

# Together.

THE JOURNAL OF THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE  
WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



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## CHAIR notes

## PRINCIPAL points

**W**hen were you last inspired? As Chair of The Women's College Council I am regularly reminded

that our College provides continual opportunities to be inspired, and I'm sure our students and alumnae relish these moments of inspiration as much as I do. The recent Louisa Macdonald Oration was a superb example – an inspiring oration from alumna Jane Diplock, Chairman of the New Zealand Securities Commission and Executive Committee of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions.

Later that evening we were inspired by the achievements of alumnae whom we honoured with our second biennial alumnae awards. The continual achievements of our students across academic, cultural and sporting activities, the difference they make to others in so many ways – this generation is truly inspiring. There is also the reciprocal inspiration which occurs between mentor and mentee, which can be so vital to the future professional life of our students.

If you haven't been back to The Women's College lately, or even if you have, I'd like to offer you an open invitation to come back, even for just one event, and see if you can be inspired or inspire others. The benefits of being part of an inspirational community are freely available and tangible for all involved.

**Lucinda Warren**  
Chair, The Women's College Council

**T**aking on the role of principal of this illustrious institution has been exciting and challenging. Many aspects of the position are familiar to me – assisting the transition of students into the academy, enabling senior students to connect with the professional world and providing a sympathetic hearing when the going gets tough – but The Women's College has given me new perspectives on these activities.

It has also opened up new worlds for me. As an academic one step removed from the academic world, I am connected to the students and their studies but distanced from their classrooms and curricula. On the other hand, through The Women's College I am intimately connected to the everyday lives of a group of extraordinary young women in ways that give me deeper insights into students' learning and social needs. Similarly, the connections I have made with parents, alumnae and friends of The Women's College have enabled me to appreciate more fully the richness of College life and the myriad ways (some intangible) in which our community contributes to the success of our students. No doubt I will continue to learn and be amazed by the achievements of our residents.

Like The Women's College, this journal has recently acquired a new face. It seemed an opportune moment to rethink its design and readability. I hope you approve. Please feel free to let us know what you think.

**Jane Williamson**  
Principal, The Women's College

# WATSA matters



Launched in 2008, The Women's College Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alliance (WATSA) has gained momentum (and funds), as the group works towards two important outreach trips planned for the winter break.

WATSA President,  
third-year arts student Jessie Kelly



On 7 April 2009 the College hosted a fundraising breakfast which raised almost \$10,000. Former Women's College student Dr Marlene KONG (1991–94) addressed 150 guests on the state of Indigenous health and the vital importance of education in redressing a critical imbalance in Aboriginal communities – sentiments WATSA strongly supports.

Students on the outreach trips, covering Dubbo, Burke, Brewarrina and Walgett, and a second visit to Cape York, Lockhart River and Cairns, will work with communities to seek out potential young women leaders to attend a fully funded week-long leadership camp to be held at The Women's College in August. The focus of the camp will be 'Pathways to Uni' – encompassing ways

to manage the bureaucracy of getting to university, life in Sydney, and life at The Women's College.

WATSA President Jessie Kelly hopes the camp will cement the idea in the girls' minds of coming to the University of Sydney and living at The Women's College. "There's a lot of talent and ability in these communities – if we can support some of these girls to come to our College it would set them up to run the world! The range of interaction we have here broadens one's scope of understanding in a way that I've never seen elsewhere."

If you'd like to contribute your skills or make a donation towards the WATSA project, please contact Jacinta Walpole by email: [community@thewomenscollege.com.au](mailto:community@thewomenscollege.com.au) or by phone: 02 9517 5008.

## Mentoring spotlight

**The Women's College's mentoring program has gone from strength to strength.**

This year almost 60 students requested a mentor in the field they hope to enter after graduating. Each of these students, in third year or above, has been matched with a professional mentor drawn largely from the College's diverse alumnae body.

We have mentors in law and medicine, nutrition and food technology, foreign affairs and international aid, a large public art gallery, a boutique private gallery, public relations and publishing, journalism, television production, human resources, management consulting, and a whole lot more.

It's a testament to The Women's College that its alumnae and friends are more than willing to support our students in this way.

It is hoped that these mentoring relationships enable students to make the most of their capabilities and potential as they enter their chosen professions.

*If you are interested in becoming a mentor to one of our students, please contact Vice Principal Dr Tiffany Donnelly by email: [vp@thewomenscollege.com.au](mailto:vp@thewomenscollege.com.au) or by phone: 02 9517 5005.*

# Louisa's legacy

*The fifth Louisa Macdonald Oration was presented on 29 May by Jane Diplock AO, on the subject of women's achievements and potential in the global arena. The oration is held biennially to honour The Women's College's founding principal.*

**M**s Diplock spoke about a number of outstanding women associated with the College who have been an inspiration in her own career, including the Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC, NSW Governor Marie Bashir AC, CVO, medical trailblazer Janet McCredie, and scientists Anne Green and Elizabeth Dennis.

"They had the imagination to perceive their work in a global setting, to pursue it across international borders, to go to work in the world, rather than merely in one small corner of it" she said. "These women have seen themselves – and expected others to see them – as global citizens."

Ms Diplock's own career has a similarly stellar profile. In 2001 she was appointed Chairman of the New Zealand Securities Commission, and she also chairs the Executive Committee of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, an organisation whose 109 jurisdictions regulate more than 95 per cent of the world's capital markets.

## Alumnae honours

Two alumnae were given special awards, and several others honoured at the Louisa Macdonald Oration Dinner. Dr Janet McCredie and Ms Cassandra Kelly were given alumnae awards in the open and young alumna categories respectively, in recognition of their achievements and service to their professions and the community.

This was only the second time these awards have been bestowed; the first were presented to Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir and Sally Auld at the Louisa Macdonald Oration Dinner in 2007. This year a special posthumous award was given to Anna Donald.

## The nominees

### YOUNG ALUMNA AWARD

#### Ms Cassandra KELLY

BEC(Hons)

**Occupation:** Founder and CEO of Pottinger

**Years at The Women's College:** 1991–96

**Recent awards:** Winner Australian Business Award for Recommended Employer (2007, 2008), nominated for 2009

#### Ms Sally MITCHELL

BEng(Chemical)(Hons) BCom

**Occupation:** General Manager,

Global Markets and Group Treasury IT,  
Commonwealth Bank

**Years at The Women's College:** 1993–96

**Recent awards:** Premium Financial  
Services – Midas Award  
(Commonwealth Bank)

## ALUMNA AWARD

#### Ms Vicki Brooke (MONKTON)

BA(Hons) GradDipArtsMgt

**Occupation:** Business owner,  
museum and arts consultant

**Years at The Women's College:** 1962–65

**Recent awards:** Life Membership of  
Climate Action Newcastle, Inc. (2009)  
in recognition of her "unwavering efforts  
to advance the climate movement locally  
through the formation of Climate Action  
Newcastle"

#### Dr Janet McCREDIE AM

MBBS MD DMRD FRCR FRANZCR

**Occupation:** Diagnostic radiologist and  
medical researcher

**Years at The Women's College:** 1953–55,  
Out-student 1957–58, Senior Student 1956

**Recent awards:** AM (1994), Life Member  
of Faculty of Medicine, University of  
Sydney (1996), Fellow of the University  
of Sydney (2008)

#### Ms Caroline PIDCOCK

BSc(Arch) Arch(Hons)

**Occupation:** Architect, business owner,  
director

**Years at The Women's College:** 1982–83

**Recent awards:** Winner Small Commercial  
Sustainability Award for Resource 88,  
Building Product News & Environ Products  
and Services (2008); Winner Blakett  
Award for Shellharbour Workers' Club  
(in association with Richard Goodwin  
Architects) Royal Australian Institute  
of Architects NSW Chapter (2004)



*Clockwise from top left: Young alumna award winner Cassandra KELLY (1991–96) with Phillipa Kelly; 2007 young alumna recipient Sally AULD (1990–93) with fifth-year arts/law student Kristy Kennedy; recent and current students (left to right) Fiona WALTER (2004–07), Jacqueline MARTIN (2005–07), Edwina Tidmarsh, Erin Holland and Harriet Dixon-Smith; Jane DIPLOCK (1968–69 and 1975–77) and Phillip Meyer; past senior students (front) Jane OAKESHOTT (1979–83), Jane Diplock AO, Mary Walker (GHANTOUS 1975–78), (behind) Lucinda WARREN (1984–86), Elizabeth ELLIOTT AM (1975–78), Judy Anne EDWARDS (1982–85) and Carolyn GAVEL (1984–88).*



# Nhi-Y gains new heights



**N**hi-Y Pham first encountered The Women's College when in 2006 she was selected to attend the UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA).

The annual YWLA, hosted by the College, is attended by 50 year 11 students, chosen from state high schools in NSW, Victoria and the ACT. The week-long program is designed to develop their leadership skills and expose them to careers in the world of business and banking. Nhi-Y was encouraged to attend by her principal at Sefton High School in Sydney's western suburbs. He spotted her leadership potential, and she thereby discovered the College.

"Fresher Revue was on during YWLA week and there was always something fun to do at College," says Nhi-Y. "One of my most distinct memories was attending formal dinner and seeing the community and the support networks – I met a great bunch of girls that week."

Nhi-Y finished school with a 99.95 UAI score and has continued this stellar academic performance at University. She achieved a high distinction average in the first year of her combined commerce/law degree, was included on the Dean's List of Excellence, and shared the Economic

Research Society's Prize for Economics 1. The Women's College also awarded her its College Scholarship and the Lorna Gertrude Webb Prize.

In April this year, Nhi-Y was selected as one of a four-person team to represent the University of Sydney at the University of Washington's Global Business Case Competition, an annual international event that brings together undergraduate university students from 12 countries. The teams compete in a fast-paced assessment of a challenging business case study and are required to make recommendations within 48 hours.

"It was a pretty intense 48 hours, but an amazing bonding experience," Nhi-Y said. "Our team – Jack Lin, Quentin Rares, Johnny McCoy and I – were quickly able to identify our strengths and weaknesses. Our coach was very supportive, as was the Faculty of Economics and Business. They sent us off with Sydney University hoodies and gifts for the other teams. The people were amazing – really ambitious and professional in the competition, but a real camaraderie developed during the social events."

Nhi-Y certainly exemplifies our vision to be the leading college for women who shape the future!

## Music and drama



Jocelyn Gulliver, Rong Xin Choy, Sanjana Mahtani and Romy Fung perform in Fresher Revue

Freshers showed their talents this April in the annual Fresher Revue performance, held in the Menzies Common Room. This year's script, co-written by third-year students at Women's and St Paul's colleges, was titled *Hansel & Gretel and The GingerWes House*. A spoof on college life, the play portrays sensitive Paulines, evil Wesleyans, and wildly intellectual Women's College students.

Another annual dramatic event is the specially staged play for Mother Daughter Dinner each May. This year Phoenix Players put on *Hating Alison Ashley*, a hilarious feel-good play-within-a-play set at a year six camp, and exposing a few revelations about mother-daughter relationships.

Plans are afoot for Phoenix players to produce *Pride and Prejudice* in Semester Two, a joint venture with St Paul's College.



# Main restored



**U**nder-floor heating and carpet for 40 rooms, 44 antique style white light fittings, 70 new bed ensembles, 150 power points ... This was just part of the shopping list for refurbishment of the Main wing, completed over the summer months in time to welcome the return of students in Semester One.

It was a huge project which saw Main shrouded in scaffolding and the College ringing to the sound of jack hammers as an army of tradespeople treated the historic building to a much needed makeover.

An important part of the project was the restoration of all the Edwardian desks, dressing tables, and chests of drawers that have been cherished by generations of students. The project of restoring these pieces was undertaken over the past 12 months by alumna Georgina Williams (TOM: 1981–83) whose business Major & Tom in St Peters uses traditional materials such as shellac and wax, and traditional cabinet-making techniques in their furniture restorations.

The results are stunning. Resident Fiona Copeman (third-year engineering/arts student) says it really feels like home: "I call my room my palace and uni friends don't believe how lovely it is until they feel the underfloor heating and see the bathrooms. I sometimes lie on my floor to study!"

## Picture perfect



Over the past year The Women's College has displayed two specially commissioned portraits by artist and College alumna Gillian DUNLOP (1982–84). The pictures show two former principals of the College: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC (1997–2003) and Mrs Yvonne Rate AM (2003–08), and now take pride of place over two of the historic staircases in the Main wing.

Ms Bryce's portrait was unveiled in June last year, just prior to her investiture as Governor General of Australia. The painting of Mrs Rate (above) shows her with her two dogs, Monty and Lizzie, much beloved of the College students.

During a recent visit to Sydney, Mrs Rate said of her time at College: "I'm particularly proud of the outreach initiatives taken up by the students within Indigenous communities, and their energy and eagerness to attract funding for their projects."

She also mentioned the creation of the alumnae awards as a memorable highlight. "College has been instrumental to these women in the formation of their lives, values and careers, and being recognised by their peers is such a thrill for them."

# Fresh *perspectives*

**OUR THREE NEW MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SEEMED DESTINED TO STUDY AT THE SYDNEY CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC FROM THEIR EARLIEST CHILDHOOD. WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE THEM.**



*Suzanne Sherrington, Rosalie Baldwin and Anne-Marie Johnson*

## Suzanne Sherrington

Suzanne's father Robert Sherrington suggested Suzanne learn to play flute when she was seven. She has played ever since. "Dad never forced us; he encouraged us," says Suzanne (her brother plays clarinet and trombone). "Dad always says if you're going to play, you should strive to do it well."

Suzanne grew up in Bellingen in northern New South Wales feeling somewhat musically isolated. She set her sights on the Conservatorium early, having made regular visits to Sydney to play for Schools Spectacular, the State Wind Ensemble and music camps. She also sat AMEB (Australian Music Examinations Board) exams at the Conservatorium every year since primary school, which further whetted her appetite to study there.

Why did she choose The Women's College? "My mum was there in 1977; her second year at university. It made a huge difference as she'd spent her first year living very unhappily in a flat. So it was her suggestion that I come to the College, and I'm so glad I did. I love the music practice rooms, and it's fantastic to have the older Conservatorium girls around, as they help put things in perspective. That support is invaluable."

## Rosalie Baldwin

From the very beginning, Rosalie was keen to be different. In her junior school band there were no girls in the brass section and she wanted to be the first. "I played flute and then transferred to the dark side when I heard the trumpets blasting behind me. I thought: 'I want to play one of those!'"

She started trumpet when she was 12 and says that from the time her school band master gave her the idea of being in the Sydney Symphony, music has been her chief interest.

The Conservatorium was a major goal from an early age, and living at College was a natural extension – Rosalie is from Camden and would much rather spend her time practising than making a long commute to the Conservatorium each day.

Coming to College has been a fruitful experience for Rosalie. She formed a brass quintet which has performed on several occasions, specialising in Bach and Brahms. "One of the students at St Paul's College wrote a special trumpet composition for me, which we've played and recorded at the Conservatorium – the college network is fantastic," she says.

## Anne-Marie Johnson

You could be forgiven for thinking Anne-Marie Johnson has a musical 'pedigree'. Both parents are in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (her mum plays violin and her dad cello), and Anne-Marie was only three when she began asking if she could learn violin. It's also no surprise that her elder brother plays cello and younger brother flute and cello. "Sometimes we play string quartets together at home to practise our sight reading and just for fun," Anne-Marie says.

Anne-Marie made the decision to move to Sydney when her violin teacher, Alice Waten, was appointed to the staff of the Conservatorium last year. Up to that point she was still deciding between a career in music, languages or creative writing.

Anne-Marie feels that College has given her a soft landing in Sydney: "It's made the transition of moving out of home so much easier – you're never alone and becoming part of the community has been effortless."

In September Anne-Marie will tour Switzerland, England and Austria with the Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra.

Her favourite piece of music at the moment is the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor. "It's unofficially dubbed one of the most loved violin concertos. It's really fun to play – you can get really virtuosic and there are some beautiful melodies, technical fireworks and reflective moments."

## OUR 2009 FRESHERS ARE AN ENERGETIC AND COMMITTED GROUP ...



### Zoe Betar

First-year education/arts student Zoe Betar credits her brother as being the most influential person in her life. "Despite having cerebral palsy my brother has been able to surpass his disability – he completed his law degree and is now a lawyer at Gilbert and Tobin. He encouraged me to go to The Women's College because he thought I would enjoy it – and he was right!"

Zoe was voted Fresher Representative at College early in Semester One, a position she finds greatly satisfying because it engages her with the whole fresher year and lets her express her peers' ideas and opinions directly to the House Committee.

Zoe, a member of the Bundjalung nation, entered the College on an Indigenous Scholarship after spending Year 11 and 12 at St Scholastica's College in Glebe. Her aspirations? "I'd like to teach and then go back to my old high school as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer. There aren't enough programs to encourage students to stay at school in my community (Tweed Heads)."

She attributes the high drop out rate in years 8 and 9 to the fact that kids "don't see how important school is. When I see people who don't get the same opportunities as I've had, it inspires me to help. I believe that education is vital for closing the gap."

### Siobhan O'Rorke

In addition to working on her arts/commerce degree, Siobhan O'Rorke teaches Ashtanga Yoga one morning a week at College, helping her fellow collegians iron out their study knots. Siobhan acquired her yoga certification while on her gap year in South Africa. The month-long teaching course incorporated Buddhist philosophy, physiology and anatomy, and was held in the bohemian town of Port Elizabeth.

Siobhan spent the second half of her gap year in China. Having grown up in Hong Kong she was keen to keep her Chinese language going, and it was during an eight-month stint in China, studying at the Beijing University of Language and Culture, that a chance encounter set her on the path to The Women's College.

Siobhan met College resident Sophie Miller who was in Beijing on exchange. Siobhan was considering doing her degree in Sydney and Sophie recommended The Women's College. "It was a great stroke of luck" says Siobhan. "Hong Kong is really multicultural, and many people pass through so I'm good at making friends quickly."

Siobhan decided that Australia gave her the best options as a study destination. "And it's sunny here!" she adds. "I chose commerce/arts as a degree because commerce seemed practical and doing arts means I can continue studying Chinese. It's turned out to be a good choice because I also really enjoy the accounting!"

### Audrey Jean-Baptiste

Audrey Jean-Baptiste has the dubious distinction of being the youngest fresher at College. She turned 17 in Orientation week this year, so will have to wait until 2010 before she can join her friends at their weekly Wednesday night drinks.

Audrey skipped a year in primary school and spent several years at school in Australia, away from her family in Noumea. So it was a logical step to return to Sydney for her commerce/science degree. "My parents wanted me to have a good balance between university, social life and sport, and they thought I could find that better here in Australia."

She says being 17 hasn't affected her social life as much as she thought – she loves Wednesday nights when everyone is out, and she can get some work done!

As well as being a gifted student, Audrey is a talented swimmer. She was age champion in New Caledonia at 15, and had the choice to pursue an international swimming career, but decided to attend university instead.

"A sports career can finish in two seconds," she says, "and I wanted to come to Australia to study." She now competes in the Rosebowl (intercollege sporting competition) for The Women's College.



## Women's College

## Writers' Festival

### *Writing from the Self*

The Women's College Alumnae Committee is pleased to announce its inaugural Writers' Festival on **Saturday 22 August 2009** at our beautiful College.

Alumnae are invited to help us explore the creative drive and celebrate our own writers. Topics covered will be the development of a manuscript from first draft to final publication and the role of editors and agents. Sessions will range from an inspirational workshop for young writers and readers, to panel discussions featuring journalists, agents and publishers.

Speakers include:

**Cath Drayton**, literary agent and College alumna

**Judith Whelan**, Editor, *Good Weekend*

**Kate McClymont**, Senior Writer, *Sydney Morning Herald* and College alumna

**Chris Reid**, Garden Editor, *Country Style*

A number of inspirational authors of children's fiction, as well as young writers, will share their personal stories.

A full program, including costs, is available at [www.thewomenscollege.com.au/writers-festival.php](http://www.thewomenscollege.com.au/writers-festival.php)

Please email Jacquei Hicks on [j.hicks@library.usyd.edu.au](mailto:j.hicks@library.usyd.edu.au) for further information.

#### **Festival themes:**

*Creative writing and young writers*

*Biographies and personal stories*

*The creative process*

# From the Alumnae President



*The Women's College Alumnae President Marilyn Bryce with 2009 scholarship holders: Georgina Tout, Susannah White, Anna Lawless (standing, left to right), and Lisa Kennedy (seated)*

**T**his year began with a bang as the planned refurbishments turned College into a building site over summer. But the results are worth all the dust and distraction – they were greatly admired by alumnae who took an impromptu tour at the first of this year's reunions – the Alumnae Morning Tea for those who entered the College in 1969 or before. The reunion was held on Saturday, 18 April 2009 with Rachel Grahame, Alison Holland and Helen Oates as 'patrons'. Thirty alumnae attended, including a large contingent from the 1950s and an enthusiastic group from the 1960s.

Reunions continue to be a constant and much appreciated part of The Women's College Alumnae (WCA) program. Recent leavers met on 20 May and the London contingent will rendezvous on 12 July. Those staying at home should not feel left out, as there will be a reunion lunch following the AGM on 1 August while the much loved Wisteria Luncheon will be held on Sunday 20 September.

The College continues to nurture 'women who shape the future' and thanks to the generosity of our alumnae and the College itself, we have been able to award eight

Alumnae Scholarships in 2009. Our new scholars are Lisa Kennedy, Anna Lawless, Georgina Tout and Susannah White. Those continuing are Alice Ainge, Sophie McGrath, Fiona McPhail and Kate Taylor.

You can read about those who have already shaped or are shaping the future on our new webpage: Alumnae Stories ([www.thewomenscollege.com.au/blog](http://www.thewomenscollege.com.au/blog)). It will profile a different alumna each month and we hope it will inform web visitors about the remarkable achievements, service and interests of our alumnae. Please do contact us if you would like to suggest an alumna to be included or wish to write a profile for us.

As part of our commitment to the wider University community we maintain our strong relationship with the University's Alumni Council and Alumni Relations Office (ARO). Penny Cameron (WCA President 2004–07) is a member of the Alumni Council and on its executive board. I represent the WCA at the regular Alumni Forums run by the ARO.

We're keeping in touch; please stay in touch with us!

**Merilyn Bryce**

# Best friends



Bride and bridesmaid: Pat and Helen in 1963

**Pat MILTHORPE and Helen Brown (HARVEY) met on the tram to Sydney University on Orientation Day in 1956. They have been friends ever since. Pat is a retired school teacher and principal. She lives in Chewton, Victoria. Helen is former Deputy Mayor of Port Stephens.**

## PAT

Hel and I were both from the country and didn't know our way around – we asked each other which tram stop to get off for Sydney University! We were thrilled to meet each other again at College. By the end of first year we were solid friends.

I loved The Women's College – we both did. It was a fabulous and intellectually fertile place. I remember once staying up all night before an ANZAC day ceremony – playing cards, talking and drinking 'brews' (tea and coffee). We used to have ferocious arguments over our brews about the existence of God and other philosophical questions.

We both studied arts, English and French. Hel was extremely bright, interested in everything, and much more prepared than I was to venture into the University. I remember she participated in a Molière play and although I would have loved to, I didn't dare! She had bright blue eyes and silky brown hair which was always a little bit longer than mine. And she was very different from me – I was more sporting and she was more intellectual.

Hel's done some fabulous things during her career. Through her work on the Port Stephens Council she's been involved in many state-wide environmental committees which she reluctantly let go when she retired last year. She found the separation hard because the council

had been such an integral part of her life. She also has a large family (five children), and copes with all these hugely complicated things – I don't know how she manages it.

When Hel retired we took a trip to Tasmania. It was great; we went to the north-western wilderness and had a lovely time. Hel told everyone we met that I was her bridesmaid 46 years ago!

Whenever we meet again it's as if we've never been apart – we still have the same depth of intimacy and unspoken understanding. I suppose it's a sort of shorthand. She's my best friend.

## HELEN

Pat and I were friends from the very first time we spoke to each other – we had so much in common and we both looked like country girls. In our first year Betty Archdale took in 19 country high school students, so Pat and I had that in common. I was very lucky to have a room of my own. There were three of us in Alley – one girl kept to herself and the other kept going out, so I spent most of my time with Pat in Main. We were both in Maples in second year, and that made us even closer.

We had our strong disagreements – our first and only big row was over the fact that I chose philosophy and she chose psychology, but we never fought again about those differences because we liked them in each other.

While we were at College, Pat was in a relationship with a patrol officer who wanted to take her to Papua New Guinea. I was very worried about it. I thought she should finish her degree so we could work out our careers afterwards. I think she took on board what we (her College friends) all felt and she decided not to do it. He was heart broken when she told him, but we were all cheering!

When I had my third child Pat made me come to Sydney and spend a night with her – we went out to a play and to dinner. Pat was worried about me and it was a wake-up call that I shouldn't immerse myself too much in family. Years later I went to stay with her in her mud-brick house in Chewton. I was so sick I couldn't even pack my bag – I had had viral pneumonia and developed chronic fatigue. I just got on the train and had this wonderful time with her and she got me over it – that's the sort of thing we could do with each other.

Pat's health is a terrible worry for me; she has a family history of emphysema. Before we went on the Tasmania trip she said she couldn't walk very far – it was a terrible shock to find that she couldn't walk 50 metres. But her illness proved she has all the qualities I've always admired. She never gives up, she makes the most of what she can do, and tries not to think about what she can't – which I think is brilliant. It takes a lot of courage and intelligence to do that.

**Robin Bulman**  
(HUNTER: 1961–64) MBBS

**Vera Carter**  
(GOW: 1940–43) BA

**Anna DONALD**  
(1988–89) BA MBBS  
1 February 2009

**Patricia Henning**  
(MASSIE: 1942–45) BA

**Pat Hirst**  
(BALE: College Tutor 1961–62)  
AM MB BS *Melbourne*, FRCPA

**Elizabeth Laurie**  
(GAVEL: 1948–51) BA  
18 July 2008

**Patricia Love**  
(MILLS: 1939–42) BA DipEd  
25 March 2008

**Rosalind McKeon**  
(SHAW: 1956–59) BSc DipEd  
12 March 2009

**Sarah Sheehan**  
(1973)  
20 March 2009

**Sue Anne Watson**  
(THYNNE: 1958–61) BA Dip Ed  
MPhil(Ed)  
5 January 2009

**As this journal went to print, we learnt of the death of Miss Val Street (Principal 1981–89) on 1 July 2009. A full acknowledgment of her life and work will be provided in the next edition.**



**Anna DONALD**  
(1988–89) BA MBBS

1 February 2009

Anna Donald was a remarkable young woman – an epidemiologist, company director and specialist in

evidence-based medicine. She began her career studying arts and medicine at the University of Sydney and lived initially at Wesley College.

As a student, she was active in the University of Sydney Union, becoming President in 1987, the year before she came to The Women’s College. Anna was an active member of the College community during her time here, working as an academic tutor, an associate senior resident and providing mentoring support for other students. In 1989 she was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

Anna completed her medical training at Oxford, graduating with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1992. She was awarded a Kennedy Fellowship, a Caltex Australian Women’s Scholarship and a Menzies Scholarship in 1994, and declined a Fulbright Scholarship at that time because she had sufficient funds. In 1996 she completed a Master of Public Policy at Harvard and then returned to Britain to take up a position as a lecturer at University College, London.

The field of evidence-based medicine was Anna’s particular passion and she became an internationally recognised expert in this area through her publications and conference presentations. She co-created two journals, *Clinical Evidence* for the *British Medical Journal* and the *Journal of Evidence Based Health Policy*.

In 1999 she co-founded the company Bazian with Dr Vivek Muthu, as a mechanism for working with governments and private institutions to enable evidence-based health care.

In 2007 Anna discovered that her breast cancer, diagnosed four years earlier, had returned. She confronted her terminal illness with enormous courage, writing regular blog entries for the *British Medical Journal* on her responses to the disease. In one of her early entries, she noted that “having a life threatening illness is very bad” but it can also be “a surprisingly positive thing; it makes you concentrate in a joyful sort of way on how to make every moment count”.

Anna is remembered fondly by many members of The Women’s College community and, at the Louisa Macdonald Dinner and Oration on 29 May 2009, the College was pleased to present a Special Acknowledgement of her life and work to her husband, Mr Michael Hall.

Sources: Peter Brew-Bevan, *Good Weekend* 16 August 2008; Malcolm Brown, *Sydney Morning Herald* 13 February 2009.

**Elizabeth Laurie**  
(GAVEL: 1948–51) BA

18 July 2008

Elizabeth (Betty) Rosemary Laurie attended New England Grammar School (NEGS) from 1941–47. In her final year she was both Dux and Senior Prefect. She then completed her arts degree at Sydney University, studying English, music and philosophy.

In 1953 she married Bruce Laurie. Their marriage was a long and happy one producing three children, Thea, Alex and David, and eight grandchildren. They made their first home near Mullaey, later



moving to a grazing property just outside Armidale and finally to the Manilla/Tamworth district.

Over a period of 40 years Betty was a member – and often secretary, treasurer and president – of many organisations including the NEGS Old Girls Union, NEGS Missionary Union, Presbyterian Women’s Association, Manilla Branch National Party, Manilla Red Cross, Manilla CWA, Hallsville Red Cross, PROBUS and Manilla Meals on Wheels.

She completed a number of technical courses, including one in adult literacy, after which she went on to teach reading and writing. She enjoyed cryptic crosswords.

At age 60 she obtained her private unrestricted pilot’s licence, becoming Tamair’s oldest female student. Later in life she was involved in researching family history.



**Patricia Love**  
(MILLS: 1939–42)  
BA DipEd

*25 March 2008*

Patricia Hessel Mills grew up in Newcastle, where she attended Newcastle Girls’

High School. As a student in the Faculty of Arts at Sydney University she resided at The Women’s College for four years.

She readily took up both academic and sporting challenges, serving on College committees and captaining the University’s First Grade hockey team which led to her obtaining a University Blue in 1942.

Following graduation with a BA DipEd, she taught history and English at Temora High School from 1943 to 46.

She is particularly remembered for her very entertaining Gilbert and Sullivan productions by students and staff, as well as her stylish appearance.

It was while she was teaching at Cessnock High between 1946 and 53, and during a weekend tennis match, that she met Jack Milton Wallace Love (John Love), a solicitor in Newcastle. They married in 1951 and had two daughters, Julia and Anne.

Patricia’s enthusiastic, determined and creative spirit led her into voluntary work with intellectually impaired children and psychiatric patients.

She continued to inspire others by becoming a teacher of lip-reading as well as a croquet coach, leaving her mark on many people’s lives.

Patricia’s granddaughter Lisa Kennedy entered College as a fresher in 2009.



**Sue Anne Watson**  
(THYNNE: 1958–61)  
BA Dip Ed MPhil(Ed)

*5 January 2009*

Sue’s early life in Tamworth, NSW, with the loss of her mother when she was three years

old, set the foundation for one of her passions later in life: attachment theory in human development.

She came to The Women’s College on a Teachers College Scholarship to pursue an arts degree and obtain her DipEd. She taught, then travelled overseas and returned home to marry New Zealand vet Peter Watson. For some years Sue was busy raising her three daughters – Elizabeth, Joanne and Fleur – and being a chicken farmer, but returned to teaching whenever she was able.

In 1988 she moved to Palmerston North to study part time at Massey University towards a master’s degree while teaching in the prison system. Her MPhil(Ed) was conferred in 1993. In 1994 she was appointed a full-time tutor in the Human Development Department at Massey.

She travelled to Canada, France, Norway and Portugal to meet her research colleagues from around the world and started work on her PhD on attachment theory. She was three weeks short of handing in her thesis when she died suddenly but peacefully on 5 January 2009 at home.

She was enjoying the start of her retirement and was very actively involved with the Te Whare Akonga Open Learning Centre in Palmerston North as well as supervising some extramural students. As an adjunct to her studies she became concerned about the removal of six-month old infants from their mothers within the prison system. She lobbied the New Zealand government with data and submissions and had the satisfaction of seeing the law changed so children could only be removed at two years of age.

Through the wonders of Skype, she remained close to her three daughters and grandchildren even as they spread around the world. Just last year, at her 50 year College reunion, she urged everyone present to write their “narrative story” – another of her passions – and promised to collate them for publication. She had many plans.

*Testimonial by Sue’s College friend  
Bip Peken.*

# Staying connected

NEWS FROM SOME OF OUR ALUMNAE



Nora Syed Abu Bakar (2005–06), Phoebe Loxton (2003–05), Robyn Jones (2003–05), Kate Treloar (2003–05), Elizabeth Golland (2003–05) at the Louisa Macdonald Oration dinner in May.

## 40s

### Suzanne Hayes

(JACOBS: 1943–45) BA London

Suzanne has retired after a career in adult education and broadcasting. She has worked in volunteer broadcasting in retirement, and recently moved to Canberra.

## 60s

### Heather Buchanan

(MAXWELL: 1960–62) BA

Heather has retired as an office manager and teacher of modern history. She has three children and eight grandchildren.

### Marg Carroll

(HAMILTON: 1966–67) BA M (Town and Country Planning) GradDip (Social Ecology)

Marg recently published *Reinventing the Bush – inspiring stories of young Australians* (ABC Books 2008). The book is dedicated to her Women's College friend Jan Howe, who passed away in 2002 from a brain tumour. Marg has set up an annual grant – the 'Reinventing the Bush

Donation Account', under the umbrella of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal – to help young people pursue community development projects in rural Australia (see [www.reinventingthebush.com](http://www.reinventingthebush.com)).

### Rosemary Chatterley

(MONK: 1962)

Rosemary worked as a nurse in London and Scotland before moving to Ottawa, Canada. She is now retired and enjoying her four grandchildren.

## 70s

### Jane OAKESHOTT

(1979–83) BA LLB DipEd

Jane has returned to Sydney University after a stint working in executive recruitment, and has been appointed Client Engagement Manager in the University's new business initiative, Sydney Talent ([www.sydneytalent.com.au](http://www.sydneytalent.com.au)). She has three teenage children.

## 80s

### James RIGNEY

(1981–90) BA MA GradDip(Lib&Inf Sc)

James was appointed Dean of Newcastle Cathedral in March 2009. He was previously Chaplain and tutor at Magdalene College Cambridge.

### Jane SPRING

(1985–87) BEc LLB

In October 2008 Jane received an Honorary Fellowship from the University of Sydney for services to rowing.

## 90s

### Karla Morison

(VENNELL: 1998–99) BAppSc (Speech Pathology)

Karla is working in Dublin, Ireland for St Michael's House, a service for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Her son Hugo was born in 2007.

### Priscilla WINDEYER

(1999–2001) BA(Econ)

Priscilla has been living in New York for the past four years, working for the Bank of America.

# Women's Education Worldwide Conference

6–8 January 2010

## *Empowering Women: The Economic Imperative*

The Women's College is hosting the international conference for Women's Education Worldwide – an organisation of women educators with members in 51 countries. Female students are encouraged to attend.

Conference themes:

- Education in Australia/NSW – devising ways to empower women.
- Women in education – empowering our organisations and communities.
- Workplace environments – enhancing women's educational/training equity outcomes.
- Literacy and empowerment – meeting the needs of all women.
- Building expertise – facilitating empowerment through professional and alumnae networks.
- Empowering young women – identifying new educational and leadership pathways (youth strand).

A social program including a cocktail party, dinner, BBQ, publication launch, tour of Sydney and other events will accompany the conference program.

Business involvement:

- satchel inserts
- exhibition booths
- sponsorship
- in-kind support.

Sponsorship funds will be available to help disadvantaged women come to the conference. Our priority is to support women and female students who live in regional or remote Australia or in 'third world' communities.

For more details about sponsorship, contact Jacinta Walpole, Marketing and Fundraising Manager on **9517 5008** or email **community@thewomenscollege.com.au**

### **Conference registration:**

Individual bookings can be made online at: **www.thewomenscollege.com.au/wew-2010-conference.php**

## 00s

**Pallavi AGRAWAL**  
(2004–06) BEng

Pallavi is working as an environmental adviser as part of her three-year graduate program for Woodside Energy. She moved to Perth in February 2008 to take up the position.

**Elizabeth AMES**  
(2007–08) BA DML (French) MIntS

Elizabeth has started the graduate program in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra.

**Jacqui BROCKER**  
(2002–05) BA BInfo

Jacqui is working in university administration in Cambridge, England, and is writing a novel.

**Amy BROWN**  
(2005–08) BA(Hons I)

Amy is working for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Canberra, in its graduate program. In 2008 she won the inaugural student essay contest of the Society for Medieval Feminist Studies, based at Minot State University, USA.

**Sarah Gavel**  
(LINNEGAR: 2002–04) BA BCom

Sarah is Relationship Manager Corporate and Community Partnerships for Mission Australia. She was married in March 2009.

**Felicity GRAHAM**  
(2003-06) BA LLB

Felicity recently accepted a job in Dubbo working as a solicitor in criminal law for the Aboriginal Legal Service.

**Margaux HARRIS**  
(2003–07) BA(Hons I)/LLB

Margaux will attend Oxford University in 2009/2010 to read for a Master of Studies in Film Aesthetics, a new interdisciplinary course in Oxford's Modern Languages Department with French, English, music and philosophy, at St Anne's College.

**Meg PARSONS**  
(2005–08) PhD

Meg graduated with her doctorate in History in June this year, and is working as an historian for the Waitangi Tribunal in Wellington, New Zealand.

**Wen-Qin QIU**  
(2004–07) BCom Lib Studies

Wen-Qin recently relocated to Macquarie Bank's Hong Kong office where she will be working as an analyst in the corporate finance division for the next two years.

**Victoria TODD**  
(2001–05) BEc, LLB(Hons I)  
GradDip(Leg Prac)

Victoria is moving to Canberra to take up a position with the Directorate of Military Administrative Law with the Department of Defence. She will start her LLM at ANU in 2010.

# EVENTS calendar

## ALUMNAE AGM

Saturday 1 August 2009,  
with luncheon in the Main  
Common Room.

## WOMEN'S COLLEGE

### WRITERS' FESTIVAL:

### WRITING FROM THE SELF

Saturday 22 August 2009.

## WOMEN IN LAW DINNER

Friday 28 August 2009.

## SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

### OPEN DAY

Saturday 29 August 2009.

The Women's College will  
be open for tours. Guests  
are welcome to come to the  
Principal's Concert at 4pm  
in the Main Common Room  
at the College.

## FATHER DAUGHTER DINNER

Saturday 12 September 2009.

Invitations will be sent early  
in Semester Two.

## WISTERIA LUNCHEON

Sunday 20 September 2009.

For alumnae who entered  
The Women's College in  
1969 and before.

## 1979 FRESHER

### REUNION WEEKEND

(including surrounding years)

Saturday 28 and Sunday

29 November 2009

For details of all events,  
see the website

[www.thewomenscollege.com.au/alumnae.php](http://www.thewomenscollege.com.au/alumnae.php)

Or contact Jacinta Walpole

Phone: +61 2 9517-5008

Email [community@thewomenscollege.com.au](mailto:community@thewomenscollege.com.au)

All events take place at The  
Women's College unless  
otherwise stated.

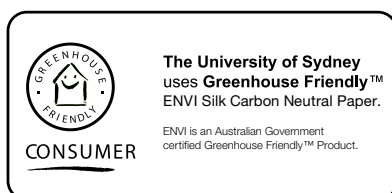


**THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE**  
WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

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Principal Dr Jane Williamson with  
2009 House Committee Executive  
Harriet Dixon-Smith (Secretary),  
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Edwina Tidmarsh (President).

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