

School Ties

Wellington Girls' College Alumnae Newsletter



December 2016

Issue 20

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.

Dear WGC Alumnae

In September last year a letter arrived on my desk which told me I was one of two secondary principals who had been awarded a Woolf Fisher Fellowship for 2016. The fellowship gives a principal 10 weeks away from school, money to travel, time to study at Harvard University and the opportunity to visit other schools.

So at Queen's Birthday weekend I set off for Washington DC, New York, Boston and Toronto. I went to the Ministry of Education in Toronto and to 16 schools and saw a mix of public, private, girls, co-ed, beautiful, ugly, inner city and suburban (see photos on page 8).

It would be fair to say that almost no-one 'got' WGC. In the cities I visited you just can't have an old, large, uniformed, all girls', public school, in the middle of the city, that achieves well. They just don't exist. They all assumed we were private, charging US\$45,000+ a year from what they had seen on our website. Once I had been in a few schools I understood why.

I would never want to be the principal of a public school in the US. They have the Global funding model that has been suggested for NZ and it terrified me. I met Principals at the end of the school year, when they were heading to meetings with their superintendents to discuss if they could keep staff or maintain the boilers; teachers only being paid for the months they teach so they all have second jobs and everyone wonders why they can't get staff to do any work in the evenings, at weekends or in the holidays; staff largely unable to get permanent appointments and principals on one year contracts; parents generally unable to come into the schools to meet with staff – but everyone asked how they could get more commitment to improving education.

The principals sounded exhausted and overwhelmed in a way I don't think we ever see in NZ, but the schools also reflected that physically. For the most part the buildings looked like office blocks, the metal detectors and guards on the entrance were a surprise; some sites had 4 schools sharing the same campus and many of the interiors looked as if they hadn't had a lick of paint or any new furniture or gear in the last 50 years.

These were schools that students were selected to attend, so they attracted the best each city had to offer yet they still felt bleak compared to schools in NZ. The contrast with the private schools was astounding – trees, play areas, colour, modern equipment, light and open learning spaces, staff and principals on permanent contracts and lots of professional training and parental engagement were evident. They felt the way WGC feels most days. There was a lightness of spirit, plenty of laughter and a sense of hope I just didn't feel in most of the public schools.

I was reminded often in my time away that we (and I) can do anything as long as we have a common purpose, we work together and have each other's backs and we truly commit. We see that every day at school and most particularly this year we saw it with Hairspray, with Hine winning the Korimako speech competition, with Karen Morgan becoming a Principal and with all the girls receiving awards.

I also re-learned that WGC really is a wonderful school, filled with wonderful people who want the very best for each other. It's all very well to know it in your head – it's quite another to have the time and space to see it from a distance and compare it with the very best the US and Canada have to offer.

In mid November I set off on the second part of my fellowship – this time to the UK, where I will be visiting schools in Manchester, Hull & London to learn more about the work they are doing working with clusters of schools.

I have been really spoiled this year, with opportunities to learn new things and look again at how we do what we do and I am very lucky to have a Board and senior staff who have been able to support me and manage the school in my absence.

Best wishes to you all for a relaxing summer and a happy Christmas and New Year.

Julia Davidson
Principal



Adibah Khan & Hinepounamu Apanui-Barr Head Students 2016



Head Students 2016
Adibah Khan &
Hinepounamu Apanui-Barr

Our time as Head Girls has been a learning experience. From the first day, we thought that someone would tell us everything about what we had to do as well as how to do it. However, no instruction manual came with the position. The key lesson learnt is simple: 'be yourself!' What made it easier was the support and encouragement of the Teal Community: students, teachers, and senior management have all been amazing. We've had a huge number of individual highlights that we have outlined below.

Adibah: When the year started, I had no idea what lay in store. I was extremely nervous (to the point where I had to keep a stash of chocolate under my bed to calm my nerves). My aim was to do everything absolutely perfectly. However, when the endless number of emails, meetings, and event organisation came around, I realised that I was only human. 2016 has been a year for learning. Not the textbook or exam kind of learning, but learning that involves real life experiences. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, as life can become boring if we get everything right all the time. After all, "we learn from failure, not from success."

This year has been a rewarding and successful year. As part of a team who embraced the school spirit of giving, sharing, and caring, I have represented WGC at the ANZAC commemoration, witnessed the much anticipated Lip Sync battle (special shoutout to the Science Department who have kept me laughing for the past five years), and felt nostalgic as I watched the Year 9s embrace their first day at WGC. Thirty years from now, when looking back at my time in high school, it will be the people who made my time here so special that I remember.

My experience for the last five years has been very meaningful. I have grown to love this school, its people and ultimately myself in ways that are indescribable. I ran for Head Girl to give back. It's been amazing watching the school and its girls grow into such open-minded and caring learners. I am so thankful to be a part of that growth. To all the wonderful girls at WGC: I hope I have managed to give back even a small fraction of what you have done for me. Thank you. Always keep being your crazy, awesome, quirky selves!

Hine: Although I am a last minute kinda girl who takes an optimistic 'she'll be right' attitude to everything, it came back to kick me in the you-know-what as I tried desperately to juggle my time, commitments and, most importantly, emotions throughout this rollercoaster of a year. It wasn't perfect nor was it easy.

But when I look back at the things that made me smile this year, I can wholeheartedly say that it was completely worth it.

It's the little things that stand out, like that time at the Houses Carnival when the hall erupted with the sweet, melodic tones of over 50 screaming teenage girls jamming out to the karaoke version of 'Breaking Free,' getting to see the excitement of our junior girls as they attended their first school dance and feeling the pride in my heart when Cooper dominated at Athletics Day (for once). This year has been a whirlwind adventure of success, frustration, and an endless flow of emails and meetings. There were a few times when I felt completely snowed under with all the work that goes into the role and seriously questioned why I put my hand up for this position. But what kept me going was the realisation that I had a front-row seat to all the magic and beauty of this school.

The ups and downs of this year taught us how to appreciate what really matters. We've seen our vision of Team Teal come to life. Through events, assemblies, and social media we found that school pride comes from celebrating what lies at the heart of this school: the students. So here's to you guys! Thanks for walking alongside us on this unforgettable journey. We hope that we've left you with a legacy that you are happy to build upon. Team Teal for life!

At the National Ngā Manu Kōrero Speech Competition Hinepounamu won the prepared speech prize (Te Manu Kōrihi Te Ata-Pō trophy), came first equal in the impromptu and won the overall senior English prize (Korimako Trophy).

The Korimako national speech competition began in 1965 and was established by former Governor-General Sir Bernard Fergusson to encourage Māori youth to ascend to the heights of excellence in English oratory. Fifteen regions competed for this coveted title and all speakers had to win regional titles to compete.



Head Students 2017
Brooke Kinajil-Moran and Katie Fenton

Cultural Hall of Fame 2016

Bridget Williams 1961-1965

Bridget is an imaginative and innovative publisher who places emphasis on the fields of literature which she believes are lacking in the New Zealand literature scene.

She attended Wellington Girls' College from 1961 to 1965, where she was one of the top scholars and in Year 13 was made a prefect. She was heavily involved in Music and English throughout her school years and played the flute in the National Youth Orchestra and the school's Chamber Music Competitions. She also learnt languages including French, Latin, and Spanish. WGC gave Bridget, as she puts it, an excellent education.

In 1990, Bridget established Bridget Williams Books (BWB). Her aim was to focus on New Zealand history and contemporary issues with particular emphasis on Māori history and women's studies. She believes that there should always be emphasis on these sometimes sidelined areas of New Zealand history and politics.

BWB has published many award-winning books, such as *Tangata Whenua* by Atholl Anderson and Aroha Harris which recently won the best illustrated non-fiction book at the Ockham NZ Book Awards. Bridget also spoke at the 'Making Women Visible' conference at Otago University in February, celebrating the recent publication of Barbara Brookes' book *A History of New Zealand Women*.

By publishing these types of books, Bridget Williams allows a space in New Zealand literature for histories and cultural aspects which might otherwise be overlooked. She creates a forum for these, and at the same time encourages young authors to grow and become something truly amazing.

The Queen's Birthday and Diamond Jubilee Honours List acknowledged her contribution when, in 2012, Bridget became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to publishing; a testament to the importance of the work she does.



If you know of any old girl who could be considered for inclusion in any of our Halls of Fame please contact Julia Davidson by writing c/- the school or send an email to wgc@wgc.school.nz

In the News ...



Veronica Wilcox (nee Fell) 1963-1964

Veronica attended only one year at Wellington Girls' College before she was abducted to the wilderness of America by her parents. Her father Professor Doctor H.B. Fell had been invited to join the faculty at Harvard University. She has fond memories of her school days.

In Boston she continued her study of ballet, which she began in New Zealand studying at the Royal Academy of Dance in Wellington, and was soon a soloist with the Boston Ballet. In the USA she danced with the ballet of Lyric Opera of Chicago. After her marriage to Doyle Wilcox, a budding opera singer, they travelled to Europe where they remained for over 20 years. During this time Veronica was principal dancer for several ballet companies in Germany as well as Switzerland. In Germany, she also participated in the Wagner festival in Bayreuth.

After retiring from active dancing, Veronica began a career as a pedagogue, starting as a ballet mistress for two ballet companies in Germany. She then returned to the USA when she was invited to become a professor of ballet at the renowned Ann Lacey School of Dance at Oklahoma City University. She taught there for 13 years while also conducting master classes in ballet at several locations in the USA and Auckland. She has also written articles on dance for 'Dance Magazine' in the USA.

Veronica is now living on the Monterey Peninsula and is an instructor at Move Studios, a dance and movement centre.

In the News ...



Anna Ballara (1982 - 1984)

Anna was one of nine Surf Life Saving members who were formally inducted into the NZ Surf Life Saving Sports Hall of Fame at the 2016 Awards of Excellence.

National Champs individual event medals between 1985-2002

- Gold 13 (board race, ironman, surf race)
- Silver 7 (board race, ironman, surf race)
- Bronze 2 (ironman, boardrace)

National Champs team event medals between 1986-2010

- Gold 21 (tube rescue, surf teams, taplin relay, board relay, board rescue)
- Silver 16 (tube rescue, board rescue, surf teams, taplin relay, ski relay, board relay)
- Bronze 2 (tube rescue, taplin relay)



While she was at college Anna started competing in Surf Life Saving and continued when she moved to Australia. She won her 50th Australian Surf Life Saving Championships gold medal when she won the 45-49 age ironwoman event in Western Australia.

Abby Damen (2006 - 2009 Head Girl)



Abby is co-founder of Shut Up & Dance class. This class is for non-professional dancers who simply want to know the moves to *that* dance from their favourite music video. Shut Up & Dance is New Zealand's first dance class to teach routines inspired by popular films, musicals and music videos. It was launched in February, completely selling out in its first six-week pop-up course.

Saving 2050 website is a project Abbey likes to work on in her spare time. The idea came when a friend told her about the environmental benefits of vegetarianism. She believes the decisions we make at the supermarket have the power to impact the environment, animal welfare around the world and our own health. Saving 2050 is a resource to discover new environmentally-friendly recipes

and a platform for others to share their own with the rest of the world.

Abby is a professional actress and is currently acting in Reservoir Hill season 2.

Are you planning a reunion in 2017 or have any Old Girls news or feedback you would like to share with us?

If you do, then please let us know by emailing or writing to:

**Wellington Girls' College Alumnae
c/- Wellington Girls' College
PO Box 12-471, Wellington North 6144
email: wgc@wgc.school.nz**

In the News ...



Gina Crampton (2005 - 2009)

In 2015 Gina caught the eye of national selectors and received the Aspiring Silver Fern award at the New Zealand Netball Awards. The gritty wing attack, who also plays centre, shows speed and drive off the line but also a maturity with her feeding ability into the shooting circle.

She was a replacement player for the Southern Steel in 2012 but made her mark in 2015 when she earned a starting spot in all of her team's ANZ Championship games.

This year Gina was been called into the Silver Ferns to replace Kayla Cullen in the four-match Constellation Cup series against Australia. In making her debut, Gina became the 164th Silver Fern.



Katherine McIndoe (2007 - 2011 Head Girl)

As Dame Malvina Major Emerging Artist in 2015, Katherine has spent this year on a one-year internship with the New Zealand Opera.

The position involved her brushing shoulders with some international opera heavyweights, including a personal hero, Ruth Jenkins-Róbertsson. Katherine played one of the Three Genii in New Zealand Opera's production of *The Magic Flute*. As second genie, or boy, she turns up at crucial points to help the main actors. She was also understudy for the lead role, Emma Fraser's Pamina.

Katherine has been involved in singing all her life and has always had her sights set on performing opera. The internship has helped fast-track her opera experience. She was involved in New Zealand Opera's Auckland Festival show and toured the country as part of the Opera in Schools programme, which took an accessible bite-sized opera to more than 7000 primary school pupils.

After she completes her internship, Katherine plans to put an audition repertoire together to apply for a masters in singing overseas.

Freya Sadgrove (2006- 2010 Head Girl)

Freya is the in-house editor at the McGuinness Institute and is also an emerging writer and performer. She has a Master of Arts in Creative Writing (Poetry) and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in English and French from Victoria University of Wellington. She is a current member of award-winning improvised theatre company Playshop and is an active member of the Wellington theatre community. Her poems have been published in *Turbine* and *Left* and she is a student of Hera Lindsay Bird's TMI School. She is passionate about language, Lego and juvenile fantasy.

Freya was a speaker this year at ForesightNZ's workshop - *Untangling New Zealand's long-term future*.



From the Development Committee

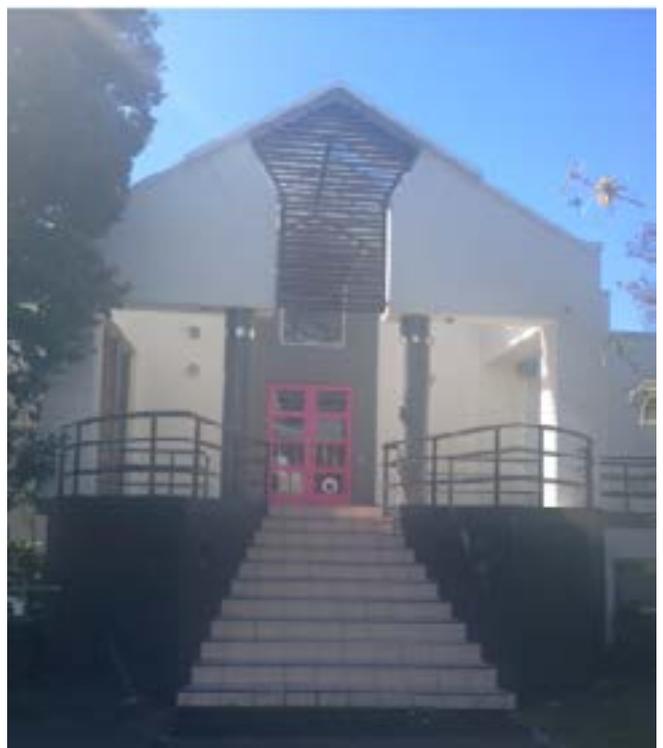
One of the most frequent complaints we hear is that it is incredibly difficult to find your way around the school. From mid 2015, the Development committee has worked with people who specialise in 'wayfinding' and this year we have been trialling some new signage.

Put simply, each block will be represented by a different colour and all the signage will be colour coded. Doors into and between blocks will be those colours; the signs will use those colours to help identify where you are heading and a new Directory and map in the reception area will reinforce the colours. This year we had paper signs as a trial and the girls, staff and visitors gave really helpful feedback about what worked well and what needed to change. The designers have taken this on board and the permanent signs will incorporate many of their ideas.

We have also started a complete repaint of the school and once you are inside the Quad, each block will have a large sign on it, using the colour from the signage. We are even going to use some colour spots in new carpets we are putting down this summer.

It is all quite bright and cheerful (some might say too bright) and it is quite complicated, but we hope the permanent signs will mean that from the start of 2017, anyone can find their way to reception and then to other areas of the school without needing a guide.

Have a happy Christmas and New Year.
From the **WGC Development Committee**





In Memoriam

Colette Lilian JONES (nee Westbrook)12/2015 Class of 1950	Joyce Ethel SERVICE (nee Kofoed) 03/2016 Class of 1931
Amanda Jane BORICH12/2015 Class of 1980	Lorraine Mary MILLS (nee Hodson) 04/2016 Class of 1966
Elisabeth Hilda ALINGTON 12/2015 Class of 1977	Sylvia Stuart HANDFORD 04/2016 Class of 1942
Joan Frances CALKIN (nee Mellor) 12/2015 Class of 1947	Barbara Yvonne GROGAN 04/2016 Class of 1948
Virginia Frater WILSON (nee Kissel) 01/2016 Class of 1967	Tiffany Ann WILLIAMS 05/2016 Class of 1985
Lorna Kate WEATHERHEAD (nee Maltby) 01/2016 Class of 1950	Francis May LEGGETT (nee Julius, Evans) 05/2016 Class of 1937
Sharn LAURIE (nee Horlor) 01/2016 Class of 1957	Gladys Ellen SHIELDS (nee Twist) 05/2016 Class of 1951
Colleen Nancy BROWN 01/2016 Class of 1958	Helen Ailsa BEATTIE (nee Rait) 05/2016 Class of 1949
Pamela Patricia WERRY (nee McEwen) 02/2016 Class of 1959	Leonie May ROBINSON (nee Easte) 06/2016 Class of 1947
Sharyn Gaye SKILTON (nee Moffatt) 02/2016 Class of 1964	Marjorie Edith Mary BIRD (Fairway) 06/2016 Class or 1934
Joyce Alison HALLIGAN (nee Hester) 02/2016 Class of 1939	Annemarie Niesje TREADWELL (nee Mansfield, Hootsen) 06/2016 Class of 1956
Penelope (Penny) Anne HEWETT 02/2016 Class of 1971	Linda Beverley APPLETON (nee Pedersen) 06/2016 Class of 1968
Audrea Rasali O'CONNOR (nee Morganti) 02/2016 Class of 2035	Heather Dale GRAY (nee Carley) 06/2016 Class of 1950
Anna Margrethe Edel McCRAW (nee Morch) 02/2016 Class of 1959	Barbara Enid FULLER 06/2015 Class of 1940
Catherine Mary SCOLLAY 02/2016 Class of 1972	Willow Joy CLARKE 06/2016 Class of 1959
Patricia Lois BENTLEY (nee Adams) 02/2016 Class of 1937	Joyce Elsie HEWLETT (nee Wright) 07/2016 Class of 1927
Barbara Murley DIXON (nee Cooper) 02/2016 Class of 1947	Ailsa Hazel YOUNG 07/2016 Class of 1944
Noeline Esther LARKIN (nee Battersby) 02/2016 Class of 1929	Judith Kathleen NEWPORT 07/2016 Class of 1949
Debra Louise PACKMAN 03/2016 Class of 1976	Joyce Annie SOUTHALL (nee Thomson) 09/2016 Class of 1942
Beverley Vera McREDMOND 03/2016 Class of 1944	Sibyl Constance PATETE (nee Barker) 09/2016 Class of 1943
Dallas Beverley REDINGTON 03/2016 Class of 1947	Lilian Joan LAWRENCE (nee Hepworth) 10/2016 Class of 1938

Obituaries

In Memoriam (continued)

Gilda Rose NEILSON (nee Sleeman)
10/2016

Class of 1945

Rose (Billie) Marie ROBERTS
10/2016

Class of 1941

Janet DIMOCK (nee Prince)
10/2016

Class of 1951

Isla Mary CLARK
10/2016

Class of 1946

Betty Agnes Erica BAKER (nee Sargisson)
10/2016

Class of 1932

Julie Allyson McGRAIL
11/2016

Class of 1968

Patricia Frances MARCHANT (nee Hopkins)
11/2016

Class of 1960

Jean PARK
12/2016

Class of 1949

Photos from Principal's trip to Washington DC, New York, Boston and Toronto.



Radcliffe yard, Harvard



Red Sox game & Fenway Park, Boston



Central Park Lake, New York



Steps of the Lincoln Memorial DC



Smithsonian Space Museum DC



Brooklyn bridge New York



Facilities in two very different schools



Catching up with a WGC family in New York - by accident

I would like to contact old school friends who knew me as Beverley Edwards from 1963 to 1965

My email address is:
b.armstrong1950@yahoo.com.au