



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

JUNE, 2023 Newsletter

Dear Members:

It is with great pleasure that we can celebrate this, our 40th year since our formation. Back in 1983 we had our inaugural meeting with 140 ex-students in attendance. It would be great to see how many of those original members are still members today!

As we move forward, I would like to thank those who were able to attend our Triennial General Meeting. Most of all though, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the outgoing committee members whose hard work and enthusiasm for the Association have ensured we have survived in a climate where many have not. I would especially like to thank Marilyn Abbey as our outgoing Vice President. Someone who has been a wonderful support to our Association and who has been with us and served in the Committee since 1992. What an amazing contribution, one for which we are all very grateful.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting those members who were able to attend our Triennial General Meeting earlier this year. Having a chat in the School library about our school experiences over a cup of tea was not only a nice way to spend the afternoon, but also allowed us to find a plan to go forward as an association.

Having made it to our 40th year we were all of the same mind to ensure we keep going. We all agreed the annual scholarship we provide to a senior student at the School and the Dux prizes awarded each year are worthy of continuing. The annual social function was also deemed to be an integral part of our purpose, that is, an opportunity for ex-students to meet and socialise. With this in mind we set to work on ensuring the continuation of our Association.



It was therefore very exciting (and a great relief to many of us!) when Dr Rita Crews accepted her nomination to become our new president. This started the ball rolling in establishing the new Committee. This was followed by Mrs Marion Fearnside being voted in as our new Vice-

President. Mrs Marilyn Abbey, Ms Marion Malins and myself offering to continue as committee members to ensure the continuation of our group. Fortunately, our new president set to work immediately after the TGM and managed to find a new Treasurer, Ms Gwen Ng! All three new members are volunteering their time to help ensure the continuation of our Association and we are all very grateful.

It is with great pleasure then to announce our new committee:

President: Dr Rita Crews OAM

Vice President: Mrs Marion Fearnside

Treasurer: Mrs Gwen Ng

Secretary: Ms Kathie Burgess

Member: Ms Marions Malins.

As it turns out we now have a strong committee who will do all within its power to ensure the Association continues for another 40 years!!



Apart from ensuring the continuity of our Association, this enabled us to plan for the future. One of the first orders of business was to recognise the need to update the current Constitution. As a result we are calling for an **Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on Saturday 29 July at 2pm in the Canterbury Girls' High School library**. The EGM notice and proxy form are attached to this Newsletter so that all members can be informed and contribute to the meeting.

Further details about the four amendments we seek to ratify at this meeting include:

1. That the name of the Association include the abbreviation COGS [Cantabrian Old Girls] ie. Cantabrian Girls Ex-Students' Association [COGS].

The abbreviation can be a useful tool to identify the Association and may be seen as more 'modern' by younger members.

2. That membership of the Association be extended to include a category entitled 'Friends of COG.'

This would include any person who has not been a former student of Canterbury Girls' High School but is interested in the aims of the Association. The membership fee for a Friend would be the same as for a former student or staff member.

3. That the quorum for a Triennial or other meeting be reduced from 20 to 10.

A common trend in all associations and societies is the decline of attendance at meetings, especially following the Covid epidemic. The new lower quorum allows for any meetings to go ahead with the lower number of attendees.

4. That if the Association closes, then any surplus monies to be used towards scholarships.

At the moment our Constitution states that should the Association close all surplus monies would go to the School library. We believe continuation of the Cantabrian Scholarship for as long as possible would be better use of these funds should the Association cease to exist.

All ex-students are invited to attend the meeting, but only FINANCIAL members can cast a vote. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, a Proxy Form is attached to this email. Please nominate the committee member you would like to act as your proxy.

I would now like to introduce our new committee members with a short biography.

President: Dr Rita Crews OAM

Rita was a student at CGHS from 1958 to 1962 and having failed the Leaving Certificate in spectacular fashion! eventually went on to complete studies in Musicology and Australian History as a mature-age student at UNE culminating in a PhD in musicology.

She served on the Council of the Music Teachers' Association from 1988 to 2019 including 14 years as President and is now a Patron. She also served on the Australian Music Examinations Board [NSW] for 28 years, and as Deputy Chairperson for 21 of those years.

She has lectured on many aspects of music teaching, has been an AMEB written examiner since 1988 and is currently the Chief Examiner in Theory for the AMEB, has published many articles, co-authored books and her biography appears in Who's Who of Australian Women and Who's Who in NSW. She received the OAM in 2014 for "services to the Performing Arts as a music teacher, examiner and composer", and in 2015, the Distinguished Alumni Award of the University of New England.



Vice-President: Mrs Marion Fearnside

Marion Fearnside (nee Noldt) attended CGHS from 1958-1960 and left school at 14 years and 10 months. Before CGHS she attended Canterbury Primary School. Her mother and two sisters attended CGHS which was known in their time as Canterbury Superior (Extension) and Canterbury Domestic Science School in the 1920's and 1930's.

Both her mother and Marion are foundation members of the Ex Students Association.

After finishing school she completed a Day Secretarial Course. Obtained employment with the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry and then worked at RPAH as the relief private secretary to the Head of Pathology at King George V Hospital.

More recently she went to UTS whilst teaching part time and obtained a Diploma of Education in Adult Teaching and then upgraded this degree with a Bachelor of Education in Adult Teaching.

Treasurer: Mrs Gwen Ng

Gwen Ng (nee Burrows) was a student at CGHS from 1958 to 1962. After completing the Leaving Certificate she studied Science at Sydney University, majoring in Physiology and Zoology, and completing an MSc in Physiology. She worked initially as a Syd Uni Teaching Fellow in Physiology but changed to school teaching (Biology and General Science) when she married and moved to Singapore. After 18 years in Singapore Gwen moved back to Sydney with her family and re-trained at UTS as a Teacher of English as a Second Language (TESOL) with an MA (Applied Linguistics). Subsequently she taught English to new migrants and greatly enjoyed meeting people from many different countries and helping them settle into life in Australia.

To finish off, I would like to thank every member for joining and staying with our Association. Your membership is much appreciated and we would like to ask any members who are not financial to update their membership when convenient.

To become a new member or update your membership, simply:

1. Email your current name, the years you were at CGHS and your name at school to our new treasurer, Gwen.r.ng@gmail.com
2. and transfer **\$20 for 3 years' membership** to:
BSB 802821
Account No. 2014914
Name of Account: Cantabrian Girls Ex-Students Association
Reference: Ensure you state your full name and the year you left CGHS

I look forward to seeing some of you at our upcoming EGM. See further details and proxy form following.

Yours faithfully,
Kathie Burgess
Secretary



EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
of the
CANTABRIAN GIRLS EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

will be held:

ON: Saturday, 29th July, 2023

AT: the Library, Canterbury Girls' High School

TIME: 2pm

The purpose of the EGM is to ratify amendments to the current Constitution.

Amendment 1:

That the name of the Association include the abbreviation COGS [Cantabrian Old Girls] ie. Cantabrian Girls Ex-Students' Association [COGS].

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Amendment 2:

That membership of the Association be extended to include a category entitled 'Friends of COG .' This would include any person who has not been a former student of Canterbury Girls' High School but is interested in the aims of the Association. The membership fee for a Friend would be the same as for a former student or staff member.

Amendment 3:

That the quorum for a Triennial or other meeting be reduced from 20 to 10.

Amendment 4:

That if the Association closes, then any surplus monies to be used towards scholarships.

All ex-students are invited to attend the meeting, but only FINANCIAL members can cast a vote.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, a Proxy Form is attached to this email. Please nominate the committee member you would like to act as your proxy.

PROXY FORM

To be returned to the Secretary either by email to: Ekaterini.burgess@det.nsw.edu.au

or, by post to: c/o Kathie Burgess
Canterbury Girls High School
Church St, Canterbury
NSW 2193

As a full financial member of the Cantabrian Girls Ex-Students' Association, I hereby appoint the following as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the aforementioned Association, to be held at Canterbury Girls' High School on 2023 and at any adjournment thereof.

I am: FULL NAME

Address:

My signature:

Date: / /2023

Proxy's name: