



## Cantabrian Girls Ex-Students' Association

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### April 2025 Newsletter

#### Dear Members:

I hope you have had a great Summer and that 2025 has started well. The Committee have been busy continuing the legacy of the Association by ensuring we have a 2025 Cantabrian Scholarship recipient and provided vouchers of \$30 for each Dux of 2024. None of these gifts could occur without your generosity and continuing support of COG. Your membership is what drives our group and I hope we would like to thank you for staying with us!

#### 1. Cantabrian Scholarship and Dux Prizes



As usual, we had the High Achievers' Assembly where our President was part of the official party, spoke briefly about our Association and presented the Cantabrian Scholarship. Thank you Rita, for your time and effort with this.

Pictured left is the 2025 Cantabrian Scholarship recipient, Dion Stefanis. Pictured on the right is one of the Dux prize recipients, Cordelia Scheer. Cordelia made time from her studies at ANU Canberra to come to the Assembly and accept the Dux prize for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row. We wish them both all the best and continued success with their studies.



#### 2. Changes to the AGM and our annual event

The Committee have been discussing changes we would like to make to reflect the changing attitudes and priorities of members. Keep a look out for a letter from the President outlining these changes. We hope to combine our AGM and our annual event to one meeting/event per year. This year the AGM is to be held on 24th May, 2025 at Burwood RSL (86 Shaftesbury Rd Burwood). The meeting will include a guest speaker as well as afternoon tea and a special raffle prize. Partners are welcome but only financial members are able to vote. I hope to see many of you on the day!

### 3. Welcome to our new principal

As many of you may be aware, our school has had a change in principal. Ms Belinda Conway (CGHS principal from 2020 – 2024) has now moved to be Principal of Randwick High School where she will no doubt be leading the school magnificently. This has meant we have finished off 2024 and begun 2025 with a new principal, Rebecca Cameron. We have already begun working with Rebecca to enhance our common goals and keep the relationship with our Association and the school continuing. We wish her all the best in this challenging position and look forward to continued collaboration.



### 4. Come and see the CGHS 2025 Musical “Charlotte and the Chocolate Factory”

CGHS is once again presenting the 2025 Musical “Charlotte and the Chocolate Factory”. I wanted to take this opportunity to promote this exciting bi-annual event to all out members and would urge you to come along and see the show! See more information below:

Our 2025 student-devised musical production, *Charlotte and the Chocolate Factory*, is well underway!

This creative and original storyline, packed with humour, drama, and heart, follows Charlotte’s bold quest to reopen the iconic factory, with Carmel, Raffaella, Kat, Aero, and Freddo hilariously uncovering the tale through a magical storybook.

With rehearsals in full swing, the production promises to highlight the exceptional talents of our students.

**Save the dates:** Thursday, 12th June, and Friday, 13th June, from 6 PM in the MPC.

**Ticket information** will be available from the school closer to the date.

Come and see this, laughter-filled, and heart-warming adventure to life! ALL WELCOME!!



## 5. From the President



As you have just read earlier on in this Newsletter, the committee are working towards streamlining our Association and to that end, there will be - the first - Annual General Meeting to be held on the 24th May at 2pm with the venue at Burwood RSL Club. This will include afternoon tea and a guest speaker, as well as a very nice raffle prize from Robert Cliff the Master Jeweller. You will find a separate letter from me with news of the AGM as well as the

proposed changes to our Constitution to make it a more effective document. Do try to come to the meeting but if unable, you can send a proxy vote. We need to increase our membership if we are to remain an effective Association and continue the scholarship scheme.

## 6. Membership update information

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### CANTABRIAN GIRLS EX-STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BANK DETAILS

#### NEW ACCOUNT INFORMATION

NAME OF ACCOUNT: Cantabrian Girls Ex-Students' Association

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 205224665

BSB: 112-879

\$30 for 3 years

Cheques can be sent to our Treasurer:

Ms Gwen Ng  
70 Union St  
Dulwich Hill NSW 2203



## 7. Our Stories

Here's an article sent in by one of our members on the school café established in the late 80s. Colleen Madycki is an old girl as well as an 'old teacher' and was Head Teacher in the TAS department at the time. I hope you enjoy the read! Don't forget, we are always looking for any stories, memories or archives you would like to send through so I can include in "Our Stories" section of the Newsletter.

### *Canterbury Girls' High School 1987-92*



Teachers: Angelika Splittgerber, Yvette Aboud, (TAS Dept) Colleen Madycki HT TAS  
unsure of other 2 staff names.

*Following the court case by student and parents of Melinda Levis about discrimination of girls not having girls access to subjects like woodwork, metal work and the boys school not offering Food Technology and Textiles. I started thinking laterally about useful subject that were vocationally centred and available to students. I came up with an idea of a subject OAS running a café as a small business learning the principles of starting up and running a business which included finding resources, doing business plans, accounts, menus, food planning acquisition of equipment as well as ordering, training of staff, acquiring premises (over the 3 years we had the large canvas dome outside the school hall, behind the stage and using the hall kitchen for food preparation and finally the change room next to the staffroom and the kitchens were used for food prep.) We also needed a uniform, decorations repurposed from the fashion parades and help from the Art dept.*

*The students brainstormed these activities and in the process they*



*learnt by solving problems to meet their goals. We had year 12 as the managers and supervisors and year 11 as the kitchen and F&B staff running the café from set up to clean up in a short period of a lunch time. When year 12 left it was then time to move up year 11 becoming the managers and taking applications from the junior school for workers, there was no shortage of volunteers, we had to cap the numbers each session and take reservations for tables it was a success in all stages of the subject. For the new volunteers the year 11's had to devise a training program including WHS,*



*Temptation Café*



*communication with customers, kitchen operations and food safety personal presentation as well as food presentation and service, cash management and following instructions.*

*To say it was a success , word spread. The local newspaper did an article on our café with photos, the Education Dept sent a crew out to film it in operation to encourage other schools like Byron Bay on the far north coast to operate similar programs to help retain the interest of their year 9+ students who were poor attenders. I was interviewed by 2 GB (I think) over the radio of its success and the value it was in students education. We had visits from departmental officials and our students who were part of the course provided the food and food service. I also supplied my programs to other schools at subject meeting and they began being implemented in our region. After transferring schools a few years later I found my program had already been approved there and it just needed me to start it. In those days it was known as an Other Approved Study, then to give the hospitality subject more structure it then became Industry Studies (examinable in the HSC), the finally 10 years later the Department adopted the Tafe Cert 1 and Cert II Kitchen operations and later Food and Beverage courses till it is the subject it is today.*

*I'm proud to think Canterbury Girls was one of the first in initiating Hospitality into the curriculum.*

Article sent in by: Colleen Madycki nee Swayn  
Student CGHS 1961-1966  
Head Teacher H.ECs./TAS CGHS 1984-1992