Welcome to the 112th Annual General Meeting of Brisbane Girls Grammar School Old Girls Association Inc.

Chair of the Board of Trustees Ms Elizabeth Jameson, Principal Dr Amanda Bell, former Chair of the Board Dr Cherrell Hirst, Past Presidents Mrs Lyle Schwarten and Mrs Paula Airton, School Representative Mrs Pauline Harvey-Short, Committee Members and fellow old girls, as per the attendance book.

Apologies have been received from Ms Janine Schmidt and as per Attendance book.

Brisbane Girls Grammar Second Chance Committee

At the AGM last year donations of ‘pamper’ products were made to the Second Chance collection to be distributed to women at a ‘Pamper Day’ being conducted by their Committee of girls.

Annual Recollections and 70 Year Reunion

The event was enjoyed by many old girls including six women who were celebrating their 70th Year from leaving Grammar.

This was held in the Barbara Fielding Room, surrounded by very colourful and interesting students’ art works along the gallery wall. These attracted great interest and acclamation.

A publication of past students’ recollections was presented to Dr Bell. This book is a compilation of memories acquired over many years to 2010. Many of these recollections are from recent oral histories undertaken or were retrieved from Archives in the form of interviews conducted over the years by various people. One such interview of Mrs Roe and Mrs Thatcher was recorded in 1973.

Brigit Steindl, Great grand daughter of Mrs Emily Roe (Haymen), was present. She compared the recollections of Emily, who attended from July 1905 to September 1906, then July 1907–April 1913, to those of her own in 1987–91. This presentation was both entertaining and informative as the two contrasting eras were brought to life.

A bouquet of Australian native flowers was given to Lyle Schwarten as a token in recognition of her lengthy service to the Association, as President 1971-75 and ongoing Committee Member. We thanked Lyle and wished her the best.

Open Day

The 2011 Open Day saw the Association situated in the Annie Mackay Room amongst the traditions of the Honour Boards. The enthusiasm shown by incoming families was palpable. We spoke with many parents, grand parents and Year 7 girls who were delighted to be there whether past students or first generation as part of the Girls Grammar Community.

Some visitors with whom we spoke were old girls who had not been to the School since they left many years ago. The atmosphere around the School was exciting and vibrant.
Women of Grammar ~ Bubbles on the Lawn

This occasion was decided upon to provide an opportunity for women of the Girls Grammar Community to come together to share reminiscences of their times at Grammar and their contributions to Grammar. These times may well be as students, teachers, management, mothers or friends of the School.

The attention for the day was centred on a recently launched book.

“To become fine SPORTSWOMEN”
By Pauline Harvey-Short
Associate Dean and author

Pauline gave an informative and entertaining introduction to the book by way of a selection of stories and slides. An important part of the afternoon was the signing of a copy of the book by all women included in the text or illustrations. The intention is to continue to gain such signatures.

Here Pauline describes some comments she has received which typify the spirit of Grammar.

St John Ambulance purchased a copy of the book and sum up the feelings on the day:

“Congratulations on your achievement, To become fine sportswomen, a publication worthy of the comments made by Amanda Bell and Elizabeth Jameson in the Foreword.”

“Today I spoke to people I have not seen for many years; it was exciting and enjoyable, thank you for inviting me to attend the book launch.”

“There are many memories returning as I turned the pages this afternoon. Thank you for inviting St John Ambulance to assist, my participation was twofold, one as a St Johnnie the other as an old girl. The School has a special place in my heart, as I believe without this opportunity my parents gave me to spend four years at Girls Grammar, my life and achievements would probably not have been so fulfilling.”

The importance of this publication is far-reaching. At its most basic, it will be a worthy gift for visitors to the School or to a graduating student but more importantly, it will also be the stimulus for more rich and substantial publications, concepts, ideas and research.

It was encouraging that several women of the School’s community availed themselves of the invitation to be part of this celebration.

Year 12 Assembly

Mrs Pauline Harvey-Short facilitated this Assembly which included a panel of speakers.

These presentations were made by:
- Christine Purvis (Steindl ‘65, Life Member, President BGGSOGA Inc.1996 – current), who spoke about the Association and its activities.
- Margaret Huth (Marriott ‘71 Head Girl), Australian lifesaver, mother of 2 Grammar girls, Trustee and Life Member.
- Margaret Comino - (‘81), Accountant, BGGS Hockey coach, Life Member.
- Brittany Brusasco - 2009 Head Girl, Gap-year student, UQ student, Life Member.

These women, who represent a wide range of eras, each referred to their Grammar days as being cherished for scholarship, friendship, sport, other co-curricular activities and the intrinsic elements which Grammar has instilled in generations of girls since 1875. They agree that the Association offers opportunities to maintain their connectedness amongst each other and with the School.
We appreciate this involvement with the Year 12s and thank Pauline for 2011, and Mr Alan Dale who has included the President of OGA at this assembly for the past many years.

**Music Gala**

Each year the school holds the Music Gala to showcase the talents of the Senior bands, orchestras, choirs and feature soloists.

For 2011, the theme was 'Dreams' and was held on Saturday 22 October 2011 at the UQ Centre, St Lucia. It was a wonderful evening involving many talented girls as well as a lot of support from parents and teachers.

Once again, the OGA organised the intermission refreshments. This is a small but valued contribution to the running of such an important event in the life of the school. The OGA would like to continue this support for the school but rely on the broader membership to volunteer a small amount of their time on the evening.

An added bonus for the volunteers is that they do not need tickets to watch the concert.

I encourage all Old Girls (especially those who were previously involved in the School's music program or who enjoy music) to consider volunteering for the 2012 concert.

Old Girls who are interested in attending the concert should look on the School's website. [www.bggs.qld.edu.au](http://www.bggs.qld.edu.au)

**Valedictory Dinner**

This memorable event was held at the Convention Centre in an exhibition hall beautifully transformed for the occasion. The Address was delivered by Dr Emily Granger (Head Girl 1991). She spoke passionately about her medical career from early days in rural Queensland to being the Cardiothoracic and Transplant Surgeon of today. Emily spoke about those aspects of Grammar which have so positively influenced her. She encouraged the students to find something they love; take the unconventional path; make a positive contribution; and inspire and be inspired.

We thank the P&F for its invitation to attend these inspiring annual events.

**Speech Day**

The School’s Annual Speech Day and Distribution of Prizes in its 136th year was held in the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre.

From the outset one could sense the excitement, expectancy and pomp of this event. Each significant aspect of the programme was announced with a masterful musical performance. We heard the Symphonic Winds, the Chamber Singers, the Symphony Orchestra and the Massed Choir. Everyone joined in singing the National Anthem, the School Hymn, the School Song and the final hymn (God be with you ‘til we meet again.)

Miss Felicity Williams (old girl), the retiring Deputy Principal Emerita, delivered the Occasional Address for this, her forty-eighth Speech Day. Her observations on education and teaching then and now were fascinating. The Head Girls responded with their vote of thanks, “only a History teacher would use the past to explain the future.”

A standing ovation honoured Ms Williams.
Old Girls Association prizes were awarded to:

Jennifer Sun - *The Annie Mackay Bursary* awarded to the First in Year 11. This bursary was established by the OGA in memory of a former Headmistress of the School, Miss Annie Mackay (1915-1924) and was first presented in 1934, and re-established in 1999.

Caitlin Clifford - *The Kathleen Mitford Lilley Old Girls’ Prize for English*

Gabrielle Anese - *The Beth Cavaye Old Girls’ Prize for Accounting*

Gabrielle Begley - *The Marjorie Elliott Old Girls’ Prize for Physical Education*

The OGA congratulates these students and wishes them success in their future studies and careers.

School activities

The Committee of the BGGSOGA wishes to thank the Board of Trustees, Chair of the Board Ms Elizabeth Jameson, Principal Dr Amanda Bell for including the OGA in the celebratory events that took place at the end of 2011.

Participation in Volunteers Cocktails, Welcome to New Parents, Cathedral Concert, 5 Year Reunion, Support Group consultation re strategic planning etc.

It is a privilege to be involved in these important events

Reunions

The Association has been to a number of Year Reunions and looks forward to continuing its involvement. These provide opportunities for the sale of a range of mementoes from which the revenue goes back to the School in various donations.

A gift to the School

The OGA donated Robyn Stacey’s (’69) recently launched book *‘House ~ Imagining the past through the collections of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales’*. It features the stunning still-life photography by Robyn Stacey, showcasing the extraordinary and everyday objects from the Historic Houses Trust’s collections and properties. Robyn gained unprecedented access to the more than 29,000 objects held in the collections of Elizabeth Bay House, Vaucluse House, Rouse Hill House and Farm and the Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection.

Robyn is the creator of ‘Leidenmaster I’ and ‘Coral’ which were donated by OGA in 2008 and are installed in the Barbara Fielding Room.

International Women’s Day

This important day was celebrated with a lunch at The Brisbane Club which Jenny Gray attended as guest of the Principal.

The Archives

OGA looks forward to your assistance with our ongoing support to Archives. Help is needed with sorting and filing. In excess of two thousand images have been digitised through OGA help to date. Preliminary work towards the updating of the Memorial Honour Board has begun.
P&F. Association.

OGA continues to be represented at the monthly meetings of P&F as Ex-officio member. This contributes well to the maintenance of a relationship between the current parents and the Association. The fledgling Past Parents Group has been invited to participate in the OGA/NCWQ Young Women’s Forum and Women of Grammar - Bubbles in the Air. These two functions will hopefully provide opportunities for that group to launch and promote itself.

OGA again thanks the P&F for its invitation to the Valedictory Dinner each year.

NCWQ Christmas Luncheon at Womens College UQ.

Planning is under way for coming dates

- May NCWQ/OGA Young Women’s Forum
- June Bubbles in the Air with an Olympic theme
- September Recollections and 70 yr Reunion

Thanks to the Service girls who have assisted with OGA functions such as today and with mailings.

“I wish to announce that I will not be seeking re-election for President of BGGSOGA Inc. in 2012. I am of the belief that the time is right”.

The OGA wishes to thank the ongoing support and assistance from the Board, the Principal, Management and various staff who always are so willing, including Mrs Harvey-Short as our direct link with the School.

On behalf of the members I thank the committee for the facilitation of the events that we hold in order to reach our Objects.

Christine Purvis (Steindl ’65)
President
BGGSOGA Inc.