



Cantabrian Girls Ex-Students' Association

President Dr Rita Crews OAM
rcrews@ozemail.com.au
Phone: (02) 9744 2654

Secretary: Ms Kathie Burgess
ekaterini.burgess@det.nsw.edu.au

Treasurer Mrs Gwen Ng
gwen.r.ng@gmail.com

Web: www.canterburgh.schools.nsw.edu.au

MAY 2024 Newsletter

Dear COG and friends of COG,

Welcome back to another edition of our Association newsletter! We have begun the year continuing our annual activities which have included the general member meeting and afternoon tea, the presentation of the Cantabrian Scholarship and preparations for our upcoming social event.

One of the best aspects of being part of an alumni association is the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and forge new connections. This is the main reason for our annual social event. Many of us enjoyed the lovely High Tea at Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club last year and we are now preparing our 2024 event. We are hoping to see as many people as possible at our biennial Back to Canterbury Day.

The intended date for this function is Saturday 28th September, from 2pm in the MPC at Canterbury Girls' High School. We are hoping to include:

- a tour of the school;
- afternoon tea;
- raffle with great prizes;
- 'bring and buy' of miscellaneous goods
- artefacts display of old uniforms, school magazines, photos and other memorabilia.

For the final point, we are asking for contributions from our members or any ex-students who would be willing to donate or loan objects they feel would capture the essence of our high school experience.

As noted, the details are being finalised so watch this space as we send out the exciting final programme of the day. In the mean time, make sure you

SAVE THE DATE: BACK TO CANTERBURY DAY 2024
Saturday 28th September, 2pm!
Canterbury Girls' High School
MPC and dome area



Rama Ghuneim

At the core of our association lies a spirit of giving back to our community and we strive to make a positive impact on the lives of current students and future generations. Our Cantabrian Scholarship is an annual contribution towards this goal. This year, we saw our President Dr Rita Crews attend the 2024 CGHS High Achievers Assembly where she was able to present the \$800 scholarship to the deserving recipient, Rama Ghuneim. We wish Rama all the best during her senior years at CGHS and hope the scholarship gives her added inspiration and drive to achieve her very best.

As members of COG, we take pride in the accomplishments of our fellow alumni. From academic achievements to professional milestones, each story inspires us. In this vein, I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the story of Bev Lilley (nee Reid), My Education Years, by including her outline of her years at Canterbury Girls Home Science School from 1938 – 1947 below. Thank you, Bev for sending this and for allowing me to include it for our members. I will also ask our school to include it on their Alumni Voices Project. If you haven't visited this site yet, it includes a great mixture of ex-student stories, choir recordings and school magazines. You can access it at: <https://canterburg-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/cantabrian-girls-ex-students--association/alumni-voices-project.html>

If you have anything you would like to contribute either to our Newsletter's new "Our Stories" section, we would love to hear from you. It may be a description of your years at CGHS, photos or an update on your post school highlights; all items are welcome. As usual, I have included the information needed regarding membership at the end of the newsletter. Don't forget to update your membership, encourage other ex-students or teachers to join or get your friends or family to join 'Friends of COG'.

Also attached to this Newsletter are the minutes from our recent members' meeting. Thank you to all those who attended. Your ideas for the annual function were most valued and have helped shape the upcoming event.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every member for your continued support. Whether near or far, you are an integral part of the Cantabrian Girls community.

Warm regards,

Kathie Burgess
Secretary
Cantabrian Girls Ex-Students' Association

OUR STORIES

MY EDUCATION YEARS - January 1938 - December 1947

Born and educated in Sydney, I lived in Campsie on the corner of 9th Avenue and Lincoln Street. With my birthday in January, I turned 1 year older at the beginning of each school year.

Harcourt Infants, a state public school comprising the first 3 years of my schooling and only about 100 yards walk from home was an easy walk for me as a 5, 6 and 7 years old. It was co-ed in the classroom but segregated in the playground.

The War started in 1939 and was in full force when it was time for me to progress to Primary school. Living halfway between Campsie and Belmore North Primary Schools, it was considered better for me to attend Belmore North as it was safer to walk through the residential area rather than the busy shopping centre in Campsie. In those days there was no school bus or access to a "parent taxi service".

The education complex at Belmore North comprised a large corner block of land with the Boys Primary on one street, the Girls Primary on the corner and the Boys Technical High school on the other street.

The war continued the whole of my primary years and with it came many restrictions. There were curfews which eliminated any night social activities. We took advantage of the school recesses to play with our peers. At home, life was simple with good plain home cooked food, the radio for the news (no TV), board games and singing around the piano. We were, however, governed by coupons. It didn't matter whether you were wealthy or poor, if you didn't have coupons, you couldn't buy what you wanted. There were coupons for butter, sugar, tea, meat, clothing and probably others I have forgotten. At school, we had a very simple and basic education, one which has stood me in good stead for my adult life. No frills, just basic 3 R's mixed with local history and geography. We had scripture each week with the emphasis on living a good life and caring for one another. There was certainly a need for that especially in those war years. We practiced procedures in the event of air raids and the necessity to escape to a shelter. There was even thought the children would be evacuated to the country for our safety. At the time, Springwood on the Blue Mountains was considered "country". That did not eventuate and we stayed home.

At the end of 1944, it was time to think about Secondary School. We had the choice of the full High School at Kogarah which concentrated on Maths I and II, Science and languages, designed for pupils who wished to progress further to University. That was not on my family's agenda for me. My instructions were to go to Canterbury Girls

Home Science School where Miss Summerville was the Headmistress. All first-year students did the full range of home science studies coupled with the basic 3 R's before specialising for the last two years. I was told I had to work hard in that first year and achieve high marks so as to progress to the one top Commercial class for the final two years.

Being an obedient child!! I did that and undertook the full Commercial course. In fact, I did 10 subjects for my Intermediate Certificate - General Maths, English, History, Physiology, Needlework, Art, Business Principals, Bookkeeping, Shorthand and Typing. On looking back now, I feel all students today should study that same full range of basic subjects which were designed for living as well as the basis for future study-and work. I learned about food and how to cook it, how to set a table, clean up after, how to make a bed, to sort and wash and iron clothes. General jobs for everyday living. Then there were the main subjects. Maths which consisted of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, the basics for so many careers. English of course concentrated on grammar which is non-existent these days. How many mistakes are found in the print media and spoken in everyday conversation? It makes me shudder. A pet one for me is the use of a plural verb with a collective noun. What is a collective noun? Examples would be "a flock of birds". "a herd of cattle" "the staff of a school". These require a singular verb viz. "is" not "are". Also, when compiling a letter or document about one's self, you should never commence the paragraph with "I". Think of another way of expressing the situation. Never end a sentence with a preposition and to make it worse, so many people to-day are unnecessarily inserting "of" e.g. "I jumped off of the verandah". What has happened to our language? Literature also gave me a glimpse at Shakespeare and some of the literary masters and poets. We were being educated.

History/Geography gave me a look into the past both overseas and Australia. Our rivers and towns, our agriculture and knowledge of where we received our food.

Physiology gave me an insight into the various parts of our body and the functions they perform. No load to carry and a good introduction for a medical career.

Needlework - In early years we made our own clothes and saved the family budget. In later years it has become a wonderful hobby. How many students to-day cannot even sew on a button?

Art. This was not just colouring a picture but an introduction to colour, to architecture and decorating subjects I have found most helpful when renovating and building houses in recent years.

Business Principals and Bookkeeping subjects not only gave me the introduction to Accountancy if that was to be the field of work I wished to pursue but to guide me with the family finances and the handling of situations encountered in everyday life. We learned to budget so we only spent less than we earned. No credit

cards - We had to pay for everything we wanted before we could take it home.

These 8 subjects comprised my Intermediate Certificate. Shorthand and Typing were different. At the end of each year, our teacher (Miss Holmes) an older, very strict but wonderful teacher took her class to Redfern school to sit for the IPSA (Incorporated Phonographic Society of Australia) statewide shorthand and typing exams. We all secured excellent results because we received the right foundation. The typewriters we used at Canterbury were quite old but that didn't affect us. We learned absolute "touch typing". A bib was attached around the typewriter at one end and around our neck at the other, with our hands on the keys underneath. We had no way of seeing the keys.

Education was not just work in the classroom and the necessary homework but interaction with my peers. Learning to get along with a variety of different people and personalities. School and scripture, coupled with sport were all fundamental in my growth as a person and citizen.

On the sport side, we had four houses at Canterbury when I attended - ABCD (Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra and Darwin). Sport played a big part in my life, both at school and outside. On the regular sports periods, we played tunnel ball and captain ball, while at the annual carnivals, I ran the 100-yard, sack and skipping races, and performed the high and long jumps. At the annual Inter-school events, I represented Canterbury together with tennis competitions at the White City courts.

That completed my education at the end of 1947 and at the beginning of 1948 when I turned 15, I was fully equipped to commence work as a secretary. My working life was varied, and I put my successes both as an employee and employer to my basic education at Canterbury. Now (2023) at 90 years old, widowed for 15 years and retired from PAID work, I remain involved in a busy life as a volunteer in the community.

Thank you Canterbury Girls Home Science School and its teachers.

Beverley Jean Lilley (Reid)



MINUTES

of the General Meeting

Saturday 24th February, 2024

Venue: CGHS Library

Commencing at 2 pm

1. COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Dr Rita Crews OAM, President; Mrs Marion Fearnside Vice President; Mrs Gwen Ng, Treasurer; Mrs Marilyn Abbey

2. **APOLOGIES:** Secretary Ms Kathie Burgess; Helen Bouquet, Kathy Feller, Barbara Rees, Charmaine Savage and Toni Hopper.

3. **WELCOME:** The President welcomed the 13 Members and two Friends who have attended the meeting. Marilyn Abbey was thanked for organising the afternoon tea.

4. **MEMBERSHIP:** The meeting was informed that whilst there is a large data base, the Association has only 133 Full members and 6 Friends members. Free membership for the first year has been offered to Year 12 school leavers and three have taken up this offer for 2024.

It was agreed that each Newsletter should include a membership/renewal form as a reminder.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer informed the meeting that the general bank account holds \$4157.53 and the term deposit holds \$3000 invested for the 12 months to 7th December 2024. Members were reminded that the bank account is now with St George and cheques are accepted.

6. **SCHOLARSHIP:** The meeting was informed that the Year 10 student who won the scholarship is Rama Ghuneim. The amount of \$800 was transferred to her account after the High Achievers' Ceremony at which the President presented her with a letter and trophy. The scholarship is to be used only for certain items over the next two years of her schooling.

An amount of \$30 in the form of a voucher for Office Works was presented to six Dux winners who each also received a certificate to that effect.

7. **40th ANNIVERSARY HIGH TEA:** The President reported that 43 members and friends attended the High Tea which was a very successful function although there were some problems with the food. The raffle brought \$250.

8. NEXT FUNCTION: *Back to Canterbury*

The intended date for this function is Saturday 28th September, from 2pm in the MPC.

The meeting was canvassed for ideas with the result that the following suggestions were tabled:

- 'bring and buy' of miscellaneous goods
- sale of plants
- a tour of the school
- discuss with the art staff the possibility of students supplying art works for sale and there also to be competition to find the best piece of art with a prize awarded by COG. This could be a 'people's choice' judgment.
- ask the Saturday dance group to perform
- liaise with the music staff to ask the school band and the choir to perform
- afternoon tea to be served with a small charge.
- also suggested, a collage of photos to be displayed - this will need a call to members to scan and send material to the committee. Call for an "old" school uniform to be displayed as well as "old" school magazines
- involve the P & C - Secretary and President to discuss how best to do this. The Historical Society could also be involved.
- raffle - the President to contact various companies for suitable raffle prizes.
- the function to be advertised via the COG Newsletter, the school website and also Facebook which might attract younger groups.

ROLL CALL

Before the meeting closed, the roll call revealed leavers from:

1952 1
1954 1
1960 2
1962 6
1964 2
1970 1

The President thanked the members for their attendance.

Meeting closed: 3.10 pm.

MEMBER RENEWAL

HOW TO BECOME A COG

(CANTERBURY OLD GIRL)

The Association has changed banks, to St George Bank which means:

-cheques are once again accepted!

-we have a new account number and BSB

All transactions can be carried out online as well as in person or by cheque.

To become a new member or renew your membership you can either:

1. Send a cheque of \$20 for 3 years' membership with your current name, the year you left CGHS and your name when you were at school addressed to our President:
Dr Rita Crews OAM
10 Rostherne Ave
Croydon NSW 2132
2. Transfer \$20 for 3 years' membership to our new account number. Ensure you state your full name and the year you left CGHS.

NEW ACCOUNT INFORMATION

NAME OF ACCOUNT: Canterbury Girls Ex-Students' Association

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 205224665

BSB: 112-879