

Otago Girls' High School Alumni Association

Principal's report

There is an often quoted but seldom sourced saying that "school days are the best days of your life." I have always thought this a rather disheartening idea because the inference is that life doesn't get any better than when you are living at home and being directed in what you can and can't do by both your family and your teachers. There is no doubt that the experience individuals have of school varies enormously and what for some was a time of friendship, enlightenment and growth, to others was a time of torment, ambiguity and oppression. Regardless of people's perception of their school days, school is a unifying force and those who have attended the same school find much in common in the way of shared experiences and mutual connections. Never have I seen this more evident than at Otago Girls' High School.

Over the 18 months of my tenure to date I have witnessed on many occasions the pride our ex-girls feel at having attended the oldest state girls' school in New Zealand. This is closely aligned with their gratitude for the foundation this school provided. I have listened with interest and amusement to their stories of fear and/or admiration for past principals and teachers; I have sat in awe at hearing of their outstanding achievements and I constantly marvel at our ex-girls who are 'ordinary' women both young and old who are making things happen in the world. Mothers, teachers, lawyers, librarians, chefs, authors, planners, doctors, volunteers; our ex-girls live in all corners of the world and contribute in meaningful ways to their families, their communities and to the global village. This is an outstanding legacy and a remarkable resource.

It is with these ideas in mind that the thought of establishing an alumni association came to pass. As people associated with Otago Girls' we share a passion for ensuring that young women achieve their potential. As a school we aim to develop confident, resilient, independent and responsible young women who can take their rightful place in society. We hope that your involvement with the OGHS Alumni Association will allow you to retain your connection to the school, establish or re-establish friendships with others also involved and provide you with the opportunity to contribute to what is happening here at Otago Girls'. There is no doubt that the political, social, economic and technological landscape in which our current students and their families find themselves is extremely challenging. Your support, whether by way of your time, your story or your money, can make an enormous difference to them. Awareness of those who have gone before and what it is possible to achieve can be a great motivator and I hope to be able to use your stories with the girls. I

It is my wish that through this Alumni Association you will find friendship and satisfaction. I would love to be able to share with our current students the excitement, challenges and rewards of life beyond school as well as share with them reasons they should treasure their time at Otago Girls'. We are keen for your input and ideas into how the Alumni Association develops and unfolds and we trust that you will enjoy reading our first Otago Girls' High School Alumni Association newsletter.

"The greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but reveal to them their own." ~ Disraeli

Linda Miller
Principal
President OGHS Alumni Association

Alumni Association Committee



Linda Miller, Principal President

Linda Miller is the 11th Principal of Otago Girls' High School and she commenced in this role in 2012. Previously she was Principal of Fiordland College. The establishment of the Alumni Association was Linda's initiative.



Jane Smallfield Secretary

Jane Smallfield (nee Palmer) attended Otago Girls' High School from 1973-1977. She was registrar for the 125th Reunion and is co-ordinating the 150th celebrations in 2021. In 2003 she was appointed to the position of Librarian at Otago Girls' High School. Her daughter Hannah also attended OGHS from 2002 to 2006.



Elizabeth McDonald Treasurer

Elizabeth has been the Business Manager at Otago Girls' since 2007. Her mother was Otago Girls' "ex-girl" Elizabeth Sim (nee Bathgate) who started at OGHS in 1942.



Jan (Anderson QSM)

Jan (Janet) Anderson (nee Smith) attended Otago Girls' from 1960 to 1964. She was Principal of the School from 1995 to 2012.



Sue Lynch

Sue has been an Assistant Principal at Otago Girls' since 1995 and her daughter Katherine was a student here from 1996-2000.



Crystal Diong

Crystal will resume her 4th year of MbChB (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) next year and is currently completing a BMedSci(Hons) (Bachelor of Medical Sciences honours). She attended Otago Girls' from 2005 to 2009.



Jilena Hastings

Jilena is a Primary School teacher in Dunedin and she attended Otago Girls' from 2000-2004.



Alysse Burgess

Alysse is a Primary School teacher in Dunedin and she attended Otago Girls' from 2000-2004.



Karen Cardno

Karen is an accounting clerk at Crowe Horwath in Dunedin. She attended OGHS from 1980-1984.



Penny Turner

Penny is an Asset Management Administrator for Trustees Executors and was at OGHS from 1980-1983.

Come to our first Alumni gatherings DUNEDIN or LONDON?

The newly formed Alumni Association will be holding it's first social function in Dunedin at Otago Girls' High School on the afternoon of Sunday 1 December from 2 to 4 pm. It will take the form of an opportunity to socialise and mingle with other ex-girls over a glass of bubbles and a Christmas afternoon tea. If any of you also wish to look around the school there will be an opportunity to do so.

There will be a charge of \$10 per person covering a glass of bubbles and the afternoon tea, and additional tickets for further drinks can be purchased. This payment will be made at the door.

Please RSVP as soon as possible and no later than Monday 25 November. Any ex-girls are welcome and they do not have to have registered with the Alumni Association, although we would encourage them to do so at

<http://www.otagogirls.school.nz/otago-girls-alumni-association/>

Please come along and help make this first OGHS Alumni function a success.

Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas DBE is also arranging an Alumni gathering for those living in the UK and environs. If you haven't already expressed an interest in this please email alumni@otagogirls.school.nz

2014 University Scholarships

We are proud of the following Year 13 students who have gained University Scholarships for 2014.

Jisu Lee	University of Auckland Scholarship
Awhina Clark Tahana	Otago University Maori and Pacific Island Entrance Scholarship
Awhina Clark Tahana	Victoria University Excellence Scholarship
Beth Chapman	Victoria University Excellence Scholarship

Send us your stories

The Alumni Committee hope to find out what sort of fields our ex-girls have worked in and what sort of lives they have had since their OGHS schools days.

Please think about writing us up to 300 words about yourself and email or post it to us with a photograph if possible.

If you are happy to have your profile published in this newsletter please let us know when you send it in.

Alumni profiles

Jenny Stein OGHS (2000–2004)

After finishing at Otago Girls' in 2004, I took a year off before plunging into study at the University of Otago. After first year I found I enjoyed Geology the most (and got my best marks in it). In 2009 I graduated with a BSc Hons (1st Class) in Geology; one of the highlights of my honours thesis being the finding of a new fossil locality that is still contributing valuable data to our understanding of the geological history of New Zealand.



Determined to see more of the world after graduation, I applied for jobs overseas, and took a position as an Exploration Geologist based in Western Tasmania. Working for a small mineral exploration company I rapidly became acquainted with drill rigs, 4WD-ing, tiger snakes and leeches! while logging rocks and bush-bashing through the wilderness to map and sample rock outcrops—often ones only accessible by helicopter (awesome fun!). My work also led me to spend two months camped out mapping rocks in North-Western Namibia (with two days off...spent on safari in Etosha National Park), and one month rockhounding around Northern Thailand. While based in Tasmania (in a town of only 200 people) I made the most of tramping opportunities around that area and indulged in my passion for amateur dramatics by writing and directing a small community play.

After a six month stint working as an office-based Geologist in Perth (where I got to indulge in the delights of city life for the first time in three years... like dining OUT and NOT having to drive for 1 ½ hrs to go to the movies!) I recently moved back home to Dunedin to spend time with my family as they cope with terminal illness. One of the perks of being a Geologist and doing lots of field work in remote areas is you don't have many opportunities to spend money; after paying off her student loan within a year I now count myself lucky to be able to take the time for more important things like making myself useful to my family and catching up with my old school friends.

So, geology...not quite the boring subject most of you think in high school!

Sophia Plate OGHS (1994)

I left OG's after 6th form as I had the opportunity to go to university directly. At Otago I studied Chemistry and went on to do a graduate diploma in Management at Canterbury. From there I was offered a graduate recruitment position with Accenture in Wellington. However after working only several months in the corporate world, I realised



that that life was not for me. I returned to Dunedin and went back to study additional courses at university and then spent a year at teachers' college. My first teaching job was at Tauranga Boy's College, followed by just over four years at St Hilda's in Dunedin. During this time I had begun investigating the possibility of teaching abroad on the international circuit, and also during this time I began surfing; something I regret not having begun years before.

In 2008 I decided to pursue my life long dream of going to Art School, and began in the second year of the course. However, personal circumstances meant that I needed again to look for work shortly after beginning the course. Returning to my interest in working abroad, I applied for a position in Chile, and I have been here since June 2008. It has been an incredible experience living here: I believe I have the best job in the world working with international students in a tiny mining town some 2500 m above sea level in the driest desert in the world. I have met my partner for life and have a two year old son and another baby on the way. I have learned a new language and a new culture; the surf in Chile is excellent; and I still have just a little time to paint!

(the above photograph was taken in Chile recently when Sophia met up with our Spanish students who were there on a three week trip to Argentina and Chile).

Alumni profiles

Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas DBE (OGHS 1962–1966)

After leaving Otago Girls' I decided to study law at Otago and after two years lecturing I fulfilled a childhood dream and left for London in 1973, not to dance on Covent Garden's stage as I had hoped aged six, but to lecture in law and then practice as an employment lawyer in the City of London.



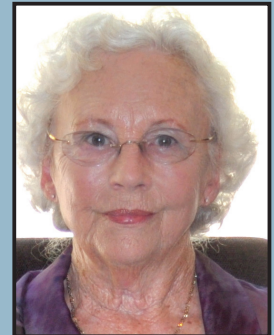
Living in the City I stood for election for the City of London Corporation in 1986 and became Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee in 1996. I held this position of Leader of the Council for six years, the first woman to hold this office. I was very involved with the creation of the European single market in financial services which meant working closely with the European Commission and the other member states. In 2006 I was appointed to the main board of Merrill Lynch in New York and I currently chair the London New York Dialogue. In addition I co-chair the British Dutch Dialogue, The Apeldoorn Conference. In 2008 I was appointed Chairman of The New West End Company which promotes and develops the west end of London. In 2009 I was appointed to the Mayor of London's Promote London Council which resulted in the creation of London & Partners, an economic development and promotional company for London. In 2011 I became its Chairman.

I have also served on a number of boards of educational and cultural institutions in recent years, including Birkbeck College, Imperial College London, Gresham College and the Natural History Museum. From 2003 to 2006 I was Provost of King's College Cambridge, again the first woman to hold the post. I was Chairman of The Royal Opera House from 2003 to 2008 and did something the six year old in New Zealand never dreamt of, being the first woman to chair its board, rather than being a dancer in The Royal Ballet. I am currently a Trustee of The Imperial War Museum and chairing its redevelopment committee.

I was very fortunate in being appointed Dame Commander of the British Empire in the 2002 Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to the City of London. One of the best things that OGHS and my mother taught me, was that giving back to the community was important. and my life has been very varied as a result with a mixture of paid and pro bono activity over an large number of areas. School also instilled in me a can do attitude which may explain why I have been able to achieve some firsts for women in the United Kingdom.

Joan Sinclair (nee Baines) OGHS (1943–1945)

First of all I would like to congratulate the School on initiating an Alumni Association. My family are proud of their record of attendance at OGHS - first my mother, then myself and sister, my two daughters, and most recently four granddaughters. OGHS gave me a well rounded educational start in life which



enabled me to gain qualifications from Rossbotham's Commercial College and later from University. My working career was in a legal office and later I worked over 33 years in the Health Sector culminating in work as a Human Resources Administration Officer. I am a Life Member of the Otago Theatre Trust which operates the Regent Theatre, and have been a Board Member there for over 40 years. An active part of my life has been in the Presbyterian Church – I was Presbytery Clerk for North Otago and Dunedin for many years. In retirement I invigilate examinations at the University of Otago, and other tertiary colleges. I am a Life Member of Exgirls' joining the Otago High School Exgirls' Association when my eldest daughter started at the School, and have been on the Executive for most of that time – and was on the committee which ran the 100th and 125th School Celebrations. The Exgirls' Association allows former pupils to meet regularly and continue relationships formed at OGHS and retain an interest in the School's continuing influence on educating the girls in our area.

OGHS Ex-Girl Branches

The following reports have been received from our OGHS ex-girls branches. Hopefully more will arrive in time for our next newsletter.

Bay of Plenty

At present we have 26 members and meet usually for luncheons on Founders Day in February, for our Annual General Meeting in April, for a mid-winter lunch in Mid July, and early November for a Melbourne Cup Meeting. On the latter occasion we hold a sweepstake which gives the big race extra enjoyment for everybody. This year Angela Pasgaard has offered her home for the Cup Meeting, and a variation on the usual form, with an afternoon tea (Members to bring a plate) and stay on to see the race together.

Anne McKinnon, animac@xtra.co.nz

Upper Clutha

The Upper Clutha OGHS ex Girls Association has a membership of 34 and meets four times a year in March, June, September and December.

We meet at lunchtime in a relaxed atmosphere at one of Wanaka's cafés. For our December meeting we are joined by partners or friends for an evening meal. Occasionally we join together with the Central Otago branch for a luncheon get together. The Upper Clutha branch broadly covers the area bounded by Wanaka, Albertown, Hawea and Luggate.

If any ex girls have shifted into the area or are here on holiday, we would be delighted if you could join us.

President Joan Barkman (03) 443 5417
Secretary Pam Horne (03) 443 4483

Christchurch

The Christchurch branch of Ex-girls is in good heart and meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. We have a membership of 100 which is down slightly due to the earthquakes and deaths but we have had new members lately. We usually have around 50 at a meeting. There is a mix of daytime and evening meetings including some outings. This year our meetings have included Irish Music, Opera costuming, Back to School Night, Speaker from Alzheimers Society, soup and bread lunch, Mid Winter Lunch, Partners night (Sister and Brother schools invited), trips to Wigram Museum and Iris Gardens. We are looking forward to meeting Principal Linda Miller in the New Year.

Jennifer McKinnon
jennifer.mckinnon@xtra.co.nz

Otago High School Ex-girls' Association (Dunedin)

The Otago High School Ex-girls' Association was formed in Dunedin "in order to promote and foster friendship among the members of the Association and between themselves and present pupils of the School, and to foster the interests of the School and the pupils by such means and in such manner as from time to time seem to the Association best fitted for these purposes". We have helped the School over the years by donations towards Library Day, School Fairs, and have attended their dramatic and musical productions.

We are now in our 102nd year and meet monthly from March to November. Sadly our numbers have dwindled as the passage of time catches up with members – we have 28 financial members on the roll. Our AGM is held in the School Library, followed by monthly luncheon meetings at different cafes and restaurants around the city. We usually incorporate a visit after lunch to places of interest, e.g. the Toitu Settlers Museum, the Botanical Gardens, a movie or an occasional trip to visit beautiful private gardens around the city. We encourage members to bring their husbands to join us at our monthly lunches or outings.

We would enthusiastically welcome any Exgirls who would like to join our Association.

Joan Sinclair, Hon Secretary/Treasurer.
joansinclair@xtra.co.nz, (03) 455 4229

Timaru

Timaru Ex Girls group was established in September 1945 with 21 Ex Girls present. At the first Committee meeting it was decided that meetings would be held every two months. Heading towards celebrating our 70th birthday we have a membership of 31, meeting in members' homes every two or three months. Attendance of up to 20 members at meetings is usual and our annual membership fee is now five dollars. Our gatherings provide a time for reminiscing, laughing and learning, with varied topics, speakers, quizzes, and outings. We celebrate with a luncheon at Christmas. Many of our members have been part of the group since they were young mothers and continue to support and provide friendship for any newcomers. Older members note that it is harder now to recruit younger members, a sign of the times no doubt, with contact being much easier and quicker with computer social groups. Over the years there has also been close contact with other local High School Ex Pupil groups. Timaru Ex Girls is a group dedicated to keeping the friendliness and memories of those Good Old School Days.

Annette Bachelor, ambatch@ihug.co.nz



From the archives



Do you recognise yourself in these photographs? The gymnastic display was taken in 1946 or 1947. The other two photographs are of school productions. The centre one taken in 1954 was "You Never Can Tell" and the right hand performance was from the 1960s - performance unknown. Let us know if you recognise any of the students.



Current OGHS Students and a staff member, who are descended from former students of the school.

OGHS today

Some things change ... others stay the same.



This page:

Left: Little Bo Peep (Principal, Ms Miller) and students on Library Day.

Below: Students at Celebration Service in Knox Church

Bottom: Spanish students in Argentina

Opposite page:

Top: Year 12 students in Chemistry and then clockwise, Stage Challenge performance, Dancing with the Staff winners, Principal Ms Miller at the beach with Year 13 Geography students, Spanish language students in Argentina.





Are you in this photograph? - IIR 1946.

One of the issues we have with our large collection of school photos is that many are nameless and it would be great to have our ex-girls identified before our 150th reunion in 2021. Can you help us identify these pupils from IIR in 1946 .



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

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

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