

# THE CALICO LINE



NGA TAWA  
DIOCESAN SCHOOL



2022

News For Old Girls, Parents & Friends of Nga Tawa





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This magazine is co-jointly produced by the Nga Tawa Old Girls' Association, Nga Tawa Parents and Friends Association and Nga Tawa School. If you would like to contribute to future issues of The Calico Line, please email our Archivist and Old Girls' Liaison, Sally Patrick, at patricksally@ngatawa.school.nz.

# From the Principal

*Lesley Carter*

**2022 has been largely spent behind a mask and on September 12, we finally left them behind. Nine months into a school year, we could see each other's smiles again and reconnect as a school family.**

We were able to welcome families back onsite and were incredibly grateful to have our PFA team at our school events again, helping to build community. We hosted our inaugural Old Girls vs Nga Tawa netball match, a fantastic event that the whole school turned out to watch. We'd missed hosting meetings for our wider school community onsite and the regular interaction we'd previously enjoyed. We're now focused on re-establishing connections and fostering these relationships that make Nga Tawa so special.

Thanks to the energy of the Old Girls' Association, the Chapel strengthening project is becoming a reality. We have really missed our sacred place and as a school, we're excited to once again have a dedicated space for worship and personal reflection. We deeply appreciate any support you are able to give us.

Special character is at the heart of our school and we are delighted to share that we have appointed a new Chaplaincy team for 2023, Reverend Adrian Tofts and his wife, Michelle. Adrian and Michelle are both trained teachers and have both completed further study at St John's Theological College in Auckland. They will be moving onsite to Bruce Cottage in January 2023 and we are looking forward to our school community meeting them at our Term 1 events.

A good academic outcome underpins a Nga Tawa education and our students and staff have shown incredible resilience the past few years. Despite the disruption of Covid, they have adapted to new ways of teaching and learning admirably. Being a small school is one of our great strengths. It allows us to be agile and small class sizes mean students can develop strong relationships with teachers and teachers can be more responsive to the needs of individual. I'm very proud of our NCEA results over this challenging time - a 100% pass rate at Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 in 2020 and 2021 is outstanding and I appreciate how hard our team are working towards 2022 results.

Boarding is a superb teaching environment and one of the major benefits is that it enables our girls to concentrate on their academic and co-curricular activities during the week and be ready to reconnect with family when they go home. We offer a range of boarding options at Nga Tawa. Students can choose to attend as a full boarder, weekly boarder (Monday - Friday) or a two day boarder, which means they select two nights to sleep at school and go home the other days. The three boarding models we offer mean that the majority of our students have the opportunity to gain life skills from living in a supported community where friendships flourish, as does a student's independence. What we don't emphasise as often as we could is the significant contribution a boarding experience has in the

successful transition to tertiary study and university life.

As part of their recent staff professional development, Mrs Coralie Harvey and Ms Sally Jane Smith completed an inquiry focused on the impact boarding has on equipping our graduates for tertiary education. They surveyed our past three year 13 cohorts and the findings were very affirming. The girls felt that their Nga Tawa boarding school experience meant they arrived at their destination with the ability to manage their own lives. They felt more prepared and able to communicate with and accept others, setting them up for ongoing personal achievement and success.

As Principal, my measure of success is watching our girls go out into the world at the end of their time at Nga Tawa, knowing that they leave us as confident, resilient young women, grounded in the values of our school, and fully prepared for the next chapter in their lives. I know you'll enjoy reading about some of them in the pages to come.

Enjoy another fabulous edition  
of Calico Line,

*Lesley Carter*

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# Board talk

## *On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Diocesan Trust Board*

It seems that the world today is becoming more complex and challenging, especially for youth, who are being fed continuous information about the effect we are all having on the world we live in, including blaming past generations for their input and activity. The problem is, this continuous supply of alarmist rhetoric can become extremely unsettling for young minds who are simply trying to establish what they want to do, where they want to go and what they might be good at, hopefully with some personal passion thrown in.

Nga Tawa is extremely good at providing an environment that does not completely shelter our girls from the outside world, but certainly provides balance and principles through our values, enabling our students to choose their own path on the adventure of life.

If I look back on the past two years and consider what we have been through as students, parents, and a school, it has been challenging and definitely character building. But I'm very proud that we have not only held the line as a school, but our roll has grown, even with the absence of our international students who are finally able to return.

From both boards' point of view, it has been a very quiet two years, apart from supporting the capable management team manoeuvre through everything that has been thrown in the school's direction due to Covid. We have still had more meetings via zoom than in person which is great for our planet but challenging for board members to stay connected and fully in touch with the school.

We look forward to supporting the Old Girls' Association on

their journey with the chapel, which is a huge undertaking, firstly establishing what work is required for the earthquake strengthening, plus future proofing it for the needs of the school.

Our family has been associated with the school for many years. My sisters, parents, wife, three daughters and even my mother-in-law have a connection to Nga Tawa, and May Taylor, who founded the school in 1891, is a relation. I can remember my father being on the board during the integration agreement phase, and my mother being heavily involved in getting the horses back into the school in the 70's. We've all faced some challenging times, but we are still here today providing an outstanding opportunity for those girls who are lucky enough to experience what a small, rural school "made for girls" can deliver.

We continue to get outstanding curriculum results, and our pastoral care is second to none and a vital part of who we are. Our flexible boarding options have proved a great success for students, parents, and the school. Our extracurricular activities provide opportunities for our girls to have a go or try something that they may be really good at or even develop a passion for. Nga Tawa is currently in a strong position with a fantastic team, who all work together for the benefit of our girls. Long may it continue to provide the same amazing education it has done for the past 131 years.

*Roger Dalrymple*

Diocesan Trust Board Chair

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# An update from our new PFA Chair

Tracey Sivasubramaniam



PFA Vice Chair, Jo Trotter, and Chair, Tracey Siva.

My first introduction to the Nga Tawa PFA was at the 2019 AGM, the year my daughter, Hermione, started in year 9. Less than four months earlier, I'd visited the Nga Tawa stand at a horse show at Mystery Creek and agreed to go along to their Open Day the following week. At the time, I believed Marton to be a suburb in Cambridge! In my defence, New Zealand geography is not my forte as I'm Australian. I sent the Open Day details through to my husband who was working in London at the time, and his response was "looks great, book some flights." The penny finally dropped. Hermione is our last born of four, and a boarding school six hours wasn't an option for her mother. So after a successful Open Day visit and interview, I returned to Auckland and put the wheels in motion to move to Marton. Within a month, we'd packed up in Auckland, purchased a home just down the road from Nga Tawa and Hermione was ready to start year 9 as a day girl.

I was one of the first to arrive at the 2019 AGM, and was greeted by the warm smiles of the committee, amongst them Old Girls, Meredith Carpenter (Collier), Sarah McVerry (Willis), and Helen Thomas (Willis). I discovered that being present at the meeting meant you became a committee member automatically, and I can delightfully confirm that turning up to this meeting as not only a new parent, but a new resident of the area was the second best decision I made, after the initial decision to start Hermione at Nga Tawa.

I was delighted to hold the PFA's 50th Birthday Celebration at our home that first year. I met so many wonderful past and present PFA members. It was a fantastic year of getting to know the school, understanding our role as committee members, fundraising and generally being part of the school community. I started on my

journey of member to secretary, then Vice Chair and now in 2022, PFA Chair. What an honour.

Much of our time over the past few years has meant we have sadly spent more time out of school than in it, due to Covid. It has been challenging for us as a committee and as parents, not to be present. But we're so pleased to be back now that restrictions have lifted. Although fundraising is at the forefront of our minds, our focus this past term has been on offering our assistance at school events, and virtually re-establishing ourselves. The reality is many "new" parents from 2020 onwards haven't had the opportunity to enjoy that cup of tea on the first day of school and understand the support we offer thereafter.

Whilst we focus on re-introducing ourselves for the remainder of 2022, during these less restrictive times, we have hosted small successful fundraisers such as a movie night at Focal Point Feilding, various raffles, and we supplied a picnic lunch for a school trip. We are now working on two major events for 2023 and look forward to sharing the excitement of such soon.

By the way, despite only living down the road, it took less than six months for Hermione to go boarding fulltime! But it really was the best move we've ever made. For us, Nga Tawa is New Zealand's best kept secret and well worth changing our lives for.

*Tracey Siva*

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Head Girl, Amy Ellis, and Deputy Head Girl, Rebecca Kong.





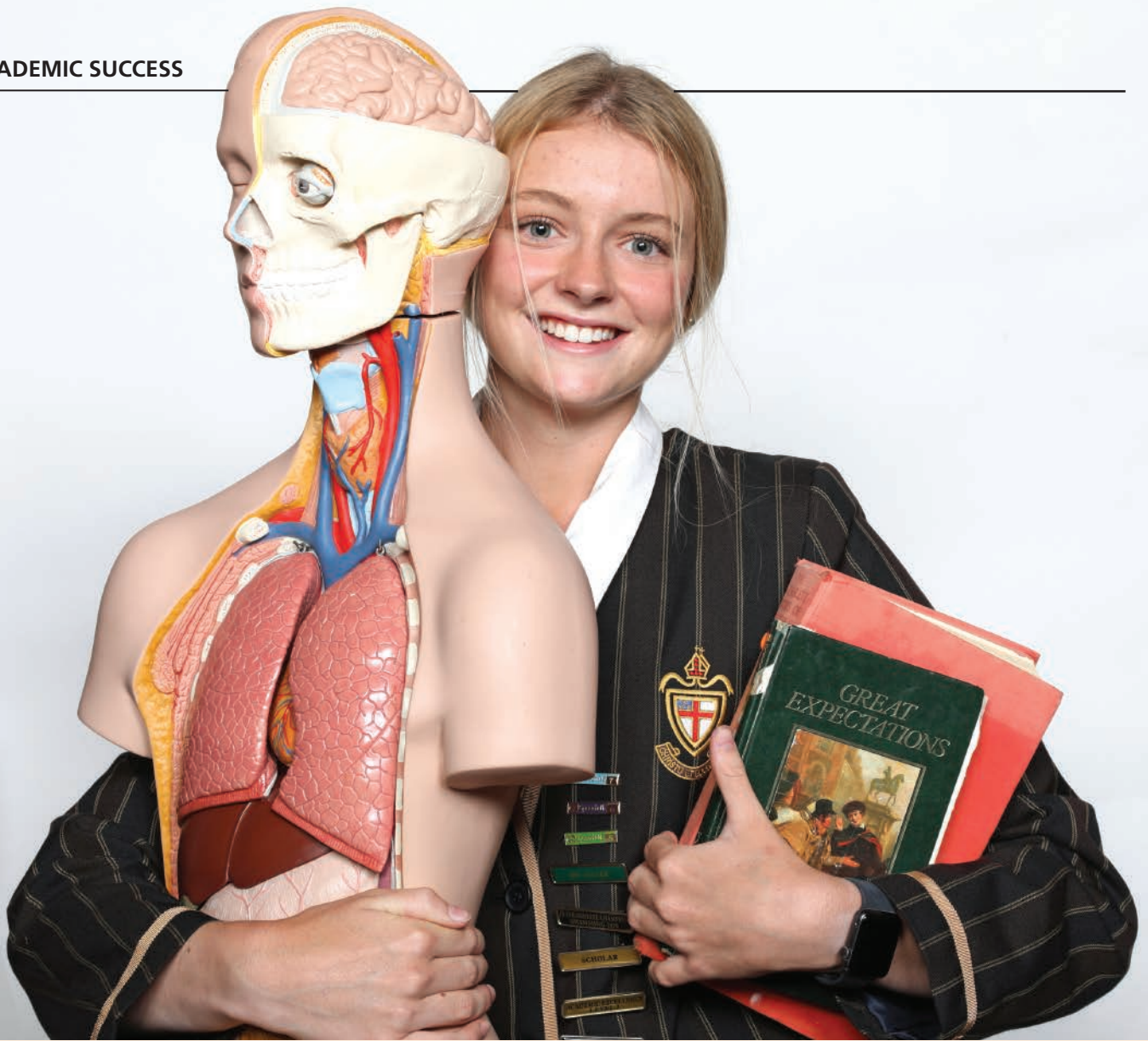
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# NCEA excellence

***100% at Level 1,  
Level 2 and Level 3!***

A good academic outcome underpins a Nga Tawa education and we're incredibly proud of our girls and our staff for their dedication to teaching and learning in 2021. It was a very challenging year with various lockdowns, periods of online learning and other disruptions. Despite this, our girls achieved a 100% pass rate at Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. 97% of Year 13 students achieved University Entrance.

The top five academic students in Years 10-13 were selected to join the 2022 Scholars' Society. These students are identified as priority learners and often accelerated in their learning programmes. Although this year's scholars' outings and extra-curricular activities such as running homework clubs for local primary schools have been limited, our 2022 Head Scholar, Emma Clark, was very proactive in organising a book drive for local schools instead and onsite activities for the girls to take part in.



## Oh, the places you'll go!

*Emma Ferguson*

Like many girls presented with the prospect of boarding school, Emma Ferguson wasn't convinced that leaving the comforts of home in Christchurch to spend five years at boarding school was such a good idea.

That all changed when as a pony mad 12-year-old, she came across the Nga Tawa school horse truck down south at Springston Trophy. Emma met a few of the girls and got chatting. The thought of going to a school where she could take her pony, Puzzle, and ride every day sounded too good to be true. Right then and there she asked her Mum if she could go.

She may have enrolled at Nga Tawa for its Equestrian Academy, but it's on the track that Emma has really hit her stride. As a junior, Emma was playing netball and focusing on show jumping, but she was spotted running at school events by Nga Tawa's former director of sport Claire Horner and her husband Kent, who are triathlon coaches and raced professionally. They saw her potential and asked if they could train her.

"I've always been quite sporty, but I didn't start running competitively until two years ago when Claire and Kent suggested I give it a go."

Since swapping four legs for two, Emma's definitely fulfilled the potential Claire and Kent saw in her. Emma trains twice a day and races with the Feilding Moa Club at weekends. This year she was selected in the New Zealand team to compete at the Oceania Athletics Championships in Mackay, Queensland in June. She competed in the under-20 1500m and her speciality event, the 800m, where her personal best is 2 minutes 12 seconds.

Even though the Horners have moved to Tauranga, Kent still coaches Emma, whose goal in Australia was to run some good

personal bests and aim for the top. She did just that, winning a silver medal in the 800m and a bronze in the 1500m.

Following her success at the Oceania Championships, Emma was selected to represent New Zealand again, this time at the Australia Cross Country Championships. She boarded a plane to Adelaide in August to race in the longer distance format, finishing the 6km U20 women's race in 25 minutes and 36 seconds and crossing the line in 14th place.

Emma isn't just a talented athlete. A week prior to the Australia Cross Country Championships she led our school choir to the Cadenza Finals of the Big Sing New Zealand. An accomplished singer, she is our 2022 Head of Humanities and Head Chorister. Somehow she squeezed sitting her ATCL diploma for classical music into this year as well!

"It's cool to be a leader here and I've always looked up to the older girls. Hopefully I'm an inspiration for the junior girls too. I want to show them that they really can make the most of every opportunity we get at Nga Tawa."

Somehow Emma juggles having two horses at school and show jumping at young rider level (1.30m-1.35m), running competitively, singing, being a Prefect and her studies.

"My parents live in Christchurch so the support I get here really is phenomenal. I remember filming a promo video for Nga Tawa when I was in year 10 and at the end of it I said, "if you're thinking about coming to Nga Tawa I recommend you do because it's the best time you'll ever have". I still really believe that. I came to Nga Tawa to ride horses and I'm leaving bound for the United States on a track scholarship. It's been an amazing five years."

# Back in boarding 30 years later!

Caroline Taylor

Old Girl Caroline Taylor (Crawford) (1986-1990) left Nga Tawa at the end of her seventh form in 1990. Now the mum of and old girl (Georgia) and a current student (Issy), has returned to Nga Tawa as the year 9 Boarding Manager (BM).

We asked Caroline to give us an insight into her role and how it feels to have responsibility for the care and wellbeing of Nga Tawa's newest students as they begin their boarding life.

## Why did you decide to become a Boarding Manager?

We moved back to Marton from Auckland at the end of 2016 so that my eldest daughter, Georgia, could start her education at Nga Tawa the following year. I never, ever imagined six years later I would end up back at Nga Tawa as a Boarding Manager!

Prior to starting this role I had an early childhood business in Marton with child care provider, Tiny Nation. As we approached the end of Georgia's incredibly successful five years at Nga Tawa and we were planning her new adventure at the University of Canterbury, I realised this was my opportunity for a complete change, and the BM position popped up. I had always thought working with young teens would be my next step and so a new chapter began.

## Run us through a typical day in your role.

My day starts around 5.45am at home. By 7am I am at Nga Tawa in my office, which is located upstairs above the old telephone boxes in the old Barker/Birch end of Main Boarding. My night staff give me a hand over and brief me before wake-up calls begin! Room and uniform checks start at 7am and the girls can then have their mobile phones until they leave for school. Breakfast is at 7.45am, then it's farewell from me at 8.15am as they depart for school.

After meetings I head home to do my own life admin, exercise and return to school at 3.15pm. The split shift does take its toll later on in the term when I will often need a wee afternoon nap! When I welcome the boarders "home" after school, my office is always full of chat and laughter and sometimes organised chaos as the girls talk me through the good and bad of their days. It's a bit like hanging out with Mum in the kitchen after school! Then while they're at sport and afternoon activities I'm answering emails, doing rosters for duties, communicating with families and the wider wellbeing team. I liaise a lot with mentors and the Year 9 Dean as well as the academic team in the day school.

Bedtime routines start as soon as the girls are up from prep at 8pm. The girls are in bed and lights out around 9.15pm. I often say to my friends - remember the fun and games you all had in boarding after lights out?!

## What has changed since you boarded at Nga Tawa?

When I go through the green gates I still occasionally have the

butterflies that all boarders will remember! I have flashbacks every day of my school days - in boarding, chapel, the classroom block where I supervise prep, sport, the uniform, food, even the teachers. Mrs Coleman (Stewart) and Yvonne Hartley taught me and now I see them every day! The names I walk past every day on the honours boards remind me of friends and Old Girls before me, families and connections. There are lots of emotions often triggered.

The whole school has dinner together and it's a lot less formal now. The girls also wear mufti clothing, different to our dinner attire in the 1980's of gold jumpers and long tartan skirts. In my day we sat in houses for dinner in mixed year groups, which I think would be fantastic to do again.

Prep is similar to my day - it's silent and in the classroom block. I often think of the gorgeous year 10 I sat with as a year 9 who had the most beautiful stationery she would share with me to write letters home!

This year I introduced my year 9's to letter writing. I have shown them how to address envelopes, where the stamp goes and that you might also need to write the road Mum and Dad live on, not just the town or city, so that they receive their letter!

I also love sharing my memories with the girls of things that are no longer there, like the tuck shed. One time a senior locked a friend and I in the shed and then stole all our tuck! Remember the big wooden boxes? Nowadays girls have food in plastic containers safely locked away in my office to enjoy after school, sport and in the weekends.

## What do you love about your job?

I love the traditions at Nga Tawa and the house spirit that lives on through the generations. House Drama and House Music are my favourites! Synchro, slipping, bean bag, Founders' Day have all continued, although Founders' Day is a lot less scary now!

I love the modern family approach to boarding life. Girls can go on dinner dates, leave for weekends, go to friends' houses and their whānau are invited to school regularly. All the girls are supported and encouraged in everything they do from the classroom, to the horse yards, on the sports fields and the stage! It's truly a magical place.

My youngest daughter Isabella (Issy) is in year 11 and is a local boarder which means she stays in two nights a week. We connect daily and she will pop up to see me after school and share her school day with me or we say hi at dinner.

The teachers, staff and boarding environment make everyone feel welcome and I feel blessed to be back here at school.

I have endeavoured to make junior boarding a welcoming, nurturing space to help the girls to feel settled and happy. We have rules, routines and rosters for everyone to take part in, a modern new common room, and a weekly boarding meeting





where we celebrate the good, bad and the ugly! I have created a 'Boarder of the Week' cup which is filled with treats for the winner and this term we have a new award for room tidiness – which is a McDonalds dinner for the successful dorm room (two or three girls).

The role of Boarding Manager is busy and challenging at times, but is very rewarding. I've found that being organised, calm and friendly are really important. I love knowing that I am helping make a difference in the lives of our newest year 9 girls as they navigate the start of their boarding life.



## House events

*Who will lift the 2022 House Shield?*

### 2022 Results

Swimming Sports	<b>Barker</b>
Synchro	<b>Studholme</b>
Athletics	<b>Barker</b>
Bean Bag	<b>Sprott</b>
Slipping	<b>Sprott</b>
Cross Country	<b>Barker</b>

#### HOUSE MUSIC

Big House	<b>Barker</b>
Small Group	<b>Studholme</b>
Overall	<b>Studholme</b>

House Drama	<b>Birch</b>
House Photography	<b>Barker</b>









# Association update

*Time for a new chapter to begin*

By the time you read this report I will have passed over the leadership of our association to my friend and former classmate, Penelope Roberts (Allen) fondly known by my year group as Nep. While it is tempting to stay in leadership roles, especially when others urge you to carry on, I am a strong believer in applying yourself energetically for a short period. In 2019 I set three clear goals for myself and our association – to achieve charitable trust status, to get the process of re-opening the Chapel started and to better connect with our Old Girl community through hosting more events. I give myself a pass for the first two, which you can read more about below. However, with Covid lockdowns over my tenure the third goal has been a lot harder to achieve. As we get closer to understanding what will be required to strengthen the chapel, now is the time for us to focus on our connection with you and being more visible. Nep is the perfect person for this – she is Mum to two current students, an enthusiastic networker and one of Nga Tawa's most passionate advocates. She's also very convincing and hard to say no to. I wish her all the very best.

Back to the Association's activities in 2022. Firstly, the question we are most often asked – how is progress with the Chapel? In May this year the Diocesan Board approved our proposal for engineer Dmytro Dizhur to assess St Leonard's Chapel and give options for earthquake strengthening. This assessment is currently underway and is being fully funded by the Nga Tawa Old Girls' Association (read more on page 16). Dmytro is an award-winning and published seismic and structural engineering expert who specialises in heritage and character buildings. He was recommended to us by Old Girl Julia Gatley who is Associate Professor at the School of Architecture and Planning at Auckland University. In 2021 Nga Tawa bursar, Helen Campbell, and I visited a brick church outside Whanganui which had been strengthened using Dmytro's designs. I am pleased to report this strengthening was virtually undetectable by the naked eye.

I am also very pleased to report that at the 2021 AGM in early December 2021 we passed two very important resolutions that removed many of the hurdles we have previously encountered with fundraising. Firstly, we passed a motion for our association to apply to become a charitable trust, which will enable us to raise funds and issue tax receipts. In early September we completed the application for this charitable status and we are awaiting confirmation. Secondly, at last year's AGM we adopted a new constitution that reflects the more centralised nature of our association and our membership. Times have changed and there are no longer any active regional branches or annual subscriptions coming in. However, today we are engaging with Nga Tawa students right at the start of their school life. The Old Girls' Association Life membership begins as soon as a student enters year 9, and their parents agree to pay our \$250 fee. I'm pleased to report we received 100% uptake from the 2021 and 2022 cohorts of year 9's.

Our association has continued to support promising students and those in need through our scholarship programme. We have



invested \$20,000 per year consistently for the past five years and I would like to think we can continue to support Nga Tawa in this way. I am also pleased to inform you that in the past four months we have been working on a structure for bequesting and gifting. Several old girls have approached me and members of our executive about their wishes to include Nga Tawa in their wills. We are now working with the Diocesan Board to design an appropriate structure and investment entity.

Finally, I would like to briefly thank my executive, in particular Katie Gilmour (who is also Nga Tawa's marketing manager), Meredith Carpenter (vice President), Caroline Taylor (secretary), Caroline Ridd, Karen Stodhart, my sister Helen Thomas, and our Dio Board representatives, Heidi Sixtus (treasurer) and Heather Gee-Taylor for carrying the old girl mantle which is not always easy.

Thank you to all the generous Old Girls who have contributed directly to our association during my three years. Our support makes a huge difference financially to the school and just as importantly it sets a great example to our future Old Girls.

*Sarah McVerry (Willis)*

1984-1988

**Old Girls' Association President**

sarahmcverry@icloud.com



# From the archives

*Sally Patrick*

*Kia ora Koutou katoa.*

Warm greetings to you all from your Nga Tawa Diocesan Archives and Old Girls' Liaison.

It has been another Covid-disrupted, yet rewarding year in Archives where it seems even more important to acknowledge the extensive foundations that earlier school archivists established for us. Their solid organisation has meant that we have been able to expand into areas of historical research and content creation that previously would not have been viable, given the time available.

From our school's inception, Nga Tawa women have always been drawn to sciences – motivated through the inspiration of the school's both highly-qualified and gifted teachers at a time when such fields were historically male-dominated. This year, medical science in particular has flourished in the national research arena.

Early Medical Women of NZ, a research programme begun in 2018 by University of Auckland has established a register of early Aotearoa/NZ women doctors, and is now developing online detailed biographies of these medical pioneers. A number of Nga Tawa Old Girls are noted in the register. There is a bio of the legendary Dr Adah Platts-Mills (1918-1923) (who along with her mother Dr Daisy Platt, were the first mother/daughter graduates from the University of Otago Medical School). Adah gifted us her entire set of letters written home while at school and this has become one of Archives' absolute treasures. An extremely talented writer, she narrates a vivid picture of Nga Tawa life in the early 20th century.

This year was the fourth year of Archives' involvement in the year 9 students' identity study. This Social Studies/English unit focuses our newest members of the Nga Tawa community on finding a touchstone from the school's past that has particular relevance for them. Some of their questions include "How was everything run in the 1930s?", "When did bean bagging start?", "How did the Old Girls do sport and which sports cups are no longer awarded?" and "Are there letters home that mention what Boarding was like?"

Each girl spends hours in Archives and the School Library, trawling through primary source material, often discovering aspects of school history long forgotten. We're building substantial layers of historical fact through this work, that sits neatly above the earlier published histories of Nga Tawa. As a result, the school's traditions and practices are better understood, providing palpable engagement with the past.

Late in 2021, a reissue of Ellen Taylor's 1901 novel, "A Thousand Pities" was published by Otago University Press. Ellen, sister of Nga Tawa founder May Taylor, taught at Nga Tawa during the early years. Her novel set in 19th century rural Rangitikei and Manawatu offers a rare, female perspective on colonial life, a "meditation on place and settlement". Massey University Associate Professor of History, Kirsty Carpenter, edited this reissue, which can be ordered directly from Otago University Press.

Engagement and collaboration in the school archives sector has also come to the fore in 2022, bringing with it recognition of the regional and national value of these often tiny entities. Special thanks to my colleague, Nga Tawa Librarian, Suzette Stephens, who assisted in the organising of a regional School Archives Seminar in September 2022; to Dr Eric Boamah (Senior Lecturer, Open Polytechnic of NZ) for his inaugural research into school archives, and to Frances Gibbons and Richard Bourne from Whanganui Collegiate Museum for their invaluable support.

We were saddened to hear of the death of highly-respected, former Deputy Principal and Barker House Mistress, Sheila Shearman in July 2022. Our condolences are extended to Sheila's daughter, Old Girl Jane Horvath (Shearman) and her family.

Lastly, thank you to all those within the Nga Tawa community for making the time to keep in touch, provide news, gift photographs, albums, cloaks (...and 1950s bloomers!) and when Covid regulations permitted, visit in person. We enjoyed catching up with many of you at the NTOGA AGM in November.

Don't forget to get your last minute Christmas orders in for special Nga Tawa jewellery found online at [www.ngatawa.school.nz/jewellery](http://www.ngatawa.school.nz/jewellery) and don't miss out on one of the last copies of the iconic 1991 Nga Tawa Centennial Cookbook which can be ordered directly from Archives here [patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz](mailto:patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz).

Wishing you the very best for Christmas and the holiday season. Meri kirimete kia tātou katoa.

*Ngā mihi,*

*Sally Patrick*

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# Innovation key to earthquake strengthening

*Meet Dr Dmytro Dizhur*

For the past three months, DIZHUR Consulting has been working on a Detailed Seismic Assessment and Concept Retrofit of the Nga Tawa Chapel. The team expects to deliver its recommendations to the Diocesan Board and Old Girls, who funded the assessment, by Christmas 2022.

Dr Dmytro Dizhur is an award-winning seismic and structural engineer who has dedicated his career to the mitigation of earthquake risks for large-scale buildings and various global heritage structures. He has advised on over 1,000 major projects for assessing, restoring and strengthening masonry buildings. Dr Dizhur is also renowned for driving new thinking towards optimal strengthening solutions, by devising creative and innovative stability-testing methods in order to simulate earthquake loads.

Calico Line asked him to answer some questions about his approach with Nga Tawa's beloved, 92 year old St Leonard's Chapel.

**Tell us how you assess buildings like the Nga Tawa Chapel. What is your process?**

That is a short question with a very long answer, but I will try to keep it brief!

The Chapel is an historical existing building which means it's very different to a new development where you can basically do what you like. We need to be very conscious of the building's current structure. We do a lot of up-front investigative work on site and research the building's history to find information on alterations or structural changes.

We read through the reports and drawings, and when we get on site we are looking to understand what the actual building structure is. Looking at things like the properties of the material, the properties of timber species and the brick work – you can get an extensive range of strength in bricks. All of these things have an impact. We also take samples of the bricks and mortar and do physical testing on site.

Ultimately we are trying to utilise the existing fabric of the building as much as we can. Instead of saying this is too old, too hard and just connect the old building to new structures, we take



Dr Dmytro Dizhur

the philosophical approach that we are trying to use what's there first.

**What modelling do you use to design the best strengthening solution?**

Modelling is the last thing we do and it's not always necessary. It's a tool that emulates how the building will perform in an earthquake. For this building we will be using finite element modelling, which means there are certain elements of the structure that we don't have a previous calculation for, such as the arch that sits transversally across the building. It's quite unique so we will isolate that element and test it.

**You designed the earthquake strengthening concepts for Westmere Church just out of Wanganui in 2015/6. It is a brick church very similar to Nga Tawa. Are there any techniques used in the project which could be replicated?**

Yes some ideas used for Westmere might form part of the solution. The Chapel has been built with a cavity construction so the walls have one layer of brick, an air gap and then another layer of brick. This performs very badly in earthquakes, but it also provides a great advantage because you can use steel elements within the cavity to add a lot of strength and no-one will know they're there.

So rather than replicating the carbon fibre strips in the mortar of the bricks which we designed in Westmere, the Chapel approach is more likely to be along the lines of hiding steel rods in the cavity and anchoring the building that way.

**There is a perception that earthquake strengthening brick buildings such as the Nga Tawa Chapel is very cost prohibitive and can destroy heritage values. What is your response to that? Is it worth it?**

How do you put a price on a piece of heritage that someone built 150 years ago? Especially for a chapel.

If I look at a commercial building such as the buildings I've been involved with strengthening in Whanganui, we have found it is worth it commercially as it is more cost effective to improve the building than demolish it and start from scratch. Time and time again we've proven it's more cost effective to improve a like for like asset rather than demolish it and start again.

It's also important to remember that earthquake strengthening can end up being a small aspect of heritage restoration. Fire prevention, access, insulation and upgrading windows might be more expensive than strengthening.





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# Nga Tawa reunions and sporting fixtures

## Class of 1981 catch up

The Class of '81 gathered in November last year to celebrate 40 years since starting Nga Tawa. It was dubbed The Clayton's Reunion - that is a reunion where you are not having a reunion! Those from a similar era will understand.

In the months leading up, they'd scoped venues, circulated dates and managed to locate nearly all their classmates that attended over the five years they were at school, even those that came for short stints from overseas.

Taupo was the perfect meeting point and everyone enjoyed a fabulous weekend of walking, shopping and eating. The ladies stayed at Anchorage Resort in 2 Mile Bay. On Friday night they stayed in for a delicious potluck meal and drinks. Luckily, for other diners, they had a private room at Plateau on the Saturday night for cocktails and fine dining. They spent a leisurely Sunday at Kinloch Manor and enjoyed their expansive views, amazing interior design and high tea.

Sadly, due to lockdowns in Waikato, Auckland and closed borders, numbers dwindled to 11: **Koo Greenway (Duncan), Fi Dalgety (Grace), Pattie O'Boyle (Groves), Chris Thurston, Janice Glasgow, Kirsty Stone, Freddie Wade, Tracey Lilburn, Caroline Joyce, Nic Symes (Marshall) and Jo Simpson.**

It was such a shame a number couldn't make it but the photos tell you there were lots of stories told with huge hilarity!



Back row: **Koo Greenway (Duncan), Pattie O'Boyle (Groves), Kirsty Stone, Jo Simpson.**

Middle row: **Fi Dalgety (Grace), Janice Glasgow, Caroline Joyce.**

Front row: **Nic Symes (Marshall), Freddie Wade.**

Right: Class of 1984 in the covered walkway.



## A weekend in Taupo for class of 1999

Our Class of '99 had a great catch up at The Bantry in Taupo in June. It had been 19 years since they left school and they're hoping it's the start of an annual get together now that a lot of their year group are back in New Zealand. They're hoping even more of their year group can join them for the 20-year get together they're planning for 2023!

L-R: **Emily Collis, Laura Pevreal (Glasgow), Zara Mason, Amanda Bell, Shasha Gan, Nikki Weber (Weston), Alice Walker, Richelle Godfrey (Smyth) and Chelsee Woollaston.**

**Keen to join the Old Girl beanbag and slipping teams at Athletics Sports on Friday 24 February 2023?**

Email [gilmourkatie@ngatawa.school.nz](mailto:gilmourkatie@ngatawa.school.nz) to put your name on the list!







## Class of 1984 descend on Marton!



Back row (l-r): **Helen Hills Young, Penelope Roberts (Allen), Pip McCarroll (Brow), Sally Allen (Yortt), Jo Melville, Chrissy Livingstone, Jane Kerr (Kilmister).**

Front row (l-r): **Mandy Godfrey, Sarah Scott, Megan Welton (Little), Mandy McCasker (Broughton).**

At pretty short notice almost half of the class of 1984 managed a spring get together in Marton, almost 38 years after they first walked in Nga Tawa's front door.

For some of the crew it was the first time back at school and so what was planned to be a short two-hour tour ended up being a very full afternoon of reminiscing and exploring new areas, such as the Events Centre, horse yards and the new running track around the school grounds. The memories continued to flow well into the night with a delicious catered dinner nearby and even singing old bus songs (A pea rolled off the table and killed a friend of mine!)

A handful then continued the following morning with nine holes at Marton golf course. It was a wonderfully happy reunion for old friends.

*If you've had a class reunion or are planning one, we'd love to hear from you. Email our Archivist, Sally Patrick, at : [patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz](mailto:patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz).*

## Old Girls Netball



In August we kicked off our inaugural Nga Tawa Old Girls vs NT Gold match and what an epic game it was. Our Old Girls absolutely loved being back out on court and you'd never know that it had been 15-20 years since they'd played together. Most of the team hadn't been back to school since and they all had a hilarious trip down memory lane touring the school and having lunch in the dining room.

Thank you to the NT PFA for hosting our supporters and a very special shout out to Mrs Yvonne Hartley for umpiring the game. She once coached most of the girls who played and still works at school, but no longer wears her tracksuit to work. She is now the Year 12 and 13 Boarding Manager.

It was an emphatic win to the Old Girls this year in front of a packed Events Centre. We're already looking forward to next year!







## Freya Weth

*The 22-year-old growing mini-brains in petri dishes to fight brain cancer*



In a laboratory in Newtown, Wellington, former Head Scholar and Dux at Nga Tawa, **Freya Weth (2013-2017)**, is firing blood pressure medications and viagra at human brain tissue. She's hoping she'll be able to use these to treat cancer. Freya is growing 'mini-brains' out of donated tissue from patients treated for brain cancer at Wellington Hospital and testing them against drugs commonly found in medicine cabinets.

The aim is to see how the drugs affect the growth of tumour tissue, building on existing research by the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute led by Dr Swee Tan, which found beta-blockers could be used to cause the tumours to "self-destruct" without the need for invasive procedures.

Freya's work is part of her PhD and she has been awarded a three-year Graham Langridge scholarship worth \$150,000 for the research. Freya's discovery project will inform and support future clinical trial work that targets cancer tumours by repurposing low-cost, off-patent, safe oral medications. She is expecting to have preliminary results from the work next year, with the final results in 2025.

In the meantime, she is inspiring the current students at Nga Tawa. Year 12 student Hermione Sivasubramaniam, 16, lost her father to cancer in December last year. Hermoine says losing her dad, Nelson, was tough. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2020 and it progressed to his kidney and lungs. He had surgery to remove tumours and went through chemotherapy and immunotherapy and finally radiation treatment when the cancer moved to his brain. "We just tried to deal with it our best way to be honest, but it was a very difficult time." She suggested her school house, Sprott, used its annual fundraiser to support Freya's research. "We are fascinated by what Freya does. I think it is amazing how she is trying so hard to try and find a cure for brain cancer," Hermoine says.



Hermione Sivasubramaniam and Bart.

Despite being a proud Birch Old Girl, Freya was invited to speak at this year's Sprott House dinner. While unable to attend in person – as she was attending her University of Otago graduation ceremony where she received her post-graduate Bachelor of Biomedical Science degree with first-class honours – Freya spoke on her education journey and work in a video link. Sprott hosted a photo fundraiser in support of the GMRI where students could book sessions with professional photographers to capture images of them with family, friends or special requests and raised over \$500.

Hermione booked a session to have photographs taken with her horse, Bart. "My dad bought him for me. He was involved with my horse a lot. Although Dad didn't know a lot about horses and ponies, he knew they changed my life, even if he questioned the cost."





## Penelope Roberts (Allen)

*Her new calling*

Photo credit: Caleb Ansley, YSA

If you open the 1988 Nga Tawa Script and look at the leavers' bios, 18-year-old **Penelope Roberts (Allen) (1984-1988)** seemed fairly set on being a vet. However her friends lured her to Otago instead of Massey where she studied Physiology and Dental Surgery instead.

Penelope, affectionately known as Nep to her year group, has practised hospital, private, community, special needs and the education of dentistry for nearly three decades in NZ and overseas. In the October school holidays, Nep joined the dental team for Trinity Koha Dental Clinics on their partner ship, MV Koha, and set off on her maiden voyage to the remote Fiji Islands of the Lau Group and Rabi Island.

Trinity Koha Dental Clinics is a partnership between Trinity Lands and YWAM (Youth With A Mission) Ships Aotearoa. The collaboration was gifted a German cable laying ship a few years ago and the ship has been transformed by a large team of volunteers, builders, electricians, engineers and boat builders into a medical and dental mission ship.

Nep joined the dental team during Covid when the ship couldn't go abroad. During this time, the dental surgeries, which are housed in two 40 foot containers, were taken ashore and the clinics gave away free dentistry in small towns across New Zealand.

When our New Zealand borders were relaxed and Nep could finally be deployed, she organised her outreach to Fiji, and was joined on board by her husband, Nick, and their two daughters

and current Nga Tawa students, Ivy (year 12) and Missy (year 10). The Roberts family joined a crew of 33 onboard.

"We set sail for a two week trip and I ran the two 'container clinics' onboard and saw hundreds of patients a day. Thankfully I was joined by a local Fijian dentist and oral health therapist, which really helped with communication and shared the patient care load. They also went ashore to triage and run an extraction only clinic, and any teeth that needed restoring were sent onto the ship."

She says Ivy and Missy were great assistants learning how to sterilise, run post op care, and give school oral health presentations. The girls immersed themselves in village life, even playing netball for one of the village netball teams on Fiji Independence Day. The netball tournament was very popular entertainment for waiting patients! Nick an ocean racer, loved being in charge of the tender, and with radio in hand, he ferried patients, instruments and medical supplies between ship and shore.

"We all felt deeply grateful for the opportunity and it was a truly humbling experience to be able to help the beautiful Fijian people in such a practical way to relieve their pain and suffering."

Nep is excited to join future ship missions and will continue to work in the land based New Zealand clinics.

"I think I've found my new calling for the rest of my professional life. As I learnt at Nga Tawa it is always more fulfilling to give than to receive."



# Kate Medicott

*A career dedicated to human rights*



Kate Medicott (right) with her WHO team assessing the sanitation and wastewater conditions at a camp for Ukrainian war refugees earlier this year.

Next time you go to the loo, think of the 673 million people around the world who have no access to a toilet. We know this because of a ground-breaking report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Sanitation and Wastewater team, led by Old Girl **Kate Medicott (1987)**.

In 2015 the United Nations set a target to deliver sanitation and end open defecation world-wide by 2030. The WHO's 2021 'State of the World's Sanitation Report' showed the world is alarmingly off-track to meet that target. Over half the world's population, 4.2 billion people, use sanitation services that leave human waste untreated, and of those, 673 million people have no toilets at all and practise open defecation. An estimated 367 million school-age children attend schools without toilets.

Kate's team's report identified that if no progress is made 830,000 people will continue to die from preventable diseases every year.

"What we think of as old diseases like cholera are still infecting millions of people every year. There are massive urban slums with no toilets at all, and women getting seriously ill from urinary tract infections because they're holding on all night because it's too dangerous to go outside."

"Our job is to generate the data and identify the impact poor

sanitation has on health outcomes, synthesise evidence on what works to fix it and to influence political will and finance to close this awful gap."

There were early signs in her days at Nga Tawa that Kate would be driven towards health and human rights. She says the only book she remembers reading right to the end during school was the autobiography of Bob Geldof whose massive music event, Live Aid, in 1985 raised \$127 million for famine relief for Africa.

She graduated as an environmental engineer from Canterbury University in 1997.

"Engineering school wasn't a very welcoming environment back then. I was in a year of 110 students with only 10 girls. There were hardly any women's toilets and half the lecturers would start the day with a 'Hello gentlemen!'"

She worked on the design of wastewater treatments in major centres across New Zealand for the first two years of her career, and then took on her first of many offshore consultancy roles initially for the WHO and then Unicef, in Vientiane, the capital of Laos.

Much of her work in the field has involved transformational improvements to water supply and sanitation. During her first



four-year stint in Laos in the late 2000s she managed construction of schools and water supplies in a very remote area of Xayaburi in Laos known as the golden triangle. She also travelled around the country with Unicef assessing school sanitation.

"We were focused on making sure that schools have toilet blocks and running water. In a lot of these countries girls drop out of school when they get their periods because they don't have safe or private place to manage their menstruation. So, getting those basic services into schools is key."

An Auckland based role with Oxfam's humanitarian programme in the early 2000's saw Kate travel throughout the Pacific and took her to Sri Lanka the week after the devastating 2005 Tsunami.

"There were still a lot of bodies around and at the same time the civil conflict was going on. It was frightening and sad – it was the first time I had seen people dealing with mass trauma and it was very confronting."

In 2010 Kate and her family were again based in Laos, with her husband Richard who is also an engineer working on rural solar energy projects in Asia and West Africa. When a former colleague from the WHO called to offer Kate the role as Sanitation and Wastewater team leader based in Geneva, Switzerland, initially she said no.

"I wasn't sure if it was for me, I'm not a headquarters person. But when I told a mentor she said 'are you crazy?' I had another think and we decided to go."

She and Richard packed up their two children Ana and George, who were then 5 and 3 and moved to a small village in France just a short commute across the border to Geneva. The kids went straight into learning French by immersion at the local village school. Today they are attending an international high school in Geneva with pupils from 105 different nationalities.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Kate's team had a key role first in establishing if Covid can be transmitted by water and wastewater and then facilitating the exchange of information across countries on wastewater surveillance systems to detect changes in circulation of the virus. Effective wastewater surveillance was able to give countries a 7-day warning about likely spikes in infections arriving at their hospitals. Later it was used to see when new variants were appearing in populations.

After ten years at the WHO Kate says she still has moments when she has to pinch herself.

"I used to have these moments where I'm thinking I'm just this kid from Whanganui. What the hell am I doing leading this meeting full of world experts? But I know now it's not my job to be the expert across so many countries and topics, I've learned it's my role to identify and convene experts and end users, gather all the information and get it back out in a form that people can understand and use to make change."



Kate, Richard and their children Ana and George when they lived in Laos.

# Sisters on a mission

*Walking for hope*

**Libby Taylor (Wickham) (1974-1978)** and her sister **Kate Hattaway (Wickham) (1976-1978)** are bravely taking steps to heal themselves and others. Their feet have taken them on a 2100km journey from Cape Reinga to Bluff. They're walking the length of New Zealand to raise awareness and show support to other sexual abuse survivors like themselves.

When Calico Line went to print, the sisters were over half way in their journey. It was a misty, gloomy morning when Libby and Kate set out on their long walk down the country on October 1. Their small, dedicated team have worked many hours on this project and have kept the motivation going through two postponements. They have an awesome crew of drivers for the campervan (their support vehicle) and are staying with family, friends and in campgrounds along the way.

Libby, a trauma counsellor, said the idea for the walk called REOSA, Ripple Effects of Sexual Abuse, came up about two years ago. The sisters, both in their 60s, had become aware of the statistics around sexual abuse and were horrified.

They had only just begun speaking to each other about their experiences during that time – over 50 years since they were victims of childhood sexual abuse which spanned over years.

The aim of the walk was to dispel loneliness, create hope for survivors and encourage understanding by raising awareness about the negative ripple effects of sexual abuse. Kate, a massage therapist, says "it's about bringing people together and letting survivors know that they are not alone."

According to Help, a sexual abuse prevention and victim support organisation, one in three girls aged under 16 were victim to sexual abuse (90% will be done by someone she knows), while for boys, it was one in seven before adulthood in Aotearoa.

"It's horrific actually ... That's a huge amount of people and as we're walking, I am shocked about all the people we are having conversations with that are going around experiencing these ripples ... and really not leading the lives that they deserve to lead," Kate said.

On their journey so far, the pair had come across many people who had never spoken to anyone about their experiences of sexual abuse – people who had carried their trauma in silence.

Walking through their hometown of Taumarunui had been an important step in their own healing process. Into their adulthood, the pair barely spoke about their experiences, suppressing them from their thoughts as a survival mechanism. They say their healing didn't happen overnight but throughout the walk, the pair were able to share more about their experiences with each other than they'd had ever had.

Kate and Libby believe education and empowerment are key to tackling the issue and they have been giving out two books on their journey in hopes of contributing to a better understanding of sexual abuse. One book called *'Keeping Our Tamariki Safe*



Libby and Kate.

*From Sexual Harm'* was to empower parents and caregivers to know how to look out for signs of sexual abuse in children, while *'Only For Me'* written by Michelle Derrig was for young people to understand their own bodies and keep themselves safe.

The pair's days have been long, starting about 6am and finishing after 10pm. But Libby and Kate agree it has been the most rewarding and humbling experience they'd had.

Libby and Kate have hosted support walks which have been a huge part of the hikoi, and the sisters feel very humbled that they have been able to create a safe space where survivors could come and be part of a community that lifted them up, listened to them and supported them.

Their final REOSA supporter walk was to be held in Invercargill on November 17 and the sisters hoped to finish their journey in Bluff a few days later.

You can follow Libby and Kate on social media to see more of their journey.

Facebook - @reosa.newzealand

Instagram - @reosa\_nz



# News and celebrations

## **Bridget Bone (2014-2018) and Jessica Wilson (2011-2015)**

received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Awards at Government House earlier this year. Started by HRH Prince Philip in 1956, the award was introduced in New Zealand in 1963 by the then Governor-General, Sir Bernard Fergusson. Many young people have completed the three sequential bronze, silver and gold levels since. Nga Tawa DoE coordinator, Mrs Tracy Quirk, and Mrs Carter were at the presentation to support the girls. Tracy has taken on the coordinator role at Nga Tawa for many years. Until recently when Nga Tawa partnered with TOPEC to run expeditions, Tracy and her husband, Charlie, also led most of the adventurous journeys. All current year 10 Nga Tawa students are currently doing their bronze award training along with 30 other students enrolled in bronze, four silver participants and one gold.

**Elizabeth 'Tommie' Garnock (Bell) (1962-1966)** married an Australian and has two sons. She wrote to us recently and told us she is now in an aged care home and remembering better times in New Zealand. While she misses home, she achieved some impressive career milestones whilst in Australia. She was Private Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the Senate, Political Officer at the Federal Secretariat of the Liberal Party and Consultant to Engineers Australia and the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia (ACEA).



**Rebecca Baylis (Brown) (1996-2000)** was the winner of a Hauraki Gulf sailing trip in the 2021 Nga Tawa PFA Auction donated by Old Girl, **Penelope (Allen) Roberts (1984-1988)**. Rebecca and her friends redeemed their day of sailing in February 2022 just before Cyclone Dovi passed through. They were very happy winners and enjoyed a day of great company and plenty of food and beverages.

**Hannah Bartlett (2009-2013)** graduated from the University of Otago in 2020, with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS, Medicine). Over the past two years, Hannah has been working in Tairāwhiti at Gisborne Hospital. As a House Officer (Junior Doctor) Hannah has played a frontline role in supporting some of Aotearoa's most vulnerable communities through the Covid-19 pandemic. Hannah is especially passionate about empowering health literacy in children and young people. She has just achieved a diploma in child health and begins a new role as a Paediatric Senior House Officer in the New Year.



**Cassidy Cross (2011-2015)** joined the Army in February 2016 and marched out of basic training 380 in June 2016. She joined up as a Heavy Diesel mechanic and started her apprenticeship with the Army later that year in Trentham. In 2018, Cassidy completed her apprenticeship and now has a National Certificate in Automotive Heavy engineering Level 4. She gained her NZDF service medal regular clasp in February 2019 and later in December got promoted to LCPL. After spending a couple years at 2WKSP in Linton swinging spanners and going out on field exercises including an exercise in Aussie called Hamel 2019, Cassidy was posted to QAMR WKSP (Queen Alexander's Mounted Rifles workshop) at the end of 2020. QAMR quickly became her favourite place to work as she became qualified to work on, drive and gun the NZLAV. In 2021 after doing really well on her recovery course back here in NZ, she was given the opportunity to head over to Australia and take part in their Basic Recovery Course 038. The Aussies recovery course is roughly five months long and covers driving, loading, and unloading of their recovery vehicles and trailers, and recovering all types of vehicles and guns back onto their wheels and winching them up cliffs. On 2 September 2022, Cassidy got promoted to CPL which is a nod to all her experience and achievements gained whilst serving in the Army for the past seven years. Cassidy also shared she and her partner, Erin, were expecting a baby girl and they welcomed baby Sage later in September.

**Ann Nighy (Carrick Robertson) (1948-1953)** recently moved from Nelson to Forest Lake Gardens Village on the boundary of Te Rapa Racecourse in Hamilton. She enjoys the residents and the city and likes to join in on all Village activities. Ann has 17 great-grandchildren, scattered throughout the North Island.

Congratulations to our recently married Old Girl, **Kerri Williams (Gowler) (2007-2011)**, who was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Kerri and her rowing partner, Grace Prendergast, became Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to rowing. The duo, who have been racing together since 2014 and have four world titles, blitzed the opposition in the final of the women's pair to win New Zealand's first gold of the Tokyo Olympics and recently retained their women's pair world title. Kerri has represented New Zealand in rowing since 2013 after beginning her rowing journey here at Nga Tawa.





**Sophie Whitfield (2007-2011)** was accepted to volunteer onboard the Global Mercy Ship in Dakar, Senegal in Africa. She worked as a Paediatric ward nurse from June-August 2022. Mercy Ships is the world's largest non-governmental floating hospital delivering vital, free surgeries to people in desperate need that they would otherwise have no access to. We're looking forward to hearing Sophie speak about her experience at prize giving in December.

**Tayla Mason (2008-2012)** is a UK based Kiwi eventer. She's had a fabulous year. She competed in the New Zealand team at the Nations cup in France and was selected to compete at the Nations cup in Aachen, Germany in September. Current year 13 student, Matilda Howard (2018-2022), has just flown to the UK to take up a position as Tayla's groom.



**Charlotte Symes (2010-2014)** shored 400 sheep earlier in the year. What a legend!

**Jill Carter (Fullerton-Smith) (1948-1953)** is living in Torbay on Auckland's North Shore independently, and still playing the piano enthusiastically (but in her opinion, not very skilfully). She has four children and 12 grandchildren living reasonably close. Jill wrote to us to say she has such fond memories of Nga Tawa and believes it is such an important time of one's life.



**Emma McIntosh (2005-2008)** works for Skydive Mt Cook, based in Twizel. She is a tandem skydiving instructor with over 3000 jumps, usually taking people for their first skydiving experience from 15,000 feet over the beautiful Mackenzie Country. Coincidentally, her pilot is **Molly Griffith (2012-2016)**. As well as being a fully qualified commercial drop pilot with over 1000 flying hours, Molly is also an avid sports skydiver when she is not flying their jump plane. Emma wrote to our Archivist recently. She noted that "our time at Nga Tawa helped instil in us the belief that we can accomplish anything, including carving out careers in an industry totally dominated by our male counterparts. Women make up only 4% of skydiving tandem instructors in the world and there are currently only two of us working in New Zealand, while less than 5% of all commercial pilots in New Zealand are women. To have us both working for the same organisation after finishing at Nga Tawa eight years apart is pretty special, and something we wanted to share."

**Phillippa Lodge (Gordon) (1990-1994)** obtained a BSc/BCom dip grad from Otago University and is currently working in Auckland as a massage therapist specialising in helping women with endometriosis/fertility/pregnancy. She and her husband have three boys, Ethan (14), Dylan (12) Callum (10) and they were married in the Nga Tawa chapel in January 2008.

**Charlotte Till (2002-2006)** successfully defended her Anthropology dissertation to complete her PhD at Arizona State University.



# Graduations

*Congratulations to our 2022 Nga Tawa Old Girl University Graduates*

## LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

**Annie Fleury** Postgraduate Certificate in Commerce

## MASSEY UNIVERSITY

**Phillippa Grayling** Postgraduate Diploma in Business, with Distinction  
**Freya Weth** Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Genetics  
**Jacqueline Ellis** Bachelor of Business in Marketing  
**Joanne Lilburn** Bachelor of Animal Science in Animal Genetics and Breeding  
**Antonio Matangi** Bachelor of Business in Management and Marketing  
**Sarah Munn** Bachelor of Sport and Exercise in Exercise Prescription  
**Caitlin Rooney** Bachelor of Communication in Digital Marketing  
**Hannah Williams** Bachelor of Sport and Exercise in Sport Development  
**Hannah Welman** Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Psychology, with Distinction  
**Georgina Caldwell** Master of Science, First Class Honours in Psychology  
**Ella Medlicott** Bachelor of Agricultural Science  
**Anna Lambert** Graduate Diploma of Learning and Teaching in Primary  
**Mikayla Hill** Certificate in Mental Health and Addiction  
**Megan Aplin** Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing  
**Michelle Greene** Doctor of Philosophy

## UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

**Annie Fleury** Bachelor of Product Design  
**Meg Marshall** Bachelor of Commerce

## UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

**Zena Burgess** Bachelor of Oral Health  
**Sophie Martin** Postgraduate Certificate in Physiotherapy  
**Lucy McIlwaine** Master of Dietetics  
**Belinda Ross** Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy  
**Esther Thompson** Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences  
**Freya Weth** Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences with Honours

## UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO

**Emma Lawrence** Graduate Diploma in Teaching

## VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

**Chantelle Rickerby** Bachelor of Commerce  
**Francesca Neal** Bachelor of Science majoring  
in Ecology & Biodiversity  
**Juliet Bonnor** Bachelor of Architecture Studies  
**Penny Jongen** Bachelor of Arts majoring  
in Education & Psychology  
**Presly Hood** Bachelor of Health majoring in Health Promotion  
**Samantha Mitchell** Post Graduate Diploma in Biomedical Science  
**Samantha Rollinson** Master of Architecture (Prof)





## Births

<b>Aston (Greig)</b> & Robert Mitchell	Isabella	December 2018	<b>Amanda (Weir)</b> & Isaac Scott	Lily	March 2022
<b>Sophie (Turney)</b> & Hadlee Radford	Mila	April 2020	<b>Sophie (Turney)</b> & Hadlee Radford	Rory	March 2022
<b>Keri Hughes</b> & Tim Johnson	Ringo	December 2020	<b>Vera (Nydeggar)</b> & Steve Shailer	Gemma	March 2022
<b>Grace (Morrison)</b> & George Vance	Frankie	January 2021	<b>Georgia Hodgson</b> & Jordan Stayt	Cooper	March 2022
<b>Sarah Cheetham</b> & Blair Liddington	Layla	July 2021	<b>Charlotte (Wing)</b> & David Wright	Oscar	April 2022
<b>Amy (Hazlitt)</b> & Michael Williams	Poppy	July 2021	<b>Emma Howarth</b> & Cameron McDonald	Carter	April 2022
<b>Katy (Warner)</b> & Staf Whittfield	Edison	July 2021	<b>Lucy (Leckie)</b> & Jono Sorenson	Alfie	May 2022
<b>Liz (Fullerton-Smith)</b> & Paul Hutchison	Geordie	July 2021	<b>Kloe (Palmer)</b> & Josh Aplin	Sam	May 2022
<b>Carrie (Peterson)</b> & Chris Fullerton-Smith	Henrietta	August 2021	<b>Deanne (Lennox)</b> & Steve McKean	Izzy	May 2022
<b>Gabby (Harvey)</b> & Kim Speedy	Amelia	August 2021	<b>Keri (Hayden)</b> & Hāmiora Tāmāti	Tiki	June 2022
<b>Alice (Pritchard)</b> & Angus Buchanan	Arabella	August 2021	<b>Katie (Walker)</b> & Tim Gallagher	Ruby	June 2022
<b>Aston (Greig)</b> & Robert Mitchell	Amelia	October 2021	<b>Kate (Hurley)</b> & Shay Ashworth	Mila	June 2022
<b>Coralie (Wedekind)</b> & James Allison	Amelia	November 2021	<b>Emma Symes</b> & Scott Lijean	Ava	July 2022
<b>Alex (O'Hara)</b> & Ryan Maguire	Finley	November 2021	<b>Sarah (Grogan)</b> & William Kirkland	Charlie	August 2022
<b>Hayley (Jewell)</b> & Shaun Hadfield	Ada	December 2021	<b>Emma Deadman</b> & Tomo Spiers	Jack	August 2022
<b>Tara (Low)</b> & Cam Leask	Angus	January 2022	<b>Alice (Franklin)</b> & Simon Bourke	Maeve	August 2022
<b>Anna (Holmes)</b> & Jacob Moore	Henry	January 2022	<b>Tori Burleigh</b> & Nathan Hope	Ziggy	August 2022
<b>Charlotte (Franklin)</b> & Justin Bray	Henry	January 2022	<b>Cassidy Cross</b> & Erin O'Brien	Sage	September 2022
<b>Richelle (Smyth)</b> & Joel Godfrey	William	February 2022	<b>Letisha Fitchett</b> & Rob Weaver	Emily	September 2022
<b>Laura (Campbell)</b> & Damian Hart	Hudson	February 2022	<b>Sam (Tod)</b> & Toby Haliday	Teddy	October 2022
<b>Hannah (Oliver)</b> & Henry Witters	Tilly	February 2022	<b>Kate (Fallaver)</b> & Hamish McKellar	Frankie	October 2022
<b>Lauren-Jane (Nevill)</b> & Chris McCrory	Lottie	February 2022	<b>Amy Cheetham</b> & Matthew McMurray	Maisy	November 2022



# Marriages

**Aston Greig** to Robert Mitchell  
**Tara Low** to Cam Leask  
**Kate Franklin** to Levi Curd  
**Annabel Hobson** to Lou Vollebregt  
**Sophie Turney** to Hadlee Radford  
**Charlotte Meads** to Max Harrison  
**Bridget Cuming** to Rowan Beadle  
**Emma Haggas** to Sam Dunford-Baker  
**Emma Baker** to James Down

March 2018  
 October 2020  
 October 2021  
 October 2021  
 November 2021  
 December 2021  
 January 2022  
 January 2022  
 February 2022

**Danielle White** to David Snowden  
**Kerri Gowler** to Tyna Williams  
**Stephanie Cording** to Rangī Roore  
**Katie Walker** to Tim Gallagher  
**Rebecca Dalrymple** to Ken Boothroyd  
**Charlotte Harding** to Fraser Falloon  
**Cheyenne Harvey** to Jacob Cogan  
**Alice Pritchard** to Angus Buchanan  
**Georgia Thompson** to Aidan Keogh

February 2022  
 February 2022  
 February 2022  
 February 2022  
 March 2022  
 March 2022  
 April 2022  
 August 2022  
 October 2022



Above: Kerri and Tyna Williams.



Left: Kerri and Tyna with Kerri's sisters and Nga Tawa Old Girls Jackie Gowler (left) and Jamie Gowler (right).



Above: Danielle with her bridesmaids and flower girls/page boy (her son, Percy). Nga Tawa Old Girl, Keri Hayden is on her left and to her right is her sister Jenha (White) Phillips.

Right: David and Danielle Snowden.







Above: Emma Baker with her Nga Tawa bride squad, Ani Leggett (Ross-Hoskins), Jess Sinclair, Emma, Caitlin Peterson and Kate Blackburne.



Leftt: Cheyanne Cogan (Harvey) with her sister and Nga Tawa Old Girl, Tahlia Harvey.

# We remember

<b>Deborah Schollum (Savage)</b>	1965 – 1968	Birch	20 September 2015
<b>Prue Cook (D'Arcy)</b>	1953 – 1957	Birch	12 August 2018
<b>Mary Blampied (Murie)</b>	1966 – 1969	Barker	27 July 2019
<b>Ginny Wilkinson (Worley)</b>	1967 – 1970	Sprott	23 October 2019
<b>Hazel Kerr (Pearce)</b>	1941 – 1944	Sprott	17 February 2020
<b>Marianne Patchett (Wigley)</b>	1953 – 1956	Studholme	11 April 2020
<b>Clare Hart (Lethbridge)</b>	1944 – 1948	Barker	29 September 2020
<b>Lois Bowie (Miles)</b>	1932 – 1935	Sprott	2 June 2021
<b>Gill Cotton (Burrell)</b>	1942 – 1949	Studholme	15 June 2021
<b>Sue Sykes (Allen)</b>	1950 – 1955	Barker	25 June 2021
<b>Sue Beauchamp (Birch)</b>	1944 – 1950	Studholme	28 June 2021
<b>Wendy Perry (Lishman)</b>	1960 – 1964	Sprott	9 July 2021
<b>Kate Goodbehere (Biggs)</b>	1938 – 1942	Studholme	10 July 2021
<b>Joan Benge (Hammond)</b>	1936 – 1941	Birch	22 August 2021
<b>Mollie Smith (Kellick)</b>	1936 – 1938	Barker	6 September 2021
<b>Margaret Parker (Strahan)</b>	1955 – 1959	Sprott	15 October 2021
<b>Margaret Watson (Black)</b>	1944 – 1948	Birch	21 October 2021
<b>Angela Kissling (Lewes)</b>	1945 – 1948	Birch	25 November 2021
<b>Hilary Stout (Cameron)</b>	1938 – 1942	Birch	3 January 2022
<b>Clemency Claridge (Warburton)</b>	1941 – 1946	Barker	13 March 2022
<b>Judith Powell (Valentine)</b>	1941 – 1943	Studholme	6 May 2022
<b>Juliette Morgan (Guy)</b>	1944 – 1945	Sprott	12 May 2022
<b>Sue Burrell</b>	1945 – 1950	Barker	29 May 2022
<b>Ngaire Kerr (Galbraith)</b>	1939 – 1942	Barker	8 June 2022
<b>Sara Williams</b>	1950 – 1953	Birch	14 June 2022
<b>Sally Gibbs (Will)</b>	1942 – 1943	Sprott	20 June 2022
<b>Allison Clissold (Edgecombe)</b>	1956 – 1959	Studholme	27 June 2022
<b>Ann Horn (Coleman)</b>	1950 – 1956	Sprott	15 July 2022
<b>Cay Alexander (Stewart)</b>	1946 – 1949	Studholme	16 July 2022
<b>Betty Reid</b>	1947 – 1953	Barker	18 July 2022
<b>Jill Blennerhassett (Macpherson)</b>	1946 - 1951	Sprott	28 July 2022
<b>Jill Nixon (Bell)</b>	1936		8 August 2022
<b>Rosemary McKelvie (Burrell)</b>	1942 – 1947	Barker	16 August 2022
<b>Joan Nichols (Pryce)</b>	1942 – 1947	Barker	7 September 2022
<b>Suzanne Orsborn (Kettle)</b>	1940 – 1942	Sprott	21 September 2022
<b>Rosemarie Wiseman (Joblin)</b>	1949 - 1954	Sprott	7 October 2022

## Sheila Shearman

3 January 1935 – 29 July 2022

One of the longest serving teaching staff members in the history of Nga Tawa, former Deputy Principal Sheila Shearman died in July, prompting an outpouring of gratitude and happy memories from Old Girls and the Nga Tawa community.

Sheila joined the Nga Tawa teaching team in 1970, was promoted to HOD Geography in 1972, served as Barker House Mistress from 1973 until 1983 and then as Deputy Principal from 1982 until her retirement in 1996.

In her eulogy to her mother, Sheila's daughter Jane Horvarth described how when she was born in 1974, headmaster David Cooke decided that he couldn't bear to lose his dedicated teacher and decided the baby should come to school with Sheila, and be alongside her while she taught.

"I started my school life at Nga Tawa at the age of two weeks!"

Jane herself attended Nga Tawa in the 1980's and her description of Sheila's incredible loyalty, and firm teaching and leadership style was very apt.



"She was firm but fair. She never raised her voice. She was always calm and could tame a gaggle of school girls with her sheep dog stare."

Sheila had a heart of gold and a great sense of humour and many of us will always remember her infectious giggle.

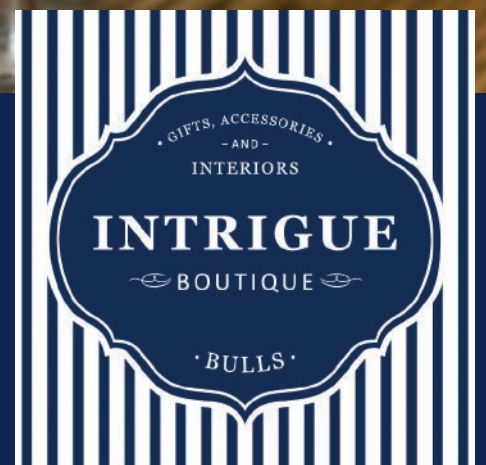


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