build my career around what I'm most passionate about – ensuring Aotearoa's children and young people have a voice, and are empowered to achieve their potential. I was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand at the beginning of 2015, and accepted into the Ministry

of Social Development Social Policy Graduate Programme. I worked as a Graduate Policy Analyst, and then a Policy Analyst for the Ministry of Social Development for just under two years. I worked largely in the child, family and community policy space, with a strong focus on youth justice through supporting the Youth Crime Action Plan. Through my work on the Youth Crime Action Plan, I was able to support young people in youth justice residences to actively engage and have their voices heard in policy design and decision making at every level.

At the beginning of this year I joined the team at the Office of the Children's Commissioner as Senior Advisor (Child and Youth Voice). I have Alex Martin, your current Deputy Head Girl to thank for my appointment as she was one of my Referees. I am loving being a member of Judge Andrew Becroft's team. As part of my role, I am currently leading the Child and Youth Voices Project, which is a national mechanism through which children and young people can exercise their right to have a say in matters that affect them, to raise awareness and increase youth engagement, and to bring children and young people's voices to the attention of national decision makers.

I'm really excited to have Maia Usherwood-Nosa as the key contact for this project at Otago Girls'. In my spare time I am always keen to explore new places, both here at home, and abroad. Which is lucky, given that my sister has made it her mission to share her skills across the world, and never fails to provide an exciting location for me to visit. I'm really grateful and very proud to be Otago Girls' Alumna, alongside my sister Chloe Brown, my Grandma Rosemary Magrath and her sister Betty Miguel (Fyfe).

Ngā mihi nui, Kelsey Brown

OGHS ex-girl packs for visitors to our school

We have created some packs for ex-girls who come to visit Otago Girls' High School. We love having ex-students call in at any time and we are always available to give you a tour of the school.

Unfortunately due to postage costs the packs cannot be posted out to ex-students.

World Challenge girls meet ex-girl in Thailand

In December a group of 19 of our students spent time in Cambodia and Thailand and while there they had a wonderful morning meeting ex-girl Averil Taylor.

Averil was a student at Otago Girls' High School between 1983 and 1987. She was a Prefect and was awarded the M H King Leadership Award. Averil has been living in Bangkok for the past four years and is currently working for the New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok. She has previously been posted in Suva and Vanuatu and has also worked in Parliament in New Zealand.

Averil was interested in talking to the girls about their experiences on World Challenge Expedition then shared her journey from finishing school to her current position with the Embassy.

Averil gave strong messages about working hard, developing good interpersonal skills and taking opportunities to make things happen. She left this final message; "Education is your pathway to success".

Just before Averil left we sung the school song together and the girls performed the school haka.



Averil Taylor talking with OGHS World Challenge students in Bangkok..



Averil Taylor (centre) with World Challenge OGHS teachers Moira Young (left) and Tracy Ward, in Thailand.

Alumni function 24 February at Otago Girls' High School.

On 24 February the Otago Girls' High School Alumni Association held its first major social event at the school. This took the form of an informal gathering with drinks and nibbles, entertainment by the choir and Wairua Puhou, an address by our Principal Linda Miller and a tour of the school led by our prefects.

We were delighted that 180 ex-girls attended and made the most of the opportunity to reconnect with their school. We have had some wonderful feedback, including the following from three ex-girls.

"I want to say how much I enjoyed the event. It was wonderful to be back in the old Alma Mater again looking so beautifully renovated and smart with the new buildings. The hospitality was most impressive from those delightful seniors at the gate guiding us, to the delicious food and wine and the excellent programme."

"The night was superb and filled with laughter from women who were generations ahead of me to the ones coming through now. I really enjoyed the well put together evening and look forward to the reunion if this is any indication of what is to come."

"Congratulations on making the Alumni night so wonderful. The food and the organisation and the items and the Principal Linda Miller were wonderful."

Jane Smallfield, Secretary Alumni Association



Photographs from Ngaire Broadfoot's collection

I was delighted to recently receive a selection of informal school photographs that had belonged to ex-pupil and staff member Ngaire Broadfoot who sadly passed away in December. These are a delightful collection of photos showing pupils in various casual settings and I know a number of our readers will recognise themselves. Ngaire labelled and dated all these photographs although surnames were often omitted.



School Dance Supper - Kitchen.
L to R: Judith Wilkinson, Grace Pike, Self (Ngaire) and Rosalie Sutherland, 16th August 1958.



21st Nov 1958: Self (Ngaire), Alison Walker, Judith Dyer, Rosalie Sutherland, Gaynor Rivers, Rosalie Chiles



1st Term 1958: Rosalie, Claire, Self (Ngaire), Alison



1st Jan 1958.
Back Row: Rosalie, Claire, Judith, Diane, Margaret
2nd Row: Alison, Lois, Marion, Denise
Front Row: Self (Ngaire), Gaynor, Brenda



Form VIBI December 1958 with Miss Henderson



Alison, Joyce, Self (Ngaire), Claire, Dorothy at sports day at the University Oval 1st March 1957.



Rosalie Sutherland, Head Prefect at third form party, May 1958

Third Form Party May 1958

The images on this page are from the third form party organised by the Prefects in 1958

This event was also reported on in the 1958 School Magazine

Third Form Party

This year's Third Form Party was held on May 8th. The girls arrived at about 7.30 to find the School Hall decorated with St. Trinian's posters, and the Prefects, dressed as the belles of St. Trinian's, frantically rushing about putting finishing touches to the supper and decorations. The costumes were most original and so made the judging difficult, but after much discussion among the judges a few lucky girls were chosen as winners.

Items were presented by each form and the Prefects put on a skit, "Staff Door", which was enjoyed just as much by the Prefects themselves as by the Third Formers.



Prefects at third form party, May 1958

Back Row: Brenda Harvey, Rosalie Sutherland, Gaynor Rivers
2nd Row: Judith Dyer, Lois Cox, Jocelyn Farra, Denise Cowie,
3rd Row: Diane Allen, Helen Dixon, Averil Gerken
Front Row: Jennifer Plunkett, Win Mirams, Margaret Hercus.



Prefects at third form party - Claire, Diane and Brenda, May 1958



Gaynor and Lois cleaning up after the third form party, May 1958.

Introducing Public Relations Prefect Maia Usherwood-Nosa

Hello everyone, my name is Maia Usherwood-Nosa and I have the privilege of being the Public Relations prefect for Otago Girls High School for 2017. I am honoured that I have been selected to be the link for our school to the Dunedin Community as well as the Alumni Association. This year I am studying English, Media, Business studies, Geography and French and I hope to study along these lines next year at university.



As I am from both a Niuean and European background I was brought up knowing two completely different cultures and customs and fell in love with the diversity and difference that these both hold. Due to this it has given me the skills to connect with people from all these ethnicities and enables me to understand, learn and grow from them. Since starting this role at the beginning of the year, I have already met so many different women who attended our school and spoke so highly of it and one day I know I will be doing the exact same. Meeting these women who still hold so much pride after all these years makes me even prouder to know that I am an Otago Girls' girl. My teachers will agree that I am quite the chatterbox therefore I think this role is perfect for me as I will be working a lot with the Dunedin community. My role allows me to meet a variety of different people of which I am looking forward to the most.

I am loving both the challenges and successes that this role holds and think that I have hit the jackpot on what

perfect role was given to me. I hope to meet many of you throughout the year and wish you all the best.

Maia Usherwood-Nosa

Searching for Eileen Duke

We are trying to help an elderly ex-girl find her friend from OGHS days.

Do any of you know Eileen Duke (married name unknown) who went to OGHS in the late 1940s and is probably in the Dunedin area? Please let us know if you know where she is.

Add your memories to the school website

Under the Alumni section of the school website there is now a place to add your memories of your time of school. We would love to start gathering these to use for the 150th reunion. Please visit our the website and send us some of your memories from your time at Otago Girls' High School www.otagogirls.school.nz

Chambered Nautilus on web site

There is now a recording on our school website of one of our current students singing the Chambered Nautilus.



<http://www.otagogirls.school.nz/about/our-history/chambered-nautilus>

OGHS 150th Celebrations- Waitangi Weekend 5-7 Feb 2021

Planning is already underway for our 150th Celebrations in 2021. You can help us out by making sure any ex-students or staff you know have registered their interest in this event. If you aren't already on our database you can go to the school website and enter your details on our Alumni page. Alternatively you can email us at alumni@otagogirls.school.nz



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