

# THE CALICO LINE



NGA TAWA  
DIOCESAN SCHOOL

JUNE 2018




NEWS FOR OLD GIRLS', PARENTS & FRIENDS





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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 contact [gilmourkatie@ngatawa.school.nz](mailto:gilmourkatie@ngatawa.school.nz).



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

126 years ago, the story of this school began. We are all part of the continuing narrative continuing the legacy of May Taylor and Mary Barker - holding true to our principle of empowering girls to achieve extraordinary outcomes in their lives beyond school.

I'm delighted to share with you all our NCEA success. In 2017, our girls achieved a 100% pass rate across Levels 1 - 3 for the second consecutive year with 97% University Entrance. Congratulations must go to our students for their hard work, their families for their input and support and our teachers for their tireless dedication. These remarkable results emphasise the nurturing and encouraging environment here at Nga Tawa. Vicky Power and her academic team ensure our curriculum is relevant, encourages curiosity, mirrors the real world and prepares our girls for tertiary study.

Our strong pastoral foundation is critical to student wellbeing and ultimately the success of students in the classroom. One key focus in the pastoral area this year has been the concept of building community. Of course community is crucial within a boarding school and we pride ourselves on being a small school with a family atmosphere. However, this year we began the process of building a community with restorative practice at its core. The restorative process is grounded in a philosophy that places respectful relationships at the heart of the educational experience. It is a way of building, maintaining, restoring and sustaining relationships within a dynamic school ecosystem that is reparative rather than punitive.

This year building community has also extended beyond the green gates into the Rangitikei community and beyond. We want to increasingly take our place as a contributor to the community. We have social responsibility to do so and as educators, we can't grow future leaders in a vacuum.

Our scholars have shared their love of learning through a Tuesday homework club with students in a local primary school and feel privileged to be able to support a younger student. The whole school has provided support for the Whanganui Women's Refuge and the girls have considered practical ways to offer help such as donations of food, clothes, sanitary products and Christmas presents. This association has given our girls an insight into the reality of domestic violence

and they have taken a quiet pride in knowing they have helped women and children in need. Similarly, the UNICEF club, newly established in 2017, has responded to the plight of Syrian refugees and raised a significant amount of money to sustain ongoing welfare efforts. Finally, we have been delighted that local primary schools are now enjoying being a part of our Equestrian Academy and that Nga Tawa is an active branch of the Rangitikei Pony Club.

Our two boards are effective, collegial and focused on the needs of the students and bettering the school environment. There is a great deal of synergy between the boards which is largely due to the board chairs. I especially want to thank both chairs, Roger Dalrymple and Dave Wilson, for their encouragement and willingness to adopt new practice.

Our PFA and Old Girls are equally supportive, providing helping hands and funds to enhance the functioning of the school. The PFA has targeted the new full sized hockey turf as a major project and I hope to see many of you at The Turf Ball on Saturday 30 June. The generosity of the Old Girls in providing scholarships for two Year 9 students is gratefully received.

We are very privileged here at Nga Tawa to work with such an exceptional group of young women. Working with young people keeps you young, well at heart anyway, as they have such a refreshing and invigorating world view. It is a pleasure and a privilege to share their teenage years, which I think is the most interesting and challenging time in a person's life as they forge a distinct identity.

2018 is already on track to be another wonderful year of achievement and I look forward to sharing our girls' successes with you. We often celebrate high student achievement inside and outside the classroom but we are equally proud when we see kindness, generosity, compassion and house spirit.

We look forward to seeing those of you that live locally at our celebratory days and for those further afield please stay in touch by following us on Facebook.

### Lesley Carter

Principal

CarterLesley@ngatawa.school.nz



"We often celebrate high student achievement in the classroom and on the sports field but we are equally proud when we see our girls demonstrate kindness, generosity, compassion and house spirit."

# A WORD FROM THE BOARDS

*on behalf of the Diocesan Board and Board of Trustees*

We are in a very competitive environment when it comes to curriculum delivery, sporting and performing arts success. However, Nga Tawa continues to foot it with the best. Our 100% NCEA pass rate in 2016 and 2017 and our exceptional recent ERO report endorses our promise of excellence.

I'd like to extend a thank you to our very competent staff – teaching, administration, boarding, maintenance and all those associated in sports and equestrian. Without your support, Nga Tawa cannot deliver on its promise of excellence.

We provide a single-sex, special character Anglican education underpinned by our school values – respect, integrity, and courage. The fundamental role of the Board of Trustees (BoT) is to ensure every student is given the opportunity to achieve and be the best they can be. Like all schools, the Nga Tawa BoT has policies, procedures, annual plans and strategic plans all designed to support excellence in student outcomes.

However, all of these are irrelevant unless you have the leadership, the senior management and the staff that truly understand our vision and values. Our staff know how to encourage students to achieve excellence. We are very fortunate to have a great leader in Lesley Carter as our Principal who achieved 'excellence' herself in all areas of the independent principal appraisal process we undertook in 2017. Good leaders surround themselves with great people, and Lesley has built an extremely capable senior management team consisting of Deputy Principal (Head of Curriculum) Vicky Power, Deputy Principal (Head of Pastoral Care) Marcelle Callitz, Helen Campbell (Bursar) and Raewyn Abraham (Director of Boarding).

The Board of Trustees, which I chair, focuses on supporting curriculum delivery and is the watchdog for the Government and our parents. The Board of Trustees ensures we are abiding by the curriculum guidelines - it's most important role is monitoring student achievement. In 2018, our objective is to encourage all students to not just pass NCEA, but to challenge them to aim for

their highest possible personal achievement and exceed their own expectations.

The Diocesan Board, chaired by Roger Dalrymple, owns all land and buildings within the school and is responsible for the governance of school facilities and ensuring Nga Tawa retains its special character. The Board is ably supported by our dedicated Bursar, Helen Campbell, who keeps the school looking great and running smoothly. The Diocesan Board is focused on both short and long term outcomes and providing the facilities we need as a school to remain viable and attractive for our girls.

For example, our two-day Local Boarding initiative introduced in 2017 continues to be very popular with our local parents. This option is all about helping meet the needs of today's families. Local Boarding allows students to 'stay in' two nights a week - making it possible for families of day girls to experience the added value that comes with boarding and embracing all that Nga Tawa has to offer.

This autumn our tennis courts have been resealed and re-laid providing a fantastic new turf facility for our girls to play and practise tennis, netball and hockey. Our planned full-sized community water hockey turf is on track for 2019. Meredith Carpenter and her PFA team along with Fi Dalgety and the Old Girls have done a fantastic job this year raising over \$90,000 for this project. I know their Turf Ball fundraiser will be a fantastic success and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Roger and I would like to thank all Board members for the work they do and the skills they bring to the table. We encourage all Calico Line readers to stay connected with Nga Tawa and share your stories. We have a great school with an exciting future and we remain committed to achieving the best outcome for our girls.

**Dave Wilson**  
Board of Trustees Chair



**NGA TAWA**  
DIOCESAN SCHOOL

## DIOCESAN BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr Roger Dalrymple, Chair
- Mrs Beverley Andrews
- Mrs Kirsten Bryant
- Mr Mark Chamberlain
- Mrs Koo Greenway
- Mrs Jenny Hornblow
- Mr Mike Strang
- Mrs Alison Watters
- Mr Chris Bone
- Mrs Helen Campbell (Secretary)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

- Mr Dave Wilson, Chair
- Mrs Lesley Carter
- Mr Mark Chamberlain
- Mr Roger Dalrymple
- Mrs Elaine Reilly
- Mr David Green
- Mrs Annie Whitfield
- Mr Peter Thomas
- Mrs Alison Watters
- Mr Mike Strang
- Mrs Helen Campbell (Secretary)
- Miss Bridget Bone (Student Rep)
- Mrs June Jackson (Staff Rep)

# LET'S BUILD OUR GIRLS' FUTURE, TOGETHER

Welcome to the 2018 Calico Line – a magazine to help keep you in touch with Nga Tawa and each other.

The major focus for both the Old Girls' Association and the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) this year continues to be fundraising for the new full sized community water hockey turf at Nga Tawa. Our major fundraiser this year is the Turf Ball on Saturday 30 June. We have received amazing local business support with generous sponsorship and a fabulous line up of auction items. Most importantly, the event has enabled us to confirm to Rangitikei locals that the turf will be a community facility open to everyone to use. We're very much looking forward to the night which will be a fantastic community event bringing everyone together in the middle of winter.

We welcomed Sally Patrick, our new school archivist to the Nga Tawa family last September. She has fully immersed herself in this role and is busy staying in touch with our Old Girls, updating our database, hunting out news stories and digitising the stacks and stacks of school archives.

Some time ago, the Old Girls' Association established an Art Fund as a result of a generous 1960s' decade reunion donation. With the remaining funds, we commissioned Old Girl, Jane Sinclair (nee Pearce, 1972-1975), to paint a scene from Vinegar Hill in memory of Founder's Day picnics previously held there. The painting is proudly on display in the school reception.

A key role of our Nga Tawa Old Girls' Association is to assist young girls to be the best they can be through the opportunities offered at Nga Tawa – the opportunities many of us benefited from. In 2019, we'll be offering a scholarship for one Year 9 full boarder to the value of \$50,000 over their 5 years at Nga Tawa. Applications for this scholarship are now open and you can see all the details at [ngatawa.school.nz/scholarships](http://ngatawa.school.nz/scholarships) so do encourage daughters of friends and family to apply.

Providing these ongoing scholarships is a significant and important financial commitment by the Old Girls' Association. If you'd like to contribute to our Old Girls' Scholarship fund and help to give a young girl the same opportunities you may have been lucky enough to receive, please contact Fi Dalgety at [fidalgety@extra.co.nz](mailto:fidalgety@extra.co.nz).

Finally, we aim to put the Calico Line on as many of your coffee tables as possible. We have once again posted one magazine per household but if more than one member of your family attended Nga Tawa, and you would like an additional copy you are welcome to contact us. An electronic version is also available and emailed to all Old Girls in the next month. If you are unsure we have your correct contact details please contact our Archivist [patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz](mailto:patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz).

Kind Regards,

**Meredith Carpenter** (nee Collier) PFA Chair

**Fi Dalgety** (nee Grace) Old Girls' Association President



Meredith and Fi.



Jane Sinclair's painting of Vinegar Hill.





Pictured: Deputy Head Girl, Meg Marshall and Head Girl, Bridget Bone.

# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## 100% AGAIN

Through our individualised and future focused academic programme our graduates leave Nga Tawa as independent learners, responsible risk-takers, with the confidence to develop their passions and pursue future specialities.

In 2017 we achieved a 100% NCEA pass rate across Levels 1 -3 for the second consecutive year with 97% University Entrance.

Our 2017 academic success continued with Scholarship results announced in February.

Lydia Whyte sat three Scholarship subjects as a Year 12 student last year. Lydia achieved Scholarship English and Scholarship History. Heartbreakingly, Lydia was only one mark away from achieving Scholarship Classics which she sat on a day she had three exams starting at 7am and spending the day in isolation.

Sophie Carpenter gained Scholarship Physical Education and is our first ever Physical Education scholarship recipient. Sophie started Otago University at the beginning of the year where she's working towards a Bachelor of Physical Education, majoring in Sport and Exercise Science.

Our 2018 highest academic achievers are this year led by Head Scholar, Alexandra Burns. She leads the Scholars' Society which is made up of the top five academic students in each year group. These students are identified as priority learners and often accelerated in their learning programmes. Members also take part in scholars' outings and extra-curricular activities such as running homework clubs for local primary schools, theatre trips and quizzes.

## HUMANITIES

**Nga Tawa has a rich and varied Humanities Faculty. Students have the opportunity to develop their talent in the performing and visual arts with extracurricular tuition available in music, speech, drama and dance.**

### There's something for everyone;

Bands  
Contemporary Music  
Chamber Music  
Chapel Choir  
Student-Led Choir  
Trinity College Exams  
NZ Speech Board Exams  
Debating  
Model United Nations  
Speech and Drama  
Dance

This year our vibrant Humanities Faculty has welcomed Mr David Tipi as the new Head of Department. David is a passionate musician with experience in composition and arrangement, piano accompaniment, choral and band directing as well as classical and contemporary singing. He has been an itinerant teacher of piano, guitar and voice for the past 20 years. David has toured internationally with Voices New Zealand, NZ Youth Choir and as a founding member of The Graduate Choir NZ. He's working hard to grow the Humanities department and hopes to give the girls a greater appreciation for the arts, particularly contemporary music.

### 2018 Highlights thus far include:

- **Phoebe Howard** - National Young Performer Award nomination for ballet. In 1977, Performing Arts Competitions Association of New Zealand Inc. (PACANZ) initiated the National Young Performer Awards. This multi-discipline award represents eight art forms and is the pinnacle of achievement for many New Zealand competitors giving them a unique opportunity to perform at national level. We're looking forward to seeing Phoebe compete on the national stage in October.
- Some of our music students are working hard in preparation for the National Chamber Music Competition in June. This year we have five groups taking part with the support of their teachers, Ms Ingrid Culliford, Mrs Annie Hunt & Mrs Lynne Whiteside.
- The Choir is working towards the Big Sing, a regional competition held in Palmerston North in June.
- **Lydia Whyte, Amelia Bryant and Lilli Bradley** - winners of Central North Island (CNI) debating competition in March. The girls competed in six limited prep debates, the topics ranging from abolishing the minimum wage to exempting developing countries for climate change obligations. Finally, in a very close debate with the Palmerston North Girls High School team, Nga Tawa won the competition affirming the grand final moot 'This house believes that only LGBT+ actors should play LGBT+ characters in TV and film.'
- **Lydia Whyte** - selected in the Central North Island Regional Debating team which debated at the National Finals in Wellington in May.
- One of our newly assembled rock bands, Sheva, has made it through to the Smokefree Rockquest regional finals held in Palmerston North in June.





## INTERNATIONAL

Our International Programme is a very deliberate strategy to bring the world to Nga Tawa. It gives our international students the chance to experience life in New Zealand and learn in a student-focused environment where each girl is valued, encouraged and challenged to reach their own potential. It is also an opportunity for our domestic students to learn from our international family and brings a richness and experience that is invaluable to them as they continue into adult life.

Currently we have 21 enrolled international students from a number of countries and at the beginning of March Nga Tawa welcomed 14 new international students who joined us from Thailand for a 10 week stay. Four of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to take part in our Australian exchange this year. **Lydia Harrison** and **Harriet Whitfield** spent half of Term 2 at Pimbles Ladies College in Sydney. **Ashley Hanegraaf** and **Adelaide Roper** will spend five weeks of Term 3 at St Margaret's in Brisbane.

## NEW OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT NGA TAWA!

Nga Tawa now offers an Outdoor Education programme for Years 12 and 13. The programme is based on the National Certificate in Leadership which covers components such as rock climbing, rafting, kayaking, abseiling, survival, tramping, orienteering and team building adventure based learning.

The Outdoor Recreation and Leadership unit standard based course is being offered at Level 2 (23 credits) and Level 3 (28 credits) and is made up of 60% practical learning and 40% theory. Students are encouraged to learn new outdoor skills, take on new challenges, work as a team, grow their leadership skills and make the most of our picturesque, rural Rangitikei setting.

Nga Tawa's Outdoor Education and Leadership teacher, Christine Worsfold came to us in 2018 with over 20-years experience and her infectious passion for outdoor ed. Christine originally trained as a P.E teacher at Otago University and then went on to become a New Zealand Outdoor Instructor. Most recently, she has been working at Taranaki Outdoor Pursuits and Education Centre (Topec) as a senior instructor. Christine's husband, is the Deputy Principal at Rangitikei College.







## GET TO KNOW OUR 2018 HEAD OF EQUESTRIAN



### JAIMEY CLIFTON

#### How long have you been riding;

I have been riding for as long as I can remember, both my parents ride and I live on a farm so I have always been around horses and animals for as long as I can remember.

#### Tell us a little bit about yourself:

I live on a farm in Rangiwhia with my younger sister and parents. I went to the local rural primary school. Other than riding I also enjoy skiing, hockey and other outdoor sports. I plan to go to university next year and hopefully I can juggle riding around my studies.

#### Do you have a preferred discipline:

Show jumping

#### What does your role as Head of Equestrian entail:

My role as Head of Equestrian is to help with the day to day running of the yards to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible. I help Mrs Rayner and Mrs Fryatt around the Academy and organise and run the events that school holds such as Interschools and Show Hunter days.

## NGA TAWA EQUESTRIAN ACADEMY

Winter is always a busy time of the year with the weather getting colder and the days getting shorter, but the Equestrian Academy certainly does not slow down. 2018 has been one of the biggest years for the Academy yet and the Academy is at full capacity with 67 riders and 86 horses (26 of which are school lease ponies). The yards are a hive of activity and somehow there is still time for the school truck to travel up and down the country most weekends to various competitions over the North Island.

There have already been some really exciting results this year. We kicked the season off at Horse of the Year, where the weather was in our favour and everyone had an enjoyable and successful week. Nga Tawa had 11 girls riding across multiple disciplines, achieving some outstanding results. Stand out performers were

- **Lilly Carpenter**, 4th in the 1.15 metres and 6th in the Speed Pony of the Year.
- **Katie Lockhart** and **Emma Slaney** 5th and 3rd in the very exciting slalom in the Friday night extravaganza.
- **Laura Hare** -1st in the Level One Dressage Pony of the Year.

Shortly after Horse of the Year was the annual Nga Tawa Interschool where a large number of schools competed from all over the lower North Island. We had some really good results from this day with two of our Nga Tawa teams finishing 4th and 5th. The school truck then made the long trip north to Woodhill Sands in Auckland for the Secondary Schools' Equestrian Cup where again some impressive individual results were achieved.

2018 has been a year of exciting changes down at the yards. For the first time ever, the Nga Tawa Pony Club has been opened up to the public. This has had a great response and we have all thoroughly enjoyed hosting these rallies (especially the cute lead rein ponies and riders)! We have hosted our first of many Show Hunter training days and the new arena mirrors have gone up which everyone has found very useful. We're looking forward to another busy two terms with the much-anticipated Inter-House Show Jumping, where everyone has the chance to dress up and compete for house points, as well as the rest of the shows in our Show Hunter series to come.

# SPORTING ROUNDUP

At Nga Tawa, we encourage an active lifestyle and promote physical fitness. Sport is compulsory for good health and the building of skills and all Year 10 students are expected to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award.

## Sports on offer include:

Archery  
Athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball  
Cricket  
Cross Country  
Cycling  
Dance  
Equestrian  
Football  
Hockey  
Netball  
Rowing  
Rock Climbing  
Softball  
Skiing  
Snowboarding  
Swimming  
Tae Kwon Do  
Tennis  
Touch Rugby  
Triathlon  
Weightlifting

## 2018 Highlights thus far include:

### TRIATHLON

Our Triathlon squad had a very impressive season with outstanding results at meets across the lower North Island. Two of our triathletes, **Georgina Bryant** and **Tori Bendall** went on to compete in the National Schools Triathlon in Nelson. Both girls competed in the U16 Triathlon with Tori placing 5th and Georgina placing 15th. Tori then went on to place 3rd in the U16 Aquathon. They then teamed up with two boys from Palmerston North Boys High School to place second in the U19 Sujon Team Tag race.

Congratulations to **Georgina Bryant** who has been selected in the New Zealand Triathlon 16–19 age group team. She'll be competing at the Triathlon World Championships in September on the Gold Coast.



Georgina Bryant and Tori Bendall.



The resealed and re-laid turf.



## SUMMER QUAD

Nga Tawa hosted the 2018 Summer Quadrangular Tournament. Iona and Woodford House attended from Hawkes Bay and St Matthews from Masterton. We had two fantastic days of sunshine and fabulous competition.

### Overall Champion

The school that won the overall trophy for the tournament was St Matthews.

### Touch

- 1st **Nga Tawa**
- 2nd St Matthews
- 3rd Iona
- 4th Woodford House

### Softball

- 1st **Nga Tawa**
- 2nd St Matthews
- 3rd Woodford House
- 4th Iona

### Cricket

- 1st St Matthews
- 2nd Iona
- 3rd Woodford House
- 4th **Nga Tawa**

### Tennis

- 1st Woodford House
- 2nd Iona
- 3rd St Matthews
- 4th **Nga Tawa**



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH HILLARY AWARD GOLD

Congratulations to **Bridget Bone, Amelia Bryant, Georgia Green** and **Hannah Lane** who completed their Gold DoE Abel Tasman tramp in the April school holidays.

### NORTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

After strong performances at the Whanganui Secondary School Athletics Championships, five Nga Tawa students were selected to compete in the Whanganui Regional team at the North Island Secondary School Athletics Championships. Congratulations to **Adelaide Roper, Meg Thomas, Jessica Pfefferle, Georgina Bryant** and **Emma Ferguson**.

### MANAWATU REPRESENTATIVE NETBALL TEAM

**Caitlin O'Sullivan** has been selected in the U17 Manawatu Representative 'A' Netball Team.

### MANAWATU REPRESENTATIVE HOCKEY TEAM

**Aneeka Craig, Isabella Wassilieff** and **Hannah Williams** have been named in the U18 Manawatu Representative Hockey Team.

### NORTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Holly Marshall** competed at the North Island Secondary School Championships on Saturday 12th May in Palmerston North. Holly competed in the Girls 15 and over 200m Senior Freestyle placing 6th, Girls 400m Senior Freestyle placing 6th and the Girls 15 and over 200m Senior Butterfly placing 5th.



## ARCHERY

**Isabella Wassilieff** competed in the 75th Archery New Zealand Outdoor Champs in January in Palmerston North and came away with the following results in the Cadet Women's recurve division:

- **Gold and NZ Champion for Clout**
- **Silver for Individual Matchplay**
- **Bronze for Target**

Issy was then selected to compete in the Trans-Tasman Archery Challenge held in April. The week got off to a frustrating start when Issy arrived in Australia to find that her arrows had been broken on the flight over. Issy borrowed some arrows off a teammate which were very different from hers and shot with these for the competition. Despite her bad luck, Issy won a silver medal in the Cadet Women's Compound and a silver medal in the Division One Women's Compound Individual match play.

# OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Kia ora koutou. Hi I'm Sally Patrick, the (relatively) new school archivist. I'm in charge of keeping you all in touch with each other. I've spent the last nine months getting to know Old Girls both near and afar, current students, and learning the history of this incredible school.

My professional background has been in cultural management (libraries, museums, galleries) and community development.

I've had a busy first year in the role. I've been focused on absorbing the history of Nga Tawa and its students; working with the Old Girls' Association Committee, supporting the "Buy a Brick" fundraiser; getting the Old Girls' database filled with essential and up-to-date information, and staying in touch with Old Girls who are still very much connected with the school.

One particular highlight has been working with our current Year 9 students, through their Social Studies Identity Unit. This connects them - in 2018 - with the history of the school, past students, and archived items such as old uniforms, photographs and memorabilia (and lacrosse sticks!)

Thank you for the wonderful welcome you've given me, and for your consideration and generosity in gifting historic items and memorabilia to Nga Tawa Archives. I'd also like to acknowledge on behalf of the school how I've been blown away how receptive many of you have been to strengthening our connection with Nga Tawa, for some this has meant reconnecting 70 plus years after leaving school.

For those looking to reconnect with an old teacher or friend, organise a class reunion or event - I'm your first port of call. I always love to hear your news and if you haven't liked us on Facebook yet, please do. Please email me with all your updates and if you're passing, please do pop in.

To update your details so we can stay in touch please visit [www.ngatawa.nz/oldgirls](http://www.ngatawa.nz/oldgirls).

**Sally Patrick**  
Archivist  
[patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz](mailto:patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz)  
027 200 6163



## EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS



### Old Girls' Cocktail Party

On Friday 7th July 2017, our Old Girls' Association hosted a cocktail party to celebrate the unveiling of a new Old Girls' Honours Board. Several high achieving and inspirational Old Girls' names were added to the board and we enjoyed a fabulous evening with Old Girls, parents, and friends of our school. We were honoured to hear from two of our Honours Board recipients, Bev McConnell (nee Jardine) and Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter (nee Souter).



### Buy a Brick Fundraiser

Work is about to begin on our commemorative wall which will feature the engraved names and starting dates of those of you who have supported our brick fundraiser. The \$75,000 will be put towards construction of the new community hockey turf at Nga Tawa.

A huge thank you to all of you who have supported this initiative.



# CLASS OF 1968 THIRD FORMERS REUNION

Following a poor turnout of our year group at the 125th School Anniversary events, the small group of us who were in attendance, conceived the idea and decided that it was high time we organised our first full year group reunion, some 45 years since we left school.

After gathering everyone's email addresses which involved considerable detective work, a date was set a year out. On the weekend before Labour weekend this year, 13 - 15 October 2017, 30 of us gathered at Wairakei Resort in Taupo for a weekend of fun, laughter and reminiscing.

It began in the passageways of the hotel with squeals of delight, echoing through the building as we clapped eyes on each other again after so long for some. Recognising others wasn't easy either and guessing games took place. Nerves and self-consciousness soon subsided once we gathered for a few drinks in the Functions Room, sharing old school photos, chatting while enjoying a relaxed buffet dinner.

The following day dawned as "one out of the box" and allowed us to partake in our planned morning's activities. We broke into smaller groups for various activities. The fit keen souls climbed Mt Tauhara, another group took a leisurely bush walk from the hotel, allowing time for a hot swim in the pool on our return. Another group headed to town and wandered along the lakefront before enjoying coffee and a few others did their own thing. Our groups reconvened for a staggered al fresco light lunch under sun umbrellas at the hotel.

Later that day we drove to the Aratiatia Dam nearby for the 4pm opening of the floodgates into the rapids below before we boarded a boat and spent two hours cruising up the Waikato River to beneath the Huka Falls for a spectacular photo opportunity. By now, with a few wines and nibbles on board the boat, the stories from our school days started to flow with much hilarity and some truths, some exaggerations of the truth and some half-truths shared!

We carried on into the evening back in the Functions Room at the hotel and following a few more drinks, we enjoyed our dinner sitting in our Houses. The stories continued to flow, as those who were willing, shared past memorable moments and reflections from our schooldays. Some of those who weren't able to attend sent in a summary of their lives post school and these were shared and of interest to everyone. A beautiful reunion cake iced with the school crest was generously provided by one of our group and we partook while listening intently to the stories. The revelations about our schooldays seemed to take on a different perspective with the passing of time. Before our evening concluded, it was decided we would all be keen to meet again in five years' time when we would all well and truly be pensioners and maybe Fiji might be our venue. Watch this space!

On Sunday morning after breakfast the majority headed on their way homeward after many hugs and vowing not to lose touch, now that we all had an up to date and complete list of each other's email addresses. Just a few of us lingered a little longer for yet another coffee, almost wanting to stretch out the precious time together before our final departure.

After all the adrenalin buzz I am sure there would have been a few weary "bunnies" on Monday morning! But a great weekend was had by all and I think everyone who attended, felt satisfied that they had made the effort, outlaid the expense and taken the time to attend.

The weekend proved that the friendships forged over those formative early adult years in the close confines of Nga Tawa are enduring. With the benefit of maturity, factions disappeared and we were a united equal "one" as a year group and not only more tolerant but more appreciative of and receptive to each other's individuality.

**Virginia Scobie** (nee Hart, 1968-1971)

## AGM

Calling all Old Girls to attend our AGM

**Friday 28th September at 10am**

Upstairs in the Events Centre, Nga Tawa

*Please join us for lunch followed by House Drama*

RSVP to [Fi Dalgety fidalgety@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Fi Dalgety fidalgety@xtra.co.nz)

# NGA TAWA'S TRAILBLAZING LAWYERS

## Anne Gambrill (née Shorland) CNZM. 1951 -1952

**Anne Gambrill (née Shorland) CNZM was the first woman to sit on the High Court bench in New Zealand. Her career path has been the complete contra to Alison's achievements and their two careers show, like medicine, the breadth of the paths offered by the degree.**

Anne was born in Wellington, only child of her Wellingtonian parents, Perry and Olive Shorland. She started her schooling at Marsden at age of four and has fond memories of school and her group of friends. When Anne sat School Certificate in 1950 she'd more or less decided to do law as a degree - mainly because she did not want to teach and believed she was no good with Maths and numbers. However, she failed Latin (topping Marsden with 48) and given you needed to pass the first stage of Latin at University, she realised that her current Headmistress/Latin teacher wasn't making the grade with her interesting 'Ur of the Chaldees' alternatives to Latin.

Anne's father was a senior partner in Chapman Tripp (the well-known Wellington legal firm) and offered Anne two choices - Wellington Girls or Nga Tawa, as he knew from Supreme Court Judge Sir Kenneth Gresson that his niece Barbara Bruce had been appointed Headmistress at Nga Tawa and she was held in high regard for her ability to teach Latin. As an only child, Anne chose the challenge of boarding school and Barbara and Anne started the same day in May 1951. The magic worked and Anne received 69 for Scholarship Latin. She was accepted into Law School.

In 1955, Anne's father became a Supreme Court Judge and she followed her parents to Auckland. After two years at Victoria she enrolled in the Auckland Law School. Whilst there as a student, Anne became the first female law clerk at Russell McVeagh and embarked on the rough and tumble of legal practice. She met her husband, Christopher Gambrill, a lawyer's son from Gisborne who lived as she did at the student hostel O'Rourke, the only mixed hostel in the country. It was Christopher who told Anne about the Russell McVeagh job. After graduating, she took a year off for her O.E and in 1960, she married Christopher.

The newlyweds moved to Gisborne for a short period but after Anne's father died they returned to Auckland and she went back to Russell McVeagh. In 1965, M.H.Vautier esq. known as Jack, an Auckland lawyer who had worked for Anne's father in Wellington, offered her a job. He was a major insurance and litigation lawyer and Anne spent four years working for him before he became a silk and gave her his solicitor's practice which she amalgamated with her husband, Chris's practice. At that time, Anne was offered a part time appointment to the Legal Aid Appeal Authority. It was 1977 and Anne was the first woman member of the authority. She



remained in practice until 1987 when Anne was appointed to the new post as a Master of the High Court, later called Judge. Mrs Gambrill was a Master of the High Court from 1987 to 2002 and the first woman to be appointed to sit in the High Court in a judicial capacity. Anne received her CNZM in 2003 "for services as a Master of the High Court."

Since retiring in 2004, Anne has been a member of the International Education Appeal Authority handling appeals from the 98000 foreign students in New Zealand. The complaints often highlight deficiencies in the provider or are an attempt by students who are failing to recover fees or re-enrol rather than deportation. She finished this role in 2016 and intends to be now truly retired, as is her husband, and clear the mountains of paperwork which have appeared in their den.

Anne and Christopher have three children, William who is a lawyer in Dubai, Richard who is a risk manager in London and Elizabeth a lawyer and litigation manager for Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore. They're very proud grandparents of five granddaughters.



## Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter (nee Souter) 1945 -1946

**As Nga Tawa's highest recognised Old Girl, Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter (nee Souter) of Wellington, who was made Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to law in 2007, unveiled the Honours Board at our recent Nga Tawa Cocktail Party.**

Dame Alison Quentin-Baxter's career in the law has taken her far beyond the conventional law office and onto the world stage. Her fascination with policy-making, her skill in facilitating the constitutional development of small island states, and a talent for the intelligent analysis of real-life problems and looking for a way to bring law and policy together in order to solve them, have been hallmarks of her career.

In a career of 60 or more years, Alison says that there has never been a plan; events and opportunities have simply unfolded. This is no doubt true, but overlooks the fact that she has been ready, willing and able to take up the challenges that have been presented to her.

"I was brought up to act responsibly and to do jobs on my own without supervision, once I had been shown or told what to do. The need to take the initiative was an element of my early training at the Department of External Affairs. I do not think I would have been much good at waiting for clients to give me instructions – I would have wanted to suggest that they take all sorts of initiatives."

Alison was born in 1929 and grew up in Auckland. Her grandparents on both sides of the family were farmers and she spent school holidays on their properties in the Waikato and the Kaipara. Neither of her parents had been to university and both were very encouraging of their daughter's progress.

"My father was a farmer with good business knowledge. He had no hang-ups about what women could or could not do. As he grew up several women in his life were positive role models. As the eldest of four boys he had watched his mother on their farm near Cambridge be the eyes of his father who had lost his sight." Later on, when he was learning farming, he worked on the Coates family farm in Northland. Gordon Coates was Prime Minister, and while he was busy in Wellington his farm was run by his sister Miss Ada Coates for whom Alison's father had great respect.

"When I was about 14 my father told me he thought that, as a woman, I would be able to do anything I wanted to do, and said 'How would you like to do law?' I started telling people who asked me what I was going to be, 'I might be a lawyer', and I enjoyed the surprise this caused immensely!"

When Alison embarked on study at Auckland University College, she says she had no sense that studying law was particularly novel even though she knew there were few women lawyers at the time.



"In one class, criminal law, I was the only woman and the lecturer, who was a practitioner from downtown, would greet the class with 'Good morning gentlemen'. When we got to the part of the Crimes Act dealing with sexual offences he felt unable to talk about those in my presence and told us to read that chapter for ourselves.

"But I had a lot of support from the Dean, Professor Davis, and fortunately the law and I happened to click. I joined the Law Students' Society, was later invited to be a member of the committee and became the Chairman in my final year.

As a law clerk, I did settlements around town and solicitors who seemed old but were probably about 40 would say, 'What's a nice girl like you doing in a law office?' But invariably I found they would be doubly helpful if any problem arose."

When she was near to qualifying in 1951 Alison was offered a job as a solicitor in a good firm with partnership prospects, but had decided she did not want to spend all of her working life in Auckland. An interest in government and international affairs encouraged her to ask the Department of External Affairs whether it had a job for a lawyer. "Their first response was that if I had been a first-class shorthand typist they would give me a job, but a woman lawyer? They were not so sure."

In her time as a lawyer Alison helped to develop the constitutional law of fledgling Pacific nations such as Niue and Fiji. In 1974, she was part of the New Zealand legal team at the International Court of Justice which brought a case against France for its nuclear tests in the Pacific.

She lectured at Victoria University and was the Director of the New Zealand Law Commission for the first eight years of its existence.

Mrs Quentin-Baxter said she especially enjoyed the times she was able to work with her late husband, Professor Quentin Quentin-Baxter. They worked together in Niue, where the professor was a legal adviser to the island's Assembly before it became a self-governing nation.

We were honoured to welcome Alison back to school last July along with her niece, Robyn Pickford (nee Souter, 1972-1976) and great-niece Kate McBride (nee Pickford, 2003-2004).

# PIONEER FOR EQUAL PAY

## Dr Elizabeth Orr (nee Entrican)

**CNZM. 1944 -1946**

**Equal Pay is an issue that has been bubbling away in Kiwi households for a very long time. It's a topic we've heard our mothers, aunts and even grandmothers talk about, but many have felt powerless to address. Modern day New Zealand women are now on a crusade to close the gap, but our very own Dr Elizabeth Orr CNZM (nee Entrican) has long been paving the way.**



Elizabeth Orr was a ground breaker in equal opportunities. She has long been interested in the issue of employment for women and is a role model herself, appointed the first woman chancellor of Victoria University in 1991.

Elizabeth has been paving the way for pay equity and equal pay for more than 50 years. Finishing her MA in 1953, Elizabeth became a lecturer at Victoria before children diverted her into the promotion of other issues, such as legislative change to the jury service, giving men and women equal rights to serve on a jury.

In the 1960s, she was a member of the Joint Committee of Women and Employment, formed by the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Federation of University Women, National Council of Women and the YWCA to campaign for equal pay and employment opportunities.

As chair of the Joint Committee, Elizabeth led a delegation to Government to establish the National Advisory Council for the Employment of Women, that still exists to this day. In 1967, she was one of the first members, and later its first woman chair.

Elizabeth was instrumental in establishing the 1972 Equal Pay Act. The Act was implemented over a five year period, and Elizabeth was on the official committees which reviewed implementation in 1975 and again in 1978. Elizabeth also worked to promote the 1977 Human Rights Act, however she is quick to point out the recognition for this should go to her husband who was responsible for the Human Rights Act as Secretary for Justice.

There was a time when many had written off the 1972 Equal Pay Act and Elizabeth took an unwavering stand that the Act covers

equal pay for equal value, as well as equal pay for women and men doing the same job. In 2004 she and Margaret Long, both well into their 70s, appeared before a parliamentary select committee to help avert the replacement of the 1960 and 1972 Equal Pay Acts with provisions in the Employment Relations Act that would cover only equal pay for women and men in the same job. Now that the courts have ruled otherwise, everyone accepts that the 1972 Act is equal pay for work of equal value legislation.

Elizabeth's written articles give fascinating and relevant insights into this history. A published author, Elizabeth is culminating a book on the Equal Pay fight. The last ten years she has been on a quest to tell the history of the New Zealand Forest Service. Her father, Pat Entrican was Director of Forestry from 1939 to 1961 and Elizabeth's first book 'Keeping New Zealand Green' covers the history of the New Zealand Forest Service, the development of the country's pulp and paper industry and the state of our forests.

Elizabeth remains an active and valued member of the Campaign for Equal Value Equal Pay to this day. Her pioneering spirit was recognised in 2015 when she received an inaugural 'Inspiring Union Women' Award from the NZ Council of Trade Unions.

Our inspiring Nga Tawa Old Girls' like Elizabeth definitely give us plenty to ponder. New Zealand prides itself on being a fair and progressive country. Historically, we've been world leaders in women's rights and it's a badge we've worn proudly. If we can be the first country in the world to give women the vote, why not be first to close the pay gap?



# PASSIONATE DANNEVIRKE TEACHER WINS YOUNG EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Amanda Scott (nee Weir) 2003 - 2005**



Amanda Scott's (nee Weir, 2003-2005) enthusiasm for her school and students is contagious and won her the 2017 Young Educator of the Year award. The award was for teachers with six years or less experience who were doing cool things in the classroom and great things in their school and community.

Amanda is passionate about working towards making a better life for the kids at her Huia Range School, and is a big believer in the mantra 'if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life'. For her, teaching is about making a difference in the relationships of her students. She believes if the kids are happy and want to come to school, the learning comes after.

Surprisingly, teaching wasn't Amanda's first career choice. Her decision to leave behind a career in media and communications came after she'd completed her degree and taken a gap year in the United Kingdom in 2008. Amanda worked at a boys' preparatory school, but didn't know if teaching was for her, so returned to a

career in media. At 26 she decided to go back to university and completed her postgraduate diploma in primary teaching at Massey University in Palmerston North.

Amanda's Nga Tawa education has stood her in good stead. Half way through her third year at Huia Range, Amanda has reintroduced a new school house system, worked with businesses on the design and production of house banners, her management unit involves working on revamping the culture and a reward and reinforce system, as well as starting a school council with her colleagues. "I've always got my teacher hat on, but it's very much a balancing act," she said. "I'm here at school at 7am and don't leave until 4pm, with my whole focus on the students. I go home and try and fit in exercise and things, but I'm always looking on the internet to see if there is something I can use for my students."

It would appear Amanda has found her true calling.

# WANAKA WEDDING VENUE ANOTHER CHAPTER FOR JILL

## Jill Blennerhassett (nee Macpherson)

1946 -1951

**Wanaka's lake-edge wedding venue The Olive Grove became the focus of national and international media attention last year when former All Black captain Richie McCaw and Black Stick hockey player Gemma Flynn, dubbed New Zealand's royalty, were married there. Nga Tawa Old Girl, Mrs Jill Blennerhassett (nee Macpherson, 1946-1951) and her husband, who are both in their 80s, started the Olive Grove wedding venue business just five years ago. Read on to learn how it was only another chapter in their extraordinary lives.**

Jill met Dr John Blennerhassett, a University of Otago medical student, in Dunedin whilst they were both studying. They were married two days after John graduated and moved to Wellington where John began his distinguished career which would take the Blennerhassett's around the world.

In 1962, John and Jill and their four children headed to the United States where John took up a 12-month residency in pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston. Finances were extremely tight but a £1000 Bank of NZ centennial fellowship helped make ends meet. For John, it was professional heaven mixing with members on the senior staff who were world leaders in gastrointestinal cancer, thyroid diseases, gynecology and many other areas.

After four years in the US, John's visa had run out and the family, with the addition of two "little Yankees", moved to Montreal in Canada for John's next post. After three years in Canada, and another stint back in Massachusetts, John and Jill were persuaded to move home for John to take up the Head of Pathology role at Otago University where he had been a student years before.

Given Dr Blennerhassett had to stay on in Massachusetts for another six months, Jill took the six children and the Labrador dog and drove around Canada and the United States in a brand-new Ford station wagon towing a tent trailer before heading to San Francisco where they shipped the car to Port Chalmers and flew to New Zealand to set up home before Dr Blennerhassett arrived back in Dunedin.

In 2002, when John decided it was time to wind down his celebrated medical career, John and Jill moved to Barn Pinch Farm on Wanaka's western lakefront. Barn Pinch Farm was originally part of Wanaka Station owned by Jill's grandfather, Sir Percy Sargood. After Sir Percy died in 1941, part of the station was bought at auction by Jill's mother and given to the community by the Wanaka Station Trust in 1977 and the land containing the homestead ruins and large trees at Homestead Close were given in 1997. Mrs Blennerhassett's mother gave half each of what remained to Jill and

and her brother Rolfe Mills who established the first commercial vines at Rippon in 1982. Jill and her husband continued the tradition of sharing the land among the family and, after keeping 34ha back to create Barn Pinch Farm, gave their children 20ha each.

They have also shared some of their land with the Wanaka community, creating the 2.4ha Blennerhassett Kanuka Reserve between Waterfall Creek and Rippon Vineyard that is protected from development in perpetuity by a QEII covenant.

Jill can remember visiting her grandparents in Wanaka as a child in the 1930s and '40s when the Wanaka township comprised of a pub, the square and a garage. "There wasn't a light to be seen along the peninsula and Pembroke Park was a piece of dirt for most of the year," she said. When the Blennerhassetts built what was then their holiday house at Barn Pinch in the 1970s, there wasn't a tree to be seen. Mrs Blennerhassett decided to plant olive trees.

"I've always been a member of the New Zealand Tree Croppers Association so I've tried to have pockets of this and that and I happened to plant the olives in rows and now they're in the most perfect place," she said.

Five years ago, a friend who was also a marriage celebrant suggested they turn the grove of olive trees into a wedding venue. Always keen to share their property with others they jumped at it. "And it was great to start something new when you're 80," Jill laughed. The first inquiry from the McCaws came through an intermediary but once it was confirmed the Blennerhassetts were sworn to secrecy. "We only told our daughter who lives in a cottage on the property near the Olive Grove because we had meetings down there. Richie could come in the gate and drive down to the cottage and no-one noticed," she said. A few days before the McCaws' big day, Jill mowed the grass in the top paddock to create a crop circle for the helicopter to land. On the day itself, Jill and her daughter, Robyn, drove around the perimeter of the property handing out thermoses of hot drinks and biscuits to the security guards. A week after the wedding, the new Mr and Mrs McCaw came back and visited the Blennerhassetts and presented them with a bottle of wine and a huge bunch of flowers as a personal "thank-you" present for hosting their wedding.

The Olive Grove is now fielding plenty of enquiry and the Blennerhassetts are already thinking about other ways to develop the property for the public and future Sargood descendants to enjoy. We can't wait to hear what this woman with absolute indomitable Nga Tawa spirit does next. Age is just a number for Jill.

[www.theolivegrovewanakaweddingvenue.co.nz](http://www.theolivegrovewanakaweddingvenue.co.nz)



# GOVERNOR GENERAL DAME PATSY REDDY'S RIGHT HAND WOMAN

## Keri Hayden 2003 - 2007

In 2007, Keri Hayden (2003-2007) stood at the front of assembly each week and addressed the school community as Head of Sport. A talented sportswoman, she went on to represent New Zealand but not in the sport she would have imagined at school. Her rise from rugby rookie to national representative was one of the most rapid in the modern game. A netballer and former athletics star, Keri hadn't played rugby before when Manawatu Coach Wesley Clarke invited her to play in his women's sevens squad for the Central Regional Qualifier. She then signed up to play fifteens and went on to represent New Zealand as a member of the New Zealand Black Ferns that same year.

But sporting success aside, it's her role as live-in aide-de-camp (a military expression for a personal assistant or secretary to a person of high rank) that saw her hitting headlines and making us all envious of her "modern-day Downton Abbey life."

Keri joined the navy in 2008 after "falling in love" with the navy band when it visited Nga Tawa. She contacted a recruiter soon after to find out more. After five years as an officer she left to complete a degree, but kept the door open by remaining a navy reservist, allowing her to perform full-time active duty despite studying. However, after coming across a job opportunity for a military officer to work with the Governor General her heart was set. She had always had it in the back of her mind and went after her dream role where for the last year she has travelled the world and met impressive world leaders.

She worked alongside air force officer Flight Lieutenant Nash Alur, from Auckland, both of whom lived on site but on different rosters. One aide-de-camp is "in waiting" where they are on duty, and the other is "out of waiting" where they plan longer term events. The pair swapped roles each week. She would meet with Dame Patsy Reddy each day to discuss the Dame's schedule and also liaised with event managers, arranged travel, organised appointments, speeches and correspondence.

Keri's year-long post ended in February. The demand on Keri's time was high, with not much time off. "You had to be in the right frame of mind to tackle the job. Government House is also your home life, making it difficult to strike a balance between the two. The job, the Governor General, is your No.1 priority. They made that clear from the first moment."

In order to take the role on you needed to be mature and well-travelled, she said. "You talk to all sorts of different people. You are representing New Zealand when you travel. It really was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I don't know why more people don't apply."

Keri is now living in the Middle East where she has been deployed with her fiancé, Hamiora Thomas.



Keri celebrated her time with the Governor General with her Nga Tawa 2007 classmates  
L-R: Anna Tipling (nee Hurley), Romilly Cumming, Sophie Mexted and Danielle Glynn (nee White).

"The job, the  
Governor General,  
is your No.1 priority.  
They made that  
clear from the first  
moment."

# OLD GIRLS' NEWS

**Georgiana Osborne** (nee Moore, 1957-1961) received a British Queen's Birthday Honour in 2017. Georgiana has been Lord Lieutenant of Angus since 2001 and was appointed Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. Georgiana was Head Girl and Academic Dux in her final year of school.

1957 Head Girl, **Diana Lum** (Firth) is the founding member of the Ponsonby Road shop The Garden Party <https://thegardenparty.co.nz/> specialising in NZ design ware.

**Anna Sinclair** (2001-2005) is a Senior Legal Advisor with the Earthquake Commission.

**Sarah Leggett** (2006-2010) is a Building Scientist with Jasmax after graduating with a Masters in Sustainable Engineering and Bachelor of Building Science from University of Victoria, Wellington.

**Dana Beissel** (2005-2009) is a Senior Solicitor with Duncan Cottrell, specialising in insurance litigation for earthquake & repair insurance.

**Ivana Trail** (2006-2009) is a Master Scheduler at Pernod Ricard Winemakers.

**Jana van Greunen** (1996-98) is an Engineering Leader at Facebook in San Francisco. She graduated with a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Berkeley.

**Karen Rutherford** (1986-1990) is Co-Chief of Staff at Mediaworks New Zealand.

**Jeanette Biggs** (nee Donald, 1997-2001) is married to Paul Biggs and has three children, Danielle, Jonathan and Benjamin. The Biggs own a large panel beating and spray painting business in Upper Hutt, Wellington. Jeanette's elder sister, **Merlaina Donald** (1993-1997) has two girls Abigail and Amelia Burden.

**Una Ewert** (nee Picot, 1939-1945) turned 90 last September and was treated to a visit from Bill and Mary English at her Rotorua retirement village. Una was Head of Barker in her final year of school and a member of the 1st XI hockey, 1st XI cricket and top netball and tennis teams. Una has kindly supported our Buy a Brick fundraiser and will have her name on our commemorative wall.

**Brooke Hobson** (2007-2011) and news reporter colleague Mel Logan won the best live news coverage at the NZ Radio Awards for their work on the Port Hill fires in 2017.

**Sarah MacLeod** (2005-2009) has been living in Melbourne for five years running an Events company operating out of Melbourne and the Gold Coast.

Former Head Girl, **Emma Haggas** (2004-2008) is Legal Counsel at VICE Media in London. Prior to this Emma worked as Commercial Counsel at Visa in London and worked at Russell McVeagh in Auckland.

## Mr Duncan J Hart QSM JP

Mr Duncan Hart was Nga Tawa's first Bursar from 1978 until he retired in 1987. Along with the efficient and forward thinking Board of the day, he was involved in the successful negotiations with government which resulted in Nga Tawa's integration. Many will remember him as the kindly man who dished out their pocket money for town leave!

In this year's Queen's Birthday Honours, Mr Hart was recognised and granted a Queen's Service Medal for his services to the community. Born in Marton, he has been involved with many committees and organisations throughout his life.

Nga Tawa will recall his presence on a regular basis at Anzac Services at the school and his talk to the school following his return from the commemorative 70th Anniversary trip to Monte Cassino Italy where Duncan fought in the 18th Armoured Regiment during World War II.

In addition, before his retirement as Bursar at Nga Tawa, Mr Hart became Treasurer of the Nga Tawa Parents and Friends Association, where he could offer history, knowledge and experience. He retained that position for 22 years.

Duncan has a daughter, Virginia Scobie (nee Hart, 1968-1971) and a granddaughter, Jane Scobie (1994-1998) who both attended Nga Tawa. Sadly, Duncan's wife of 66 years, Doreen, passed away after a short illness, three months before Duncan was invited to accept his QSM award. In his 95th year and still living in his own home, he would welcome any Old Girls or parents who remember him, to call in if passing through Marton. Duncan has kindly supported our Buy a Brick fundraiser.



## Early New Zealand Women in Medicine

Professor Cindy Farquhar is the Post Graduate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at University of Auckland. She's leading an historical research project on the early women medical graduates from Otago Medical School from 1896–1967. The project gathers stories about these important contributors to New Zealand's history, and will create a website of biographies to inspire current medical students and graduates, and to contribute to New Zealand's cultural and social history.

A number of Nga Tawa Diocesan students went on to study medicine at Otago University during that time period. One such Old Girl was Adair Marsden (nee Mackersey, 1936-1940), who graduated with a MB ChB in 1951. Adair was a visiting anaesthetist at Wellington Hospital from 1953-1957, in general practice in Auckland from 1964-1987, and worked in Australia until her retirement in 2003. She's now back in New Zealand. Above is a photo of Adair catching up with her niece, Eleanor McDowell's (nee Mackersey, 1935-1939) daughter, Ilona, who was visiting from Scotland.



## BIRTHS 2017/2018

Vera (Nydeggar) & Steve Shailer	Julia	May 2017
Charlotte (Franklin) & Justin Bray	Tessa	June 2017
Jenha (White) and Dan Phillips	Henry	July 2017
Kylie (Sinclair) & Gordon Turner	Belle	September 2017
Shaye (Simpson) & Bayden Andersen	Colby & Molly	September 2017
Keri (Brown) & Dan Maas	Saskia	October 2017
Nicole (Cook) & Fatai Funaki	Kaya	December 2017
Danielle (White) & Jeffrey Glynn	Pierce	January 2018
Hayley Jewell & Shaun Hadfield	Archie	January 2018
Jessie (Cameron) & Chris Tomblason	Finlay	February 2018
Elizabeth (Tully) & Dames Campbell	Eloise	May 2018

## MARRIAGES 2017/18

Emma Rowe to Allan Bain	January 2017
Deanne Lennox to Steve McKean	July 2017
Melanie Weitenberg to Matt Redmond	December 2017
Toni Hayden to Adrian Griffiths	December 2017
Nicola Corser to Matt Thorne	January 2018
Amanda Weir to Isaac Scott	January 2018
Annabel Martin to Simon Wilson	January 2018
Sue Rainey to William Taffs	February 2018
Anna Collins to Brent Leersnyder	February 2018
Natasha Smith to Mark Bull	February 2018
Toni Walker to Piers Baar	February 2018
Sarah Grogan to William Kirkland	February 2018
Kate Deadman to Lewis Waterworth	March 2018
Freya Thomason to Matt Mcnelis	March 2018
Rebecca Rhodes to Fraser Pursglove	March 2018
Anna Anderson to Matthew Trott	March 2018
Katie Gordon to Grayson Cooper	April 2018



## DAUGHTERS OF OLD GIRLS

### Year 9

Matilda Howard Charlotte Stanford (1977-80) Birch

### Year 10

Lilly Carpenter Meredith Collier (1985-89) Birch  
 Kelly Corbett Jeannine Roygard (1981-84) Sprott  
 Samantha Nicholson Pauline Wiley (1985-1989) Sprott  
 Lydia Harrison Helen Sloman (1974-1978) Barker  
 Georgia Taylor Caroline Crawford (1986-90) Studholme

### Year 11

Lily Waugh Sutton Potts (1983-86) Sprott  
 Meg Thomas Helen Willis (1986-90) Sprott  
 Sophie McVerry Sarah Willis (1984-88) Sprott  
 Margaret Menzies Charlotte Gorrige (1983-86) Barker

### Year 12

Phoebe Howard Charlotte Stanford (1977-80) Birch  
 Cill Waugh Sutton Potts (1983-86) Sprott

### Year 13

Hannah Williams Rachel Beilby (1989-93) Birch  
 Juliet Bonnor Belinda Williams (1977-81) Sprott  
 Bridget Bone Catherine McLean (1975-79) Barker  
 Elizabeth Gibson Kathy Black (1974-78) Sprott

### Grand-daughters of Old Girls

Meg Thomas Wendy Dasent (1957-61)  
 Sophie McVerry Wendy Dasent (1957-61)  
 Lydia Harrison Anne Vosper (1947-50)  
 Georgia Taylor Jillian Dawson (1960-64)

### Great Grand-daughters of Old Girls

Florence Lee-Jones Jean Thoms (1915-17)



**A: Toni Griffiths** (nee Hayden) flanked by her Nga Tawa Old Girl bridesmaids at her parents' farm in Feilding. L-R: Alice Pritchard, Toni, Keri Hayden and Georgia Stone.

**B: Deanne McKean** (nee Lennox) and Nga Tawa Old Girls at her wedding in Thailand. L-R: Zoe Bartley, Carrie Fullerton-Smith (nee Peterson), Kloe Palmer, Dee, Anna Kane, Lucy Stone, Shardae Oliver.

**C: Melanie Redmond** (nee Weitenberg) and Nga Tawa Old Girls at her wedding in Taupo. L-R: Emily Andrews, Ali Palmer, Penny McLean, Sarah Kirkland (nee Grogan), Mel, Jess Silk, Amanda Knox, Jaimee Gowler.

**D: Sarah Kirkland** (nee Grogan) on her wedding day. Three Nga Tawa Old Girls were part of her bridal party; Kate Waterworth (nee Deadman), Hannah Oliver and Ivana Traill.

**E: Katie Cooper** (nee Gordon) was married in Taupo by Nga Tawa Old Girl Katie Gilmour with three Nga Tawa Old Girls by her side; Emma Deadman, Vera Shailer (nee Nydeggar) and Charlotte Oswald (nee Gordon).





# WE REMEMBER

Prudence (Wanklyn) Johnstone (1938-1941)	Sprott	9 March 2016
Dorothy (Seaman) Southon Q.S.M (1932-1936)	Barker	5 July 2016
Pru (Gardner) Ross (1941-1945)	Studholme	30 September 2016
Berys (Horrocks) Jones (1935-1940)	Birch	1 October 2016
Jill (Meuli) Capon (1950-1953)	Studholme	16 November 2016
Jean (Hartgill) Hippisley-Cox (1940-1945)	Barker	18 November 2016
Sonia (Laver) Hillier (1939)	Barker	10 January 2017
Prudence Nathan (1945-1949)	Sprott	16 January 2017
Deidre (Williams) Helmore (1932-1933)	Barker	18 March 2017
Maryann (Lawford) Ferrier (1951-1954)	Studholme	11 May 2017
Juliet (Sherriff) Campbell (1943-1947)	Birch	20 May 2017
Anne (McKergow) Nason (1947-1951)	Studholme	1 June 2017
Awdry (Rawson) Wilde (1937-1939)	Sprott	12 June 2017
Stella (Williams) Overbye (1952-1957)	Birch	30 June 2017
Ruth (Clark) Kay (1940-1942)	Studholme	4 July 2017
Margaret (Rutherford) Baird (1940-1941)	Barker	7 July 2017
Gwynedd (Sherriff) Miller (1938-1944)	Birch	13 July 2017
Margaret Bull (1950-1952)	Barker	1 August 2017
Barbara (Bayley) Skinner (1940-1943)	Sprott	6 August 2017
Beth (Beedie) Eidell-Moore (1937-1938)	Birch	7 August 2017
Marnie (Turner) Dovey (1936)		12 August 2017
Margot (Hanna) Fulton (1937-1939)	Sprott	1 September 2017
Patricia (Sly) McDell (1936-1937)		13 September 2017
Rachel (Alexander) Blundell (1951-1956)	Birch	1 October 2017
Jonette (Watt) Hodge (1953-1957)	Studholme	6 October 2017
Judith (Gardiner) Miles (1953-1956)	Birch	9 October 2017
Ruth (McWilliam) Anderson (1941-1942)	Birch	6 December 2017
Chris (Lethbridge) Ormsby (1943-1946)	Barker	10 December 2017
Catherine (Craven) Jacobs (1937-1940)	Sprott	2 January 2018
Erica (Croker) Hill (1937-1942)	Birch	2 January 2018
Angela (Petrie-Jones) Esson (1953-1959)	Birch	12 February 2018
Margaret (Davies) Bramley (1946-1950)	Studholme	22 February 2018



## Anne Nason (nee McKergow, 1947-1951)

**Passed away** June 1, 2017 aged 83.

Head Girl, 1951.

BA (Cantab.), 1956.

Anne worked for the Foreign Office prior to her marriage to Army officer Colonel Ian Nason. An interest in ornithology developed as she travelled the world with her army husband and family, culminating in a published work on the birds of Nigeria. She was also a founding member of the African Bird Club. She and Ian settled in Broadchalke, Wiltshire. She more recently published 'For love and Courage: the letters of Lieutenant Colonel E.W. Hermon from the Western Front 1914-1917 (2008)', which was based on the letters of her grandfather during World War I. Anne and her sister Jean Richards kindly gifted a copy to the Nga Tawa Library. Anne had two sons and two daughters and was a proud grandmother to eleven grandchildren.

## Jonette Hodge (nee Watt, 1953-1957)

**Passed away** October 6, 2017

House Games Captain of Studholme, 1957

1st XI Hockey Captain, 1957

Jonette loved her time at Nga Tawa and was in contact with a number of her school friends and still involved in informal reunions with her year group. Unfortunately, Jonette passed away before their next year group get together in March of this year. Jonette was the loving wife of the late Bruce, mother to three daughters and six beautiful grandchildren.



NGA TAWA  
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