



Spirit

April 2019 Volume 23 Issue 1



ST HILDA'S SCHOOL
GOLD COAST



Milla follows in Fittock family footsteps

St Hilda's School has been inspiring women for more than a century and 2018 Dux Milla Harrison's family has been a part of that history for nearly 100 years - since the 1920s.

Milla's family's connection to the School began with her great great aunt, Winifred Fittock, who was Headmistress of St Hilda's School from 1924 to 1951.

During that time, Jill Fittock, Milla's grandmother, attended St Hilda's and was awarded Dux in 1944 and again in 1945.

Jill repeated senior year as she was too young to go to university.

Milla's grandfather (now 93) recently passed down the Dux prize that Jill received for her final schooling results - a chamber pot with the St Hilda's badge!

While Milla received a number of awards at her Year 12 Graduation, including trophies and books, thankfully a chamber pot is no longer among the prizes awarded.

After graduation, Milla and her classmates had one major result left to await - their final OP score.

While thousands of Year 12 students around Queensland were learning of their final results, Milla was a world away in Tanzania, Africa, on her final school trip with 23 fellow students and three staff from St Hilda's.

In the spirit of 'Non Nobis Solum', the purpose of the trip was to provide students with an opportunity to work on a number of community-focussed and environmental and wildlife projects run by Camps International in Tanzania.

The group travelled 2000km from Manyara in the West to Eagle Fish Point in the East over 22 days, experiencing the dry of the inland, the rainforest of the Usambara Mountains and the sands of Camp Tanga.

Milla joined her classmates in completing service projects: concreting a school staffroom, building a concrete ramp for students' access, planting trees in a school yard, painting a classroom and building a mud hut.

It is wonderful to see 'Non Nobis Solum' alive in the actions of students and

INSIDE

See back page for Reunions!

SAVE THE DATE!

St Hilda's Fete and OGA Meeting
Saturday 27 April



staff, past and present, and to see that St Hilda's graduates are not only well educated, but also demonstrate behaviour consistent with our School motto, 'not for ourselves alone'.

Milla intended to wait to find out her results until her return to Australia, but good news travels fast.

Roadside, in Tanzania, Milla found out she had received the highest result possible - an OP1.

This year Milla will begin a degree in Biomedical Science at Griffith University.

It is with pride that we celebrate her fantastic results and continuation of her family's legacy at St Hilda's School.

STAY
CONNECTED!



President's Message



As I sit down to write the April President's report, I find it hard to believe that Easter holidays are nearly upon us and another six months has passed.

In addition to this, it means that I have spent nearly two and a half years in my current role, and as I look back on the last few years,

I am really proud of some of the positive changes that have been made.

The last few years have focused on innovation and integration, and this will continue to be our focus for the remainder of 2019.

Before I continue about the progress of the OGA, I would like to welcome the class of 2018 to our alumni network and let them know that we are very fortunate to have them as part of our Association.

The graduating class of 2018 are the leaders of tomorrow, and I am excited to see the collaboration between our newest alumni group and our existing community.

One of the ways in which the Old Girls' Association is trying to foster the connection between the Graduating Class and St Hilda's alumni is through the introduction of the Alumni Welcome High Tea.

This idea was put forward by current Principal, Dr Julie Wilson Reynolds, and was a huge success. For the event we invited our 2018 cohort to Bumbles Café in Budds Beach.

A number of our existing alumni and more than 30 young women from the graduating class of 2018 attended.

We received great feedback and it is definitely something that we plan to continue in the future.

The Old Girls' Association hopes that this event will continue to build in numbers and will become a permanent feature on the alumni calendar. We are so grateful to everyone who made this high tea a success.

Following the high tea event, the Old Girls' Association also hosted our second 'Young Old Girls Drinks' event at Miami Marketta.

We had a diverse group of women from a range of cohorts attend and it was nice to try a different location to last year. Once again we got very positive feedback and look forward to the opportunity to connect and network at this event next year.

Looking forward, we have a number of upcoming events and meetings in our OGA Calendar.

Firstly, our next OGA Meeting will be held Saturday, 27 April at 10.30am before the St Hilda's School Fete begins.

We would love to see as many people from our community there as possible and it is a great opportunity to be involved with, and catch up on, the latest OGA news and events, and then continue on to the fantastic fun that is the St Hilda's School Fete!

The change of date to the St Hilda's Fete (from October to April) presents the perfect opportunity to continue the connection between the alumni and the School.

More information about the meeting can be found in this issue of the *Spirit* and on the St Hilda's School website.

One of the main focuses for our alumni community is to support the St Hilda's Foundation events and endeavours.

One way to show our support in this area is to attend the annual St Hilda's Foundation Business Luncheon on Friday, 3 May 2019.

This event has a strong reputation in both the School and wider Gold Coast community for bringing together influential speakers and discussing insights that are important to our community.

We would love to see as many of our alumni there as possible.

A special discount code is also available for any of our Old Girls' Association members who wish to attend – use the code "PODCAST" to save 10% on ticket prices. Please find details below.

In the coming months, it is our aim that engagement continues to increase and the strength of our network continues to grow.

We are so fortunate to be part of a community that is made up of women and men with incredible talents and stories to share, and so it is our goal to continue to spread the word of the incredible work of our members.

To finish, on behalf of the Old Girls' Association committee, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to this recent edition of the *Spirit*, to those who have engaged in our events and to everyone who has helped us get 2019 off to a great start.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Easter break.

Best Wishes,
Georgia Frizelle (2015)
OGA President

OGA DATES TO REMEMBER 2019

OGA Meeting

Saturday 27 April 10.30am
Junior STEAM Building,
St Hilda's School

St Hilda's School Fete

Saturday 27 April 12pm-7pm
St Hilda's School

St Hilda's Foundation Business Luncheon

Friday 3 May 12pm-3pm
RACV Royal Pines Resort

St Hilda's Junior School Musical, Aladdin

Saturday 8 June
12.30pm and 6.30pm
The Arts Theatre,
Home of the Arts Gold Coast
Tickets on sale late April

2019 Reunion Weekend

(see back page for details)
Saturday 9 November
Boarders' Dining Room,
St Hilda's School



ST HILDA'S FOUNDATION

Supporting young women
to dream and to achieve

2019 Business Luncheon Hedley Thomas: In Pursuit of Truth Friday, 3 May 2019

The St Hilda's Foundation invites you to attend the 2019 Business Luncheon featuring Hedley Thomas, National Chief Correspondent at *The Australian* and co-creator of a global podcast sensation currently at 43 million downloads.

TIME: 12pm - 3pm VENUE: RACV Royal Pines, Benowa
TICKETS: Table of 10: \$1,200 Individual: \$125

BOOK NOW
trybooking.com/480773

SAVE 10% on your ticket price with our special St Hilda's Foundation Discount Code exclusively for Old Girls' Association Members! Use the code: **PODCAST**



OGA out and about!

2018 OGA REUNION HIGH TEA



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST



YOUNG OLD GIRLS EVENT @ MIAMI MARKETTA



2018 PRINCIPAL'S & OGA CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL PARTY



2018 ALUMNI HIGH TEA





FETE & FIREWORKS
Saturday 27 April 2019 12pm-7pm
ALL WELCOME & FREE ENTRY!

AMAZING STALLS & SALES DELICIOUS FOOD & DRINKS 12 AWESOME RIDES LIVE MUSIC ACTS FAMOUS CENT AUCTION



Where are they now?



Justice Royale Thompson (1971)

I attended St Hilda's from 1966-1971, when Ms Granowski was Principal.

I was one of the students from Papua New Guinea, and despite getting into occasional trouble with my best friend Denise Keyworth, I very much enjoyed my time there.

I was in the Debating team with Virginia Jefferis and Lynelle Thelander and we were runners-up in the State Apex Debating competition. I also received a few prizes for writing stories and poems.

After completing a BA/LLB at the Australian National University, I returned to PNG and practised law for over 30 years.

I am now a Judge of both the National and Supreme Courts in PNG.

I hope there are still students who enjoy a good argument, who are interested in the law.

While many females study law at university, only a few remain long enough to attain partnership, Queen's Counsel or the Bench and I wish them the best of luck.



Sabrina Durante (2015)

Congratulations to Sabrina Durante who late last year performed the National Anthem at not one, but two, national events – firstly, at the Gold Coast 600 Supercars racing event and secondly, at Flemington Racecourse on Melbourne Cup Day.

Elizabeth Conlan (nee Hynes 1963)

Over the past two years, I've been fortunate to have caught up with some of my close friends from my time as a boarder between 1958 and 1961.

Christine Brown (nee Schmidt) and I went on a trip to the high country of Victoria in April 2017 and on arrival at Melbourne airport we bumped into Jill Raff (nee Bridle) and her husband.

In January 2018, Leonie McNally (nee Johnson) flew from Darwin while I drove from Lake Macquarie to Parkes (just south of Newcastle) for the annual Elvis Festival, something we both had on our bucket list. What a hoot that was.

Then, in February 2018 whilst on holidays on the Central Coast of NSW, I caught up with Lois Masterton (nee Shepperson) who lives at Shelly Beach.

In July 2018, I drove to Warwick for the Jumpers and Jazz Festival and caught up with Lyndle Abbott (nee Shann) at The Summit near Stanthorpe on my way back down south.

2018 has been a great year of travel for me. I spent five weeks in delightful France and four weeks experiencing our country from Lightning Ridge, to Toowoomba for the Carnival of Flowers and across to the scenic Queensland Coast travelling from Rainbow Beach up to Tannum Sands.

Kate Causon (nee Whelan 2005)

Kate is a mum, lawyer and now entrepreneur, having recently launched an adventurous gender neutral children's clothing brand, Wild Island Apparel.

Kate and her husband Levi are sharing their love of design and an outdoors family lifestyle, by encouraging both boys and girls to climb trees, clamber over rocks and spend time outside, without being held back by gender stereotypes.

Kate's mother Vicki Thomas (1974) is also a St Hilda's Old Girl. www.wildislandapparel.com.au



Kate, her daughter Madison (left), and friend Finley are pictured here, wearing the clothes and a special release adult version of the windswept pullover.



Heather Smith
1 hr · 🌐

...




In 1980, 39 years ago, a small notice went up on our Grade 7 form room door at St Hilda's School, Gold Coast inviting us to connect with Pen Pals in Japan. Always interested in travelling and learning about other countries, I took up the offer, and so began many letter exchanges. Over the years the letters have slowed, but we have still stayed in contact.

Tomorrow I shall meet my Pen Pal for the first time in her home country of Japan. I can't believe the time has arrived. (She has visited me in Australia).



Commitment to 'Non Nobis Solum' inked

When Glenda Bowen (nee Scott 1965) was asked by her two eldest grandsons, Jay and Ben, what she would like for her 70th birthday, in jest she told them that she'd like a tattoo.

The rest is history, as they say!

18 months on, Glenda has no regrets and loves the words she decided on for her first tattoo.

Glenda tells us that perhaps at 80 she'll get the Ammonite!

Crystal Hardstaff (nee Conomos 2008)

Congratulations to Crystal Hardstaff, who celebrated two major milestones last year. Crystal gave birth to her son, Nathaniel, on 9 August 2018 and also completed her Master of Education (Guidance and Counselling) in 2018.



Jenny Wilson (second from left) and some of her tennis cohort.

Out of this world experience for Jenny Wilson (2014)

Hi my name is Jenny Wilson and I graduated in 2014. For the past two years I have been living in the United States in the state of Tennessee in a town called Pulaski.

I was awarded a scholarship to attend college here and play college tennis, and am one year away from completing my degree in elementary education.

During my time here, I have had the chance to travel to many different parts of the US. I have been to Alabama (Huntsville, Mobile), Kentucky (Louisville), Georgia (Dalton, Atlanta), Florida (Gainesville, Orlando) Mississippi, Louisiana (New Orleans) New York, Texas (Houston, Dallas) and Nevada (Las Vegas) and even got to visit the Smoky Mountains and cross the border into North Carolina.

Playing college tennis has always been a dream of mine, and being given the opportunity to fulfill this dream has been the greatest experience of my life.

I have been able to meet people from all around the world. My team is full of international students. We have players from Spain, Germany, Argentina, Portugal, Vietnam, Columbia, Brazil and some from the USA. I have learnt so many different aspects of culture while I have been here.

The town I live in is so small that there is no public transport and not a lot to do, but you create a bond with people that you will remember for a lifetime. My time in the United States has been anything but boring and I cannot wait to continue my journey and graduate in May 2020.



Jayde Chandler (nee Walker 1999)

In the spirit of 'Non Nobis Solum', St Hilda's alumna and artist, Jayde Chandler, generously donated a remarkable artwork for auction at the St Hilda's Foundation 'A Day at the Races' event in March.

Titled *Around the Run*, the acrylic on canvas fetched \$2,000 at auction. All proceeds from the event went to *St Hilda's Foundation Disaster Relief*, to help St Hilda's families suffering significant loss including property, livestock and livelihood.

Jayde currently lives on a family cattle property and is mum to four.

If you would like to donate to the *St Hilda's Foundation Disaster Relief*, please visit: www.sthildasfoundation.org.au

Your donation to the *St Hilda's Foundation Disaster Relief* will help relieve families of one extra worry by providing invaluable aid so girls can continue their education.



Announcements and School News

LIFE'S A REAL BALL

Sport has had a wealth of positive benefits in the lives of secondary school girls in Queensland for more than 100 years

BIANNA MORRIS-GRANT

Girls' schools across the state celebrated an important milestone this month as the Queensland Girls Secondary Schools Sports Association passed its 100th anniversary. St Hilda's School attended a breakfast and athletics meet to mark the event, which makes the organisation the oldest school sport association in Queensland.

Sports prefect Keely Whittaker said as someone who had been playing different sports since she could walk, it had always been important to her to take an avid role. "It's just been a positive influence in my life, making friends and maintaining the quality of a good sportswoman," she said.

"I tried to involve myself in the sporting community at St Hilda's gives me a chance to share my personal experiences with sport and how it's positively affected my life and the decisions I make every day. "I feel like being involved in sport has provided me with opportunities to be a leader and really share my experiences with younger girls at school."

St Hilda's School, along with Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Somerville House and several others, has played a key role in the QGSSSA since its formation. It has brought its Year 7 team to compete in the traditional sports of ball games, which include tennis ball, played between two teams forming a tunnel and passing the ball through the legs.

The player at the front of the line then takes the ball and runs to start over. The team that runs through all players the fastest wins.

St Hilda's School principal and QGSSSA president Dr Julie Wilson-Reynolds said the game had a particular significance to the school.

"The sport of ball games was introduced in the 1870s as part of the track and ball games. It was a great sport for its time as it promoted teamwork, enabled high rates of participation with hundreds of girls able to play with very little equipment or space," she said.

"St Hilda's was a star school at ball games, with the QGSSSA's Dick Mellafont Cup named after one of our male staff known for her sporting prowess at ball games.

"Although the sport of ball games was discontinued in 1996, it is a great example of the importance of continuing the organisation and fostering involvement of women in the Gold Coast sporting community.

"The 20th century saw women's sport change already but steadily. The growth of the modern Olympics saw a new interest in sport, military training from Germany led to the introduction of gymnastics in Australia, and our homogenous success at Wimbledon inspired the inclusion of tennis," she said.

"In an era where studies show that participation in sport has been on the decline, and where young people are becoming more sedentary and more solitary, the QGSSSA is defying these trends and generating a new level of engagement in women's sport."

As an aspiring professional athlete and self-graduation approaching, Ms Whittaker said she hoped to stay involved with the school.

"I am looking at continuing tradition, hockey, staying fit and hopefully representing Australia at a high level," she said.

"The QGSSSA meet has always been the highlight of each year's sport here. It's just about getting involved and really trying to represent St Hilda's in the best way possible."



Year 12 athletics co-captain Keely Whittaker and Year 7 member of the St Hilda's ball games team Jessica Jolly.

House (Stella) were to see what's possible. One of our mottoes is 'dream to achieve' and think sport is one of those areas that girls are able to achieve this outside the classroom."

Dr Wilson-Reynolds stressed the importance of continuing the organisation and fostering involvement of women in the Gold Coast sporting community.

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Disaster Relief raises over \$70,000



A Day at the Races' attendees including St Hilda's alumna, Thea Jeanes-Cochrane (far left). Pictured right: St Hilda's alumna and Foundation Chair, Leanne Cowley (left) with St Hilda's Principal, Dr Julie Wilson Reynolds.

The St Hilda's Foundation has proudly launched the *St Hilda's Foundation Disaster Relief* initiative, created to support those in our St Hilda's community who face great hardship due to unforeseen circumstances such as natural disasters.

All proceeds from the annual St Hilda's Foundation 'A Day at the Races' on Saturday 23 March went to the *Disaster Relief* initiative.

More than \$70,000 has been raised so far to help families within our community who have suffered significant loss including property, livestock and livelihood due to recent weather events.

Visit www.sthildasfoundation.org.au to donate now.

The Gold Coast Bulletin reported that our St Hilda's girls were due to compete in a special ballgames competition to commemorate 110 Years of the Queensland Girls Secondary Schools Sports Association (QGSSSA) in late 2018.

St Hilda's had a reputation as the star school when it came to ballgames, led by Miss Del Mellafont or "Mellie" as she was affectionately known, for whom the School oval was named (the venue where she trained so many winning ballgames teams!).

Unfortunately, the ballgames competition was cancelled due to inclement weather, but it was wonderful to see our rich sporting history revisited (and to see the traditional babushka head scarves come back out in school colours!).



The St Hilda's school made its own history by winning a cricket team in the Queensland Girls Secondary Schools Association Sports for the first time.

CATCHING ON NICELY

The 14 girls in the St Hilda's School cricket team are about to show their expertise and competitiveness in sport when they take part in a statewide competition.

BIANNA MORRIS-GRANT

With 14 girls from all school years, the team is set to represent St Hilda's at the Queensland Girls Secondary Schools Association (QGSSSA) Cricket competition.

St Hilda's girls play QGSSSA Cricket for the first time



This year, for the first time in more than 100 years, St Hilda's girls are competing in the QGSSSA Cricket competition.

The girls started the season with a three-game winning streak and impressed with their bowling prowess, exciting catches and even a run-out!

Congratulations to 2018 Seniors on final academic results



St Hilda's 2018 OP 1-3 recipients.

We extend special congratulations to the 12 students from our most recent alumni group, our 2018 graduates, who achieved an OP 1-3 and further congratulations to the two students among those who received the highest score possible in Queensland, an OP 1.

The results are well above the Queensland average for all students and the State average for girls.

St Hilda's offers a range of pathways for girls, and while we recognise those who achieved such strong OPs,

we also congratulate the 56 Senior girls who graduated with a total of 73 VET Qualifications.

These include 10 Traineeships, 32 Diplomas in Business, and 31 Certificate II and III courses across a range of areas.

Jane Henning continues a family tradition at St Hilda's



Jane Henning at home in Glenmorgan. Inset: Sisters Kate and Peggy with Grandmother Susan.

Jane Henning's family has a long history with St Hilda's School dating back to 1933! Coming from a cattle property in Glenmorgan, Queensland (out towards Goondiwindi), Jane, the youngest of four girls, started at St Hilda's this year as a Year 7 boarder.

Jane has two older sisters, Kate, Year 11 and Peggy, Year 9, who currently attend St Hilda's and her oldest sister, Annabelle, graduated in 2017.

It doesn't end there! Jane's mother Wendy Henning (nee Bamford-Fuller) graduated

from St Hilda's in 1991 and is still involved at the school as the President of the Boarder Parents Support Group.

Jane's grandmother Susan Bamford-Fuller graduated in 1958, and recently attended her 60th school reunion, whilst Jane's great aunt, Cecily Douglas graduated in 1935.

An aspiring swimmer, Jane would wake up at 5am and have a 180km round trip three times a week to the nearest pool at Surat for swimming training!

Now she can wake up and walk down to St Hilda's pool.



NEW JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND A BIG HIT!

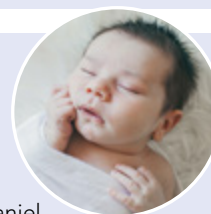
At the beginning of the 2019 school year, our Junior School girls returned to a brand new playground!

The popular new playground is adjacent to the Bourne building.

Births

Crystal Hardstaff (Conomos 2008)

welcomed son Nathaniel, 9 August 2018.



Simone Pentis (1995)

welcomed Isabella Fay Pentis on 16 October 2018 to the complete joy and happiness of her family.



Reunions

Individual Reunion Groups

1959 – 60 Years

Sallyanne Atkinson (nee Kerr)
sallyanne.atkinson@bigpond.com
Joan Scott (nee Hulbert)
joan@thescotts.com.au

1969 – 50 Years

Heather Wehl (nee Johnston)
heather.wehl@gmail.com
0418 785 530
Class of 69 Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/
Class-of-69-2230488513712464/

1979 – 40 Years

Elsbeth Murray (nee Frith)
0488 237 553

1989 – 30 Years

Kylie Roebuck
mattkylie00@bigpond.com
St Hilda's 30 year Reunion 2019
Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/
groups/461854034323444/

1999 – 20 Years

Carly Snodgrass
carly@infomaps.com.au
Kate Jorgensen-Cox
Date: Saturday 26 October
Venue: TBA once numbers confirmed

2009 – 10 Years

Brooke Lee (nee Bilborough)
brooknicholelee@gmail.com
Mobile: 0429 888 826

1958 REUNION



1988 REUNION



We'd love
to hear
from you.

Tell us what you've been up to for the next issue of *Spirit*!
To contact us or change your database details,
email oldgirls@sthildas.qld.edu.au or phone 07 5532 4922

- @sthildasoldgirlsassociation
- @sthildasoga
- St Hilda's O.G.A.
(Alumni St Hilda's School Gold Coast)

SAVE THE DATE!
OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION

Reunion High Tea

Don't forget to Save The Date for our
OGA Reunion High Tea during the
Old Girls' Association Weekend in November.

VENUE
Boarders Dining Room,
St Hilda's School via Gate 7 Cougal Street, Southport

DATE/TIME
Saturday 9 November 2019, 12 Noon

BOOKINGS
For information please contact
Elise Lloyd on 07 5577 7339
or oldgirls@sthildas.qld.edu.au