

# School Ties

Wellington Girls' College Alumnae Newsletter



March 2009 Issue 12

## Mission Statement

*Wellington Girls' College prepares young women to go out into the world as independent thinkers with respect for themselves and others, the confidence to accept and respond to challenges and an enduring passion for learning.*

## From the Principal

Dear WGC Alumnae

It is amazing to think it's nearly a year since the 125<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. A lot has happened since then.

We had a great 2008, winning the regional and then national Smokefree Stage Challenge competition; we won the Wellington netball, soccer and tennis competitions; we won a silver medal in the national concert band champs; we had 14 girls gain scholarships to universities around New Zealand and we ended the year with outstanding NCEA results. 29 Scholarships, 89% of girls gaining Level 1, 98% gaining Level 2 and 83% gaining Level 3 are incredible results – especially when this is just part of their lives. We often forget that school is the bit they do when they aren't playing sport, being creative, helping their own families or working in paid employment. We are delighted that so many girls last year had such a rich year and performed so well in so many aspects. To me, that is what typifies a WGC girl – excelling in a range of areas.

Much of last year was spent discussing how we could progress our plans for a new building. We were really lucky in July to hear that we had been given an extra \$1.3 million by the Ministry of Education because of our roll growth and this meant we were well on the way to making some more solid plans. The generosity of the College's Charitable Foundation in providing another \$1.2 million towards this project means that we are now starting the process. Our aim is to



replace the ten prefabs that are currently along the Murphy St drive, as well as providing a new main entrance to the school, reception and administration space and a new 'public face' for the school based around the Murphy/Pipitea St intersection. We're aiming to be in the building ready for the start of the 2011 school year – all going well. We should have a Project manager appointed by the end of March, with an architect to follow and then we'll start the design work. There is currently a competition running to name the new building – anyone can come up with an idea, so please contact me if you have a name you want considered. All we need is the name and the reason for it.

Our focus this term centres on the refurbishment of the Library and the visit of the Education Review Office which starts on 16 March. The Library is having a change in configuration and some additional space added. This week we found out that it is a 'leaky building' so some remedial work has to happen to make it sound. This is an unforeseen expense but there is little we can do except get it fixed.

Long term we will have a larger, more exciting space and we look forward to

*cont. on page 2*

## Head Girl Profile: Abby Damen



I live in Khandallah with my adoring parents and sister who I get on with like a best friend, even though my favorite thing about her is the fact that she provides me with a second wardrobe.

At WGC I take Music, English, Drama, Media and French. 7<sup>th</sup> form multi gives me the excuse to rummage through second hand clothing stores – op-shopping is becoming an addictive past-time. I've also been reading a lot recently, my tastes have finally changed from the fairy princess genre to fiction, mystery, poetry and war novels, but my upmost preference is romance.

I have found a new hobby – surfing! Dad and I got a lesson this summer on holiday and now we're hooked. I jog up and down Khandallah's hills and love a friendly game of tennis with my sister and friends. I also have a love for great coffee and would like to take a barista course. I play the piano so music is another favorite hobby of mine.

I plan on studying, (not sure what yet!) in Wellington whilst working to earn some money so that I can travel later on. I will travel later so that I get to learn about the importance and value of money – although I'm positive that won't be for several years! However, I'm happy with having something to look forward to – it also gives me a prime opportunity to save more money by utilising my sister's wardrobe!

## From the Principal *cont.*

its re-opening in early April.

The ERO visit is part of their regular three year cycle. While this always places stress on the staff and Board, it is helpful to have their comments about what we are doing well and the direction we can move in to be even better. The ERO team this

time included a WGC old girl so it will be interesting to see what she makes of her old school.

It has been great to welcome Kirsty Tikao as our new Alumnae Manager this year. Having an old girl in this role should be a real benefit to the college and we look

forward to having some fresh eyes look at how we can develop our links further. I look forward to meeting many of you at some of the events she has lined up for later in the year.

Have a great 2009

*Julia Davidson*

## Jandal Prints on the Globe - Old Girl' Turns Editor



Rachel (left) & co-editor Jane Gilkison

Just over three years ago, while enjoying a picnic in Regent's Park, my friend and I were discussing the joys of email and the amusing, well-

written stories of our travelling friends. We found it strange that although New Zealanders are recognised globally for their adventurous spirit and their ability to entertain, there was no recent collection of their tales. We decided to change all this.

Three years, four online advertisements, two intensive email campaigns, 50000 words, 50 stories, 31 contributors, one publisher and many cans of Diet Coke later, we have produced *Jandal Prints on the Globe*. This book - a fresh and entertaining collection of short stories and photography by young New Zealanders travelling the world - not only captures the adventurous spirit of the great Kiwi O.E.,

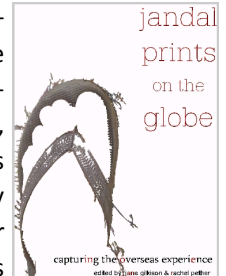
but also showcases the talents of young New Zealanders.

In typical Kiwi fashion, the breadth of adventures is vast. Tales of stubborn cattle ticks, Rwandan gorillas and unappreciative Flemish karaoke crowds sit side by side with accounts of fallen ancestors, impoverished nations and life long friendships.

We were inundated by contributions, and as we worked our way through over 200 submissions, we wondered how we were ever going to secure a publishing deal in such a highly competitive market. Belief in our project kept us going (as it does in all things), and we soon secured a deal with Stead & Daughters, a fantastic family-run company based in Wanganui and as passionate about the project as we were.

The publishing process has been a journey in itself - full of tears, laughter and frustrations - and one which we have chronicled in our online blog, <http://jandalprints.blogspot.com>. Unfortunately

the printing company did not share our passion or attention to detail, and after numerous issues, an originally planned December 2007 launch was pushed forward to Waitangi Day 2009.



Throughout the years I have been working on this project, my life has been its own adventure - I have worked as a publicist for the BBC in London, a waitress in the Greek Islands, and I now find myself working as an equities trader in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, and the richest city in the world.

You never know where life will take you, but therein lies its beauty. I am a firm believer in forging your own path, following your dreams and never giving up. Because life is 1% what you're given and 99% what you make of it.

*Rachel Pether*

## Old Girls' Making the News



### **Ngaire Best** (student 1983-1985)

Ngaire was re-elected to her seat on the Wellington City Council in November 2008.

She was subsequently appointed as the council's Social Portfolio Leader

### **Eleanor Bishop** (student 2002-2003)

In July 2008 Eleanor was one of six Victoria University students awarded a scholarship from the Freemasons New Zealand. The scholarships totalled \$40,000. Eleanor is a theatre studies honours student. She has worked as a theatre producer and publicist and as a theatre editor for student publication

Salient.

Eleanor intends to study internationally for her Masters and Doctoral degrees



### **Dr Rachel Patrick** (student 1970 - 1974)

In June 2008 Dr. Patrick was awarded a doctorate from Australia's Deakin University.

The doctorate acknowledged her research in equity issues in New Zealand's changing teaching environment.

### **Samara McDowell** (student 1981-1985)

Congratulations to Samara who placed in the top three for the Sunday Star Times

annual short story awards in November 2008.

### **Mary McCallum** (student 1974 - 1978)

University creative writing tutor Mary McCallum scooped two awards at the prestigious Montana New Zealand Book Awards for her first novel, 'The Blue'.

At a ceremony in Wellington in July 2008, Ms McCallum won the New Zealand Society of Authors Hubert Church Best First Book Award for Fiction, and the Reader's Choice Award.

She is now working on her second book, 'Precarious'.



## Old Girl Profile: Patricia Maddocks

Do you remember..... when prefects stood at the school gate to enforce the dress code of wearing gloves and hats? The 'brave' sneaked out to the local dairy at lunch-time? When Betty Fraser was Principal and Olga Harding taught English?



Patricia Maddocks does. A Karori girl, who didn't mind giving the school bus drivers a hard time, Patricia finished her secondary education at Wellington Girls' College in 1961. There were really only three main career options for girls at that time: "You could be a teacher, a nurse or a typist."

It was her father, an engineer at Wellington Hospital between 1951 and 1980, who suggested laboratory work and Patricia started work as a lab trainee on January 1, 1962, aged 18. Elvis Presley was top of the pops, Lawrence of Arabia was on at the flicks, the Vietnam War was

in full swing and Nelson Mandela started his 27-year prison sentence.

Her retirement recently as head of the serology unit marks the end of 47 years' continuous service thought to be the longest career in the hospital's history.

"When I first came here, the hospital was like a village, with its own engineering department and gardeners.

Everything was done in-house. Most doctors were men, there were very few women doctors. Now more than half the junior doctors are women" Miss Maddocks said.

Topping the country in her haematology exams in 1966, she was promoted to head of the new serology section in 1969, a position she held until her retirement.

The unit measures antibodies to identify infectious diseases.

Back then, everything was manual "there were no computers of course" and even the diseases were different.

Tuberculosis, brucellosis and hydatids were common killers. Four of her work-mates contracted TB, probably from the workplace.

These diseases are now largely eradicated, but in their place she has seen the rise of hepatitis, HIV and chlamydia, along with automated instruments and DNA testing.

She does not plan to slow down in retirement, and will fit in volunteer work around bowls and lunchtime concerts. "Friends who are retired say they don't know how they ever found time to go to work."

Capital and Coast District Health Board chief executive Ken Whelan noted Miss Maddocks' 47 years service was 20 years longer than Mr Mandela spent in jail. "But we're finally letting her out."

**School Ties** wishes Patricia a long and happy retirement.

*Source: Dominion Post*

## WGC Charitable Foundation



Established under a Deed of Trust in 1992, the WGC Charitable Foundation exists to assist and foster educational and professional development for students and staff of the College. It aims to provide amenities, facilities, activities and advantages that may otherwise not be provided, and to provide advice and assistance, financial or otherwise to the College Board of Trustees

Governed by a Board of Trustees, the Foundation has accumulated assets primarily through the generosity of parents of students. The prudent stewardship of these assets over time has allowed funding of a range of educational activities, annual sports and academic scholarships,

professional development for staff and provision of facilities including a sports pavilion and the purchase of land and buildings on the south west corner of the school site. These buildings are rented back to the College and currently house the Language Centre and Student Services Centre.

We assisted with funding for the recent 125th Jubilee celebrations and from this has emerged Capital Girls', the new umbrella organisation for Old Girls', and a new phase of development with the Alumnae.

The Foundation funds the role of Alumnae Development Manager and the twice yearly publication of **School Ties**, which is distributed to more than 8,000 Old Girls'. Our aim is to reach more of you and to engage you in the life and proud heritage of the College.

More recently the Foundation has made a commitment to donate \$1.2 million towards the building development project being undertaken by the College Board of Trustees. The Foundation is excited about being involved with this project which will provide much better facilities for the whole school.

The Foundation welcomes bequests and gifts to build its capital resources and fund educational opportunities for young women at the College both for now and in the future. More details at <http://www.wellington-girls.school.nz/friends/foundation>

We look forward to updating you with news of our activities in future issues of **School Ties**, and introducing you to our Trustees.

*Linda McCulloch (nee Willis)  
Chair*

## Ensuring the Future of WGC Stays Strong

**Hello, my name is Kirsty Tikao** (nee McCulloch) and I am excited to have recently been appointed to the role of Alumnae Development Manager for Wellington Girls' College.

The aim of the WGC Alumnae is to have every living Old Girl signed up as part of the wider school community to ensure the memories of past students are kept alive, and the future of WGC stays strong. As a third generation Old Girl the opportunity to be a part of my old school again and to encourage others to do so through this Alumnae is a great honour!

My family's history with WGC dates back to 1930 when my grandmother, Nancy Willis (nee Shaw) first attended the school, and would later carry through to my mother, my sister and then me in 1984.

My grandmother will be 92 years old this year and still talks fondly of the school she attended all those years ago.

In 1983 while living on the Kapiti Coast she helped found the Kapiti Coast Old Girls' which now boasts an impressive 90 members.

It was my grandmother's fond memories of her time spent at WGC that led her and another fellow Old Girl, Muriel Shaw, to band together a group of women they could share their memories with, and from what I understand many fun times!

My mother, Linda McCulloch (nee Willis) is also an Old Girl and currently sits on the WGC Charitable Foundation as its Chair.

Like my grandmother, my mother often speaks of her time spent at WGC like it was yesterday, reeling off names of teachers who left an impression on her, experiences that have stayed with her and fellow students who she met, many of whom she is still very good friends with today.

I too have fond memories, and it's funny the things that stick in your mind – for me a typing Teacher named Miss Christie is one of my clearest memories...I can picture it now, rows of girls lined up in front of their typewriters, bibs over the keys so we couldn't cheat, she was determined to teach us all to touch type! With ruler in hand she would pace around the room "eyes straight ahead girls" she would say, and although I never saw her actually use the ruler, the mere sight of her armed and ready to clip your fingers at the first sign of peeking was enough to deter you from even attempting it.

But what can I say, I sit here today touch typing this very article and have a wee giggle to myself...she sure was good at her job that Miss Christie!

*Kirsty Tikao*

## Alumnae News & Events

### Are our records correct?

Would you like to receive *School Ties* by email? If so please send an email to: [tikaok@wellington-girls.school.nz](mailto:tikaok@wellington-girls.school.nz).

If your contact details have changed we would appreciate an update from you.

### Do you have any news?

If you have any Old Girls' news that you would like considered for inclusion in the next issue of *School Ties*, or you have any feedback or suggestions around the Alumnae and its events, then we would like to hear from you.

### Business Hall of Fame

Have you been active in business since graduating from Wellington Girls' College? If yes, or if you know of other former students who have made their mark in business, the College would be very pleased to hear about that success.

### Old Girls' Networks

Let us know what you are doing, events? news? We want to share news of Old Girls' groups for those who may wish to join you.

## Old Girls' Networks

## Business Hall of Fame

### Coming Events:

- **Film premiere of *Easy Virtue***  
Starring Colin Firth, Kristin Scott Thomas & Jessica Biel  
Sunday 17th May, 7:00pm - \$20 (incl. wine & nibbles)  
Penthouse Cinema, Brooklyn, Wellington
- **Old Girls' Bridge Tournament**  
Sunday 7th June  
Karori Bridge Club, Karori, Wellington  
More details to come - please see school website
- **Art Exhibition**  
Thursday 3rd - Sunday 6th September  
Wellington Girls' College Library  
More details to come - please see school website

Please contact *School Ties* at:  
[tikaok@wellington-girls.school.nz](mailto:tikaok@wellington-girls.school.nz) or;

Kirsty Tikao  
Alumnae Development Manager  
Wellington Girls' College  
Pipitea Street  
WELLINGTON 6011

or phone the college on (04) 472 5743 for more



## In Memoriam

### **Constance Violet Scott Kirkcaldie**

**15/4/1917 - 18/09/2008 (student 1931-1932)**

Constance helped shape New Zealand's emerging arts scene through pivotal management and administration roles with the New Zealand Opera Company, the Academy of Fine Arts and Downstage Theatre.

After leaving Wellington Girls College early because of the Depression she picked up clerical and book-keeping jobs, learning the skills that would set her up for a life of behind-the-scenes budgeting and organisation.

At the age of 20, she married Victoria University political science professor Ken Scott.

She took up her own studies, but was forced to give up after only a year, because war manpower rules forced female university students to work as hospital ward maids during their long holiday and it would not have been fitting for a good wife to have neglected her husband by working shifts.

The only way to get out of the duty was to take a fulltime job, which Mrs Scott Kirkcaldie did, calculating the prices of wartime equipment, to three decimal points of a penny.

It was at Victoria that Mrs Scott Kirkcaldie fell under the spell of the arts. It was a field that suited her flamboyant personality. She hooked up with actress Edith Campion and signed on as national board member and Wellington president of the Campions' New Zealand Players, organising audiences.

From 1953 till 1966, she was secretary-treasurer of the Alex Lindsay String Orchestra.

In 1957 she became secretary-manager of the NZ Opera Company, a post she held for a decade.

She began at the opera part-time, but moved to fulltime when double tragedy struck. Her son Alastair died of a brain tumour in 1959, at the age of 10. Two years later Ken Scott died after a heart attack.

After marrying Wing Commander Max Kirkcaldie in 1967, she continued her involvement in the arts. In 1970, she took a part time role as secretary of the Academy of Fine Arts. In seven years she transformed it from a staid elitist establishment with only three annual exhibitions to a 1600-member organisation staging about 10 exhibitions a year, and using her powers of persuasion to attract touring shows. It was her last major paid role, but she continued to cement her position as arts doyenne, becoming deeply involved in setting up Wellington's Downstage Theatre.

She also instigated an annual theatre award in her name – the Constance Scott Kirkcaldie Award for outstanding composer of music. She was awarded an OBE in 1980 for services to the arts, and remained involved till her death in September 2008, aged 91.

*Source: stuff.co.nz*

**Alana Judith Freer** (Petrie) 24/12/2008  
Student 1991-1995

**Cheryl Joy Pearson** 6/12/2008  
Student 1970-1973

**Valerie Rose Te Punga** (Martin) 26/12/2008  
Student 1937-1941

**Margaret Rea Caverhill** 08/01/2009  
Student 1947-1947

**Helen Adair (Poppy) Riggir** (Reld) 18/1/2009  
Student 1933-1938

**Ester Grace Milne** 1/2/2009  
Student 1996-2001

**Cecilie Clare (Pan) Roberts** (Gouffe) 11/2/2009  
Student 1932-1933

**Beverly Anne Robertson** (Rice) 12/2/2009  
Student 1952-1953

**Barbara Ann James** (Naulls) 21/2/2009  
Student 1963-1965

**Barbara Mary Duthie** (Wood) 17/06/2008  
Student 1944-1945

**Susan Bailey** June 2008  
Student 1944-1945

**Lorna Frances Booth** (Barker) 20/08/2008  
Student 1943-1947

**Margaret MacDonald** (Christie) 20/10/2008  
Student 1926-1930

**Dimitroula Giovanidis** (Toula) 26/10/2008  
Student 1971-1975

**Ailsa Norling** 27/10/2008  
Student 1933-1934

**Gwenifer Newton** 2/11/2008  
Student 1933-1939

**Helen McKenzie** (Weaver) 2/11/2008  
Student 1952-1954

**Thelma Gall** (Laird) 22/11/2008  
Student 1943-1946

**Maureen Stunnell** (Atkinson, Teague) 23/11/2008  
Student 1943-1945

**Christine Henderson** (Debbage) 26/11/2008  
Student 1972-1975

**Rei Preston-Thomas** 8/12/2008  
Student 1946-1946

**Claire O'Sullivan** 6/12/2008  
Student 1962-1964

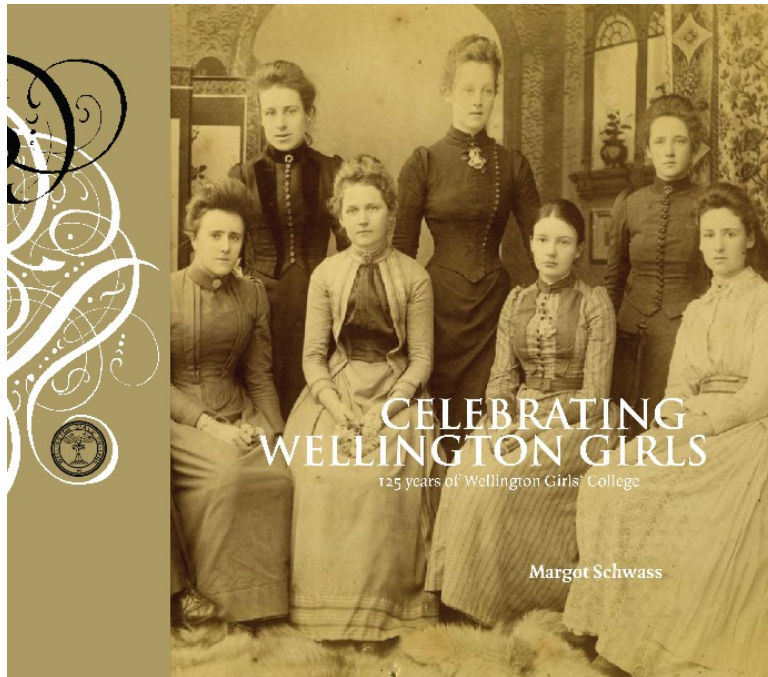
**Sylvia Fraser** 6/10/2008  
Student 1940-1944 - Committee WGCOG Assn

**Lydia Thomson** 03/03/2009  
Student 1968-1971

## A Lasting Memento

Produced to mark the 125th Jubilee of Wellington Girls College in 2008, this stunning 280 page limited edition, titled *Celebrating Wellington Girls, 125 Years of Wellington Girls' College*, by Margot Schwass, combines historical commentary, personal memories, anecdotes and photography, both historic and contemporary. With contributions from past and current pupils, teachers and principals, this is both an 'official' account of the school and the world beyond its gates, and a rich record of individual experience. It is also a lasting memento for you as an Old' Girl.

This book along with commemorative key rings, bags and cards are available for purchase using the form below. You can view all these items online at our website [www.wellington-girls.school.nz/jubilee](http://www.wellington-girls.school.nz/jubilee).



### WELLINGTON GIRLS' COLLEGE JUBILEE MEMORABILIA ORDER FORM

<b>Capital Girls' Assoc. Inc. (Wellington Girls' College Jubilee Committee)</b>	
If you would like to support the college by purchasing memorabilia, then please select from the items below:	
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Please send me:	
<input type="checkbox"/> BAG      \$4.00 <i>now</i> \$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> CARDS (6 PER PACK)    \$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> KEY RING      \$8.00 <i>now</i> \$4.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORICAL BOOK - Celebrating Wellington Girls', 125 years of Wellington Girls' College \$39.99 (+p&p within NZ \$5.00)	
-----	
Enclosed is by cheque for \$..... made payable to <b>Capital Girls' Assoc. Inc.</b> ; or I have deposited \$..... To <b>Westpac Bank Account number: 030518-0299756-26</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	.....
<b>ADDRESS</b>	.....
<b>EMAIL</b>	.....
Please send your order to <b>Capital Girls' Assoc. Inc.</b> <b>C/- Wellington Girls' College, Pipitea Street, Wellington 6011</b> <b>GST No. 95-440-401</b>	