



# Otago Girls' High School Alumni Association

# Principal's Report

As the Otago Girls' High School Alumni Association enters its fourth year I have been reflecting upon the objectives of the Association and I feel we are well on track with most of these. One of the key objectives is "To foster a spirit of loyalty and warm relations among alumni and the current School Community".



Over the past four years we have seen an increasing number of ex-students and often their descendants "pop-in" to school to get a feeling for their Alma Mater or familiarise themselves with the environment where their mother, grandmother or great grandmother was educated. Without exception, these guests, usually arriving without notice, have gone away overwhelmed by the reception they have received. A tour of the school is always on offer to them, and there are many chances to reminisce with current staff and students and to sit in my office without fear of retribution! Some bring memorabilia they want to return to the school and all leave with memorabilia from the school. In recent months we have had an ex-girl pack available for such visitors (see page 4 of this newsletter). This was instigated by our Public Relations prefect Eliza Booth and has proven very popular.

Many guests feel conscious that they are taking up the time of school staff but the connections we make with such visitors continues to build the wider network of links we have with our ex-girls both locally and internationally, so it is time we give gladly.

Some visitors are very memorable, such as 100 year old Molly Brown or the English couple who were touring New Zealand and stopped to take a photo of the school their mother had attended. After a tour, they were able to be provided with digital images of their mother during her time here in the 1930s. This was the first time they had seen her in a school photo.

Recently we hosted a school tour for the Class of '83 who were gathering in Dunedin for a weekend reunion. A number of their teachers from that time also came to school to meet them. Any groups planning a reunion gathering should contact the school, as a tour and the use of our facilities is always available to you. Such gatherings foster another Alumni objective, "To keep alive friendships made at the school and to provide opportunities for social interaction among

alumni".

Our Alumni newsletter is published three times a year, along with a section in the school's Mid Year Report. These newsletters profile ex-girls from various school decades and cover different aspects of the school's history as well as keeping our members up to date with what is currently happening at Otago Girls'. We encourage you to keep us informed of ex-girl achievements of which you are aware and also to keep us updated with any changes in your contact details, to ensure that you keep receiving these newsletters.

The Alumni Association continues to have contact with the various Ex-Girl branches that are in existence throughout the country and we are grateful for the contributions many of them make to the school, especially on Library Day. Sadly however, these branches are dwindling in number due to aging members and problems attracting younger ex-girls.

As a school we enjoy following the successes of ex-students on the global stage. Recently we installed our first board featuring prominent ex-girls from the early era of our school's iconic history. More recent successes such as Kelly Brazier's silver medal in Sevens Rugby at the Rio Olympics are also closely followed by our current students. Our school Facebook page is used to profile ex-students "in the news" and these posts often create lengthy discussions among ex-girls as well as promoting their interest in the school - another of the Association's objectives. Facebook does span the generations - in 1948 ex-girl Ngaire Lane (now Galloway) represented New Zealand at the London Olympics, and when a video of her training on board ship enroute to London was recently posted on our Facebook page, Ngaire, now in her 90s, responded with "I loved that school and have very fond memories of my time there. It is still the best of the best". If you are a Facebook user I do encourage you to reconnect with your school if you haven't already done so (<https://www.facebook.com/otagogirlshighschool/>).

Distinguished Alumni have also been recognised since the establishment of the Association with the establishment of our House system in 2014. Named after ex-girls (Allan, Benjamin, Cruickshank and Williams) their names are now in daily use at Otago Girls' High School.

In April we celebrated the opening of Te Toi Aweawe - The Cartwright Arts Centre. This was an opportunity for all Alumni members to join us in celebrating this special occasion and we were delighted that a number of you took up the invitation to attend. We were also

honoured to have ex-girl Dame Silvia Cartwright with us to celebrate the opening of the Centre, named after her in recognition of the support she has given to the school over many decades. Dame Silvia donated her personal medals to us last year, and displayed in the foyer, these are a constant reminder to current students of the path her illustrious career followed.

At Waitangi Weekend 2021 we will celebrate the prestigious 150 year history of our school. Our students beginning at Otago Girls' next year will be the Year 13 students at the time of the Celebration and they will be playing an integral part in the events and the planning of them. I encourage you all to get your friends and acquaintances signed up for the Celebrations by joining the Association (<http://www.otagogirls.school.nz/alumni/otago-girls-alumni-association>) and please share this newsletter with them to extend our global network.

The one objective that was always going to be a challenge for the Association was obtaining financial support. Alumni financial contributions are generally regarded as an indicator of the ex-students esteem for their school, but sadly for us it tends to be ex-students from private or male schools that excel in donating to their Association. I acknowledge that making a financial contribution to your Alma Mater may be out of the question but I encourage those of you who are able to contribute to do so, thus enabling the Association to continue to carry out its goals.

Linda Miller  
President OGHS Alumni Association  
Principal

## Historical Panels Financial Help Needed

The Alumni Association has arranged the production of the first three historic panels which are displayed around the school. The first board featured the Foundation of the School and was sponsored by the Alumni Association, the second on uniforms by Midway Motors, and the most recent one on early prominent ex-girls by the Christchurch Branch of OGHS Ex-Girls.

We have three more in the pipeline but these won't happen until we find sponsors or donors for the \$850 per board that we require. If you would like to sponsor a Board or make a contribution towards one please contact the Association.



*Ex-Girl panel sponsored by Christchurch Branch of Ex-Girls.*



*Ex-students from the Class of '83 visiting Otago Girls' in August.*

## Ex-girl correspondence

We always love hearing about ex-girls of the school. Recently I received this delightful email from Lorraine Ovington with regards her mother (pictured at right) who was a pupil at OGHS from 1930 to 1934.

*I am the second daughter of Marjorie Nance Wilson (nee Wood), who attended OGHS in the early 1930s. After sorting through the family books recently, I realise she was often top of the class and Dux in 1934. She also received the Anna P. Logan Stout Challenge Cup for "Best All Round Girl" in 1933. The silver cup is tiny and has been kept in the family since our mother passed away in 1972. I have only discovered its significance recently.*

*She was born in Christchurch on 23 August 1916. The Wood family subsequently moved to Dunedin when her father Norman Wood took up a position there. I attach photos of the dainty cup and of Marjorie in the OGHS school uniform, courtesy of my cousin Jocelyn Harris (nee Wood). Perhaps they will add a little bit of history to your collection.*

*Warm regards,  
Lorraine Wilson Ovington*



Majorie Nance Wilson



The miniature of the Anna P Logan Stout Challenge Cup awarded to Majorie for Best All Round Girl in 1934. This trophy (of which the miniature is a replica) is still presented today.



## OGHS ex-girl packs for visitors to our school.

Public relations Prefect Eliza Booth has created some packs for ex-girls who come to visit Otago Girls' High School. We love having ex-students call in at any time and we are always available to give you a tour of the school.

Unfortunately due to postage costs the packs cannot be posted out to ex-students.

**Congratulations to ex-girl Lucia Stettner (OGHS 2009 - 2013) who recently won a bronze medal at the Under 21 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships.**

### Gymfrocks wanted

If you are still in possession of your gymfrock, blazer or hat from your days at OGHS and feel you could part with it, please contact the Association. We would love more to add to our collection.

## Congratulations to ex-girl Kelly Brazier on winning a silver medal in the Rugby Sevens at Rio - our 13th Olympian.

OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL	
OLYMPIC REPRESENTATIVES	
<i>Beati Calixti Spiritus Reliquiae</i>	
1928	Kathleen Miller, Swimming
1948	Ngairi Lane, Swimming
1952	Jean Stewart, Swimming - Bronze Medal
1952	Yvette Williams, Athletics - Gold Medal
1956	Jean Stewart, Swimming
1976	Alison Calder, Swimming
1988	Jan Shearer, Sailing
1992	Jenny Armstrong, Sailing
1992	Jan Shearer, Sailing - Silver Medal
1996	Jan Shearer, Sailing
2000	Jenny Armstrong, Sailing - Gold Medal, Australia
2000	Elizabeth van Welle, Swimming
2004	Jenny Armstrong, Sailing - Australia
2008	Suzannah Bates, Basketball
2008	Lisa Daniels, Synchronised Swimming
2008	Nina Daniels, Synchronised Swimming
2008	Nina Rillstone, Marathon
2016	Kelly Brazier, Rugby Sevens - Silver Medal

The updated Olympians Board with the Kelly Brazier's name recently added.



## OGHS Third Form Lunch Revisited

Last week when Jane Smallfield emailed me to write a short profile for the Newsletter, I had just returned from a 3S,1953, lunch get-together. I decided that email was serendipitous, so instead of writing about me, it will be about this small Christchurch based group of Ex-Girls 63 years on!

When we reached our 50 years since school days anniversary, a group of us got together in Dunedin, and had a wonderful time visiting old haunts, endeavouring to walk up View St (unsuccessfully) and generally catching up on our varied and interesting lives. Now, from time to time, when one or other of our class group visits Christchurch, Jennifer McKinnon, who is a "star" at keeping in touch, organises us to come together for a lunch in a nice quiet café (we love quiet cafes now !!). We thoroughly enjoy catching up with each other and very easily slip back into that relaxed rapport that exists when you are with people you have known forever!

So, we greet each other with the usual "How are you?" and "Are you well?" Last week, straight away we roared into an hilarious conversation, free of all restraint, about pills and potions, hearing aids and glasses, hips and knees (and the occasional shoulder) and inevitably the cost of looking after our teeth (Pam Ayers, you were so right there!!), and even the "joys" of prolapses and other descending parts, and of course that erratic memory for keys, names, and where we left the car!! It was when we were in hysterics about all this talk, that Joan Webster (nee Richardson) pondered "I wonder what our Third Form selves would have made of this conversation and did we ever imagine getting old?"

We then went on to talk about the world that we lived in and how different it was from the world the teens of today live in. None of us remember ever being bullied, or ridiculed by other girls, and although our memories are selective, we know that we, as a group of girls were so supportive and close to each other. The friendships we forged at OGHS are still with us today and are as strong as ever. We share so much. We remember the people and places in Dunedin that were the backdrop of our lives. We remember what each others mother looked like, the streets where we lived, and most of all we have such clear memories of OGHS, and what that school gave to us as we ventured forth into the big world, as confident young women.

So 63 years on, we creak and groan a lot more, and have survived the ups and downs of life, (not to mention the shaking up of Christchurch) but as the six of us sat around that lunch table, we realised that we haven't changed fundamentally, and we share something that is so very precious and irreplaceable.

The six of us at lunch were, Joan Webster (nee Richardson), Judy Lindsay (nee Long), Jan Palmer (nee Ritchie) Jennifer McKinnon, Catherine Goodger (nee Wright) and me. Norma Elcock (nee Muir) usually joins us but wasn't able to be there last week.

Anne Malcolm (nee Salmond)



Some of the lunch group members. L-R: Jennifer McKinnon, Joan Webster, Anne Malcolm, and Jan Palmer.

### Gathering for all ex-girls Friday 24 February 2017 5.00pm to 8.00pm

Please mark this date in your diary and tell your OGHS friends that the OGHS Alumni Association will be hosting a function for all ex-girls on the evening of Friday 24 February next year. It will be a chance to catch up with other ex-girls over drinks and food, have a tour of the school, and hear about plans for the 150th to be held in 2021. There will be more details in the December newsletter.

### Keen to visit Otago Girls' High School?

Otago Girls' High School is delighted to welcome ex-girls who are visiting Dunedin to call into the school - you are always welcome and we will find the time to show you around and answer your questions.

We also welcome hearing from any groups that want to organise a reunion and use the school as a base for their celebrations. We are happy to help host these events over a weekend. If we can help you in any way contact Jane Smallfield at [sd@otagogirls.school.nz](mailto:sd@otagogirls.school.nz)

## Greetings to the OGHS Rugby players.

My name is Margaret Thomlinson (nee Wilkinson) and I attended OGHS from 1955 to 1959. I returned as a teacher for one year in 1964.

The fantastic Silver Medal gained by ex OGHS pupil Kelly Brazier and the New Zealand women's sevens at the Rio Olympics brought back memories of probably the first ever game of Rugby played by OGHS pupils. This took place in 1959.

That year's seventh form decided to go on a weekend tramp in the Silver Peaks. We planned to tramp to Green Hut and then on over Silver Peak to Jubilee Hut before returning through Waitati and back to Dunedin by bus. Unfortunately we were struck by a south-westerly storm as we headed up over the peak, knocking us off our feet and threatening the less well endowed members with hypothermia.

We reached Jubilee Hut safely but decided that instead of venturing up onto the tops again we should head out to Hindon and phone for parents to come and collect us.

It felt like quite a long way so at the end of the track we very happy to accept a lift on the back of a farmers truck to Hindon Station. After organising a pick up from parents at the Hindon Railway Station we requested a lift to there. This was agreed to on

one proviso - that we played the curtain raiser before a rugby match that day between Hindon and Lower Lee Stream!!

As this didn't seem to be all that unreasonable we agreed. We made a cairn of our packs for the parents to see at the junction of the road to the station and the rugby field and duly took to the field against the might of Hindon's team. If we thought they would be easy on us we were sorely disappointed and I can distinctly remember being hit on the head and jumped on my back. Our very elegant principal, Miss Fitzgerald would have been horrified at the spectacle of her trusted senior pupils behaving in such a way - we had struggled to get her to allow us to form cricket team as she even considered that game unladylike!!

We lost but stayed on to watch Lees Stream beat Hindon. They thought we should then play them as an after match but we gracefully declined.

Our parent rescuers hadn't turned up so we returned to the railway station where we found them waiting. They had missed our cairn and were none too pleased when they heard what we had been up to.

All the best for future games and I hope that Kelly Brazier does manage to get to your Sports Awards in the future.

Margaret Thomlinson  
Wanaka



Margaret Thomlinson took this photo of the 1959 7th Form on a day trip to Boulder Beach later that year. Married names in brackets.

Back Row - Caroline Cotton (Bennett), Patricia Bell (Sutherland), Patricia Walsh (Holborow), Judith Sloan (Medlicott), Bobby Meldrum (not known) and Maureen Devitt (Cleugh) Front Row - Jenny Walsh (Scott), Lenore Bussell (Strang) and Jenepher McKague (Read).

## Ex-Girl Profile

### Belinda Pflaum (nee Davie)

#### OGHS (2000-2004)

As a student, I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do once I left school. I remember thinking I'd go to uni and study psychology, it seemed like a good default at the time. That was up until September of my 7th form (Year 13) year at OGs.



I made a (retrospectively very low brow) short film in my media studies class which received the Oscar equivalent among the other films shown at our school screening on the night. I thought to myself, surely I could do this as a 'job'. So when a representative from the New Zealand Broadcasting School came by advertising the school I applied. The interview went terribly I thought, and I accepted I would not make their class of 2005. However, though I felt the odds were against me, I was fortunate to be offered a place in the class and moved to Christchurch a few weeks later. I studied towards a Bachelor of Broadcasting Communications, a mix of practical and theory TV and film training where the students in the class of roughly 20 do it all under the guidance of tutors from the film and TV industry.

One of my first jobs in the industry was a Production Assistant on KidZone and Action Central. I had a great time, the crew was heaps of fun to work with and we shared a lot of laughs. Since then, I've worked mostly in production on commercials, music videos, short and feature films, most recently in the production office of Ghost in the Shell, whose lead actress is Scarlett Johansson, at Stone St Studios in Wellington. I am back in Christchurch about to start another film and I am beginning to develop my own projects.

## Ex-Girl Profile

### Sophie Dunn

#### OGHS (2006-2010)

After leaving Otago Girls' I moved to Palmerston North to pursue my goal of becoming a vet. It is something I had wanted to do since childhood and, with the help of some great teachers at OGHS, I developed a passion for the sciences. In early 2011, I began the competitive pre vet course at Massey University.



It was a difficult semester requiring a solid work ethic and good time management. I found it extremely hard to give up all my competitive sports that I was so involved with at school. Luckily, it was all worth it and I made it through into the professional BVSc programme. I really enjoyed my time at Massey and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities outside of the core curriculum. These included a volunteer trip to the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador and working as a volunteer vet in Rarotonga without the full range of drugs and equipment which we have access to in New Zealand. I also became a student ambassador, speaking to Year 13s student across the country (including OGHS) about life as a Massey student. I managed to get back into netball and canoe polo but these had to be played at a social level in latter years. The degree was very challenging at times but there was a great social aspect which balanced things out. In my third year we celebrated halfway through the degree by going skydiving in Taupo. In my final year I travelled all over New Zealand doing placements in a range of different vet clinics.

After finishing vet school, I moved home to Dunedin and worked for a short time as a locum in Mosgiel clinic. In March this year, I moved to Te Aroha where I now work in a great mixed animal practice. Here I work with large animals (predominantly dairy cows) and companion animals. I love the variety of work which ensures every day is different. Being a vet is both a challenging and rewarding job and I am lucky to have had the encouragement and support through school and university to achieve my childhood ambitions.

## Ex-Girl Profile

### Aslina Steel

#### OGHS (2001-2005)

After finishing at Otago Girls' High School I went to the University of Otago to study a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Environmental Management. While attending OGHS I was always intrigued by the interaction of people and international relations so when I left school I always



had hopes of joining the United Nations. In 2010 I took on a six month contract in Sudan with a mine action and bomb Disposal Company The Development Initiative (TDI), a United Nations Contractor. I was based in Khartoum where my role was mainly focused on the deployment of mine action teams and the deployment of assets. I then returned home to complete Post Graduate study in Peace and Conflict Studies. In 2012 I returned to Africa to head up TDI's Nairobi Office and work on projects in the East African region. My main project was in Somalia and also on projects in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Mali. In this role I was often faced with working in arduous environments and often conflict zones.



TDI was contracted by UNOPS in 2012 to provide a range of mine action services including Mine Risk Education (MRE) in two provinces in South Central Somalia. Four two-person teams were recruited from the local area and trained in the delivery of mine risk education. During the fifteen month project, the TDI MRE teams delivered MRE to 137,609 individuals over 4,867 sessions. One of the highlights in my job was teaching the local community about MRE. What was even more of a highlight was the fact that a lot of our teams were run by local women. It was great to see them being trained in an often male dominated field of work and working to help their own communities. I have recently taken a break from all my adventures and returned to Dunedin. I am currently working for Dimension Data as part of a Project Management team delivering the University of Otago's Network Upgrade Programme.

My partner and I are hoping to return to Africa in the near future and set up not for profit organization that focuses on education and sport for children and teenagers.

## Jock Murley retiring from Otago Girls' after 42 years.

At the end of this year Otago Girls' will be farwelling popular long time staff member and current Deputy Principal Jock Murley.



Jock started teaching at Otago Girls' in 1975 and has been here for the 42 years since then.

If you would like to send a message to Jock to be read at his retirement dinner we would love to hear from you. The messages can be sent to [sd@otagogirls.school.nz](mailto:sd@otagogirls.school.nz)

We will include a follow up story with more details about Jock in the December issue of the Alumni newsletter.



*Jock in c1976 with colleague Yvonne Dennison.*

### Add your memories to the school website

Under the Alumni section of the school website there is now a place to add your memories of your time of school. We would love to start gathering these to use for the 150th reunion. Please visit our the website and send us some of your memories from your time at Otago Girls' High School. [www.otagogirls.school.nz](http://www.otagogirls.school.nz)

# Yvonne Dennison

Yvonne Dennison (nee Fulton), OGHs ex-girl (1939-1943), (OGHS teacher 1964-1991), OGHs Deputy Principal (1974-1991), Convenor of the OGHs 150th Celebrations held in 1996, died in Brisbane on 18 June 2016 aged 89.

A Memorial Service for Yvonne will be held at St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin at 11.00am on Thursday, 29 September 2016. The following obituary was provided by her family.



*Yvonne Dennison with her husband Jack soon after her retirement in 1991.*

## Obituary

Yvonne Ellen Fulton was born in Palmerston North to William and Ludovica on 14 November 1926. Ludovica had come to England as a Red Cross nurse after the death of her husband in the Belgian army. There she had first met "Bill" when she was nursing him after his having been gassed. They married, and she came out to New Zealand with "everything she would need." Yvonne remarked, "Her family imagined Mum would be cooking food around the hot pools with Maori servants to do all the household duties!"

One of three girls, Yvonne was the youngest, and perhaps the favourite of her dad. "After two girls, my father wanted a boy, and brought me up to do all the things boys did. We had an Alsatian dog that towed me round in my little bobby cart." After her retirement, Yvonne revealed something that resonates with the military heritage of her father and his side of the family: "If I have a secret dream, it is to be commander of the tank corps. There am I, standing in the lead tank. When I sweep my arm to the left, the column goes left, and when I sweep it to the right, it goes right!"

Yvonne started at Otago Girls' as a student, in February of the year in which WWII broke out. She spent five years at the school and her academic record when she left noted: "Excellent to good" attendance, conduct, diligence, and progress. She remembered: "There were constant drills in case the Japanese landed. We would be marched up to the Town belt above Otago Boys' and commanded to hide in the bush. At the all-clear whistle, we were meant to make our way back to school. The problem was that not every girl actually did!" In the holidays of 1942, she was conscripted to work in the Public Library Service, and a year later was "transferred" to the children's library.

In 1947, Yvonne gained her certificate of teaching (later

upgraded by the Department of Education to Diploma) from Dunedin Training College. Janet Frame was in her cohort of students. Shortly afterwards she received her BA from Otago University, then a college of the University of New Zealand.

John Scott Dennison, "Jack", who already had a science degree, was back from the war doing an MA in History and English. Yvonne, typically strategic, looked for the students who took the best notes, and sat between them. Jack was to become her life-long friend and love.

Initially, Yvonne was employed as a specialist teacher, "Education Officer", attached to training colleges to show children the use of museums – these played a large part in educating children then – more than 30,000 pupil hours per year were spent in these repositories of artifacts and knowledge. All her life she would visit museums and art galleries around the world.

One of Yvonne's hobbies was archeology especially ancient history before the coming of Maori. This passion for archeology continued through life. With Jack, she went touring during their retirement, and Yvonne usually knew as much or more than the local tour guides.

The post-war 50's were the boom years and it was then that Peter, Paul, and Jennifer were born. Yvonne was an unusual mother for those times. She believed in the "D Factor" and sought to instill resilience into all her children. Creativity and ordered chaos abounded. The dining room table would be a house, a castle, a pirate ship, a plane... rugs, cushions, and apple boxes filled the domestic spaces for days. The Arthur Mee encyclopaedias were well worn. She was a great supporter of Play Centre, becoming president of the Maori Hill branch and, soon of the whole Otago region.

The extended family met most weekends for picnics on a Saturday - often at Outram or Karitane, or for afternoon tea on Sunday with the best china, sponge cakes, and dressed rather formally. Guy Fawkes was the occasion of a special gathering, wet or fine, with the spinners, rockets, jumping jacks, bangers, and sparklers.

1957 was a life-changing 12 months. Jack had been awarded a Fullbright scholarship that enabled the family to live in America for one year on a teacher exchange, in Springfield MASS, the city that most of us know as "the home of Simpsons". After the post-war constraints and conformities of New Zealand society, it was like a large open space "where one could breathe again"- a 'can do' culture brimming with prosperity and technical innovation. Women were treated "as if our opinions counted" at least in the circles that Yvonne and Jack moved in. Nothing would ever be the same for them again. For them both till they died, the wonderful generosity of the American people whom they loved would always outweigh whatever ideology and policies the government was pursuing.

The Sixty's were the decade Yvonne returned to employment as a teacher under Jack who was head of History, Geography, and Social studies at Otago Boys' High School. One former pupil remembered her name was

spoken of with affection by the boys of his class. However, her extraordinary classroom style became legendary after the following incident. It was 6th form English. She was sitting on the desk at the front with her stiletto heeled shoes dangling from her toes. Something, most likely a pupil, provoked her to suddenly swing one leg up with great force. The stiletto flew off, and impaled itself in the pin-board at the back of the classroom beside the head of a very startled boy. She commented, "I limped my way to the back of the room, pulled it out of the wall, put in on, and carried on teaching." The book was *Vanity Fair*.

In late 1963 she started her career at Otago Girls", and the next year she took up a permanent position in History and Social studies, later becoming Head of this discipline. A decade later in 1974, she became Deputy Principal, a position she retained until she retired at the end of 1991. Pupils there remember her as a, "wonderful teacher", always lively and smartly dressed enhanced by ever-changing jewellery. "She had a real human touch with classes and a sense of humour. She really cared about her subjects."

Yvonne served under three principals. The first wrote, "She is willing to devote time and energy to the solution of problems, particularly where girls are involved. She works with staff and pupils rather than directing their efforts...No one could question her involvement with the job, or her devotion over and above the line of duty. Besides being a most energetic teacher, Mrs Dennison has vision and a creative flair which carries her to the front of the field where programming and syllabus development is concerned. She is a good presence, and is both gracious and pleasant, at the same time she is competent and firm, and the fact is that she is a church-going Christian."

Yvonne was a baptized and confirmed Anglican. Her faith was deep and strong. Like Jack, she became stronger in prayer as she aged. Her 1988 Anglican prayer book is tatty with continual use. At the end, she was not afraid of dying, it was just "a little tedious" and she had her wish, "to die peacefully in her sleep".

Yvonne's generation wanted to build a society that

would be free and strong. She was involved in many organisations in the community including American Field Scholars, Anglican Women, Art Society, Commonwealth Society, Federation of University Women. She also served as President for the following organisations: Institute of Educational Research, Maori Hill Probus, Olveston, and Otago Ex-Girls' Association. She became a life-member of the latter following her leadership of the 125th anniversary celebrations.

The last four years of her life were lived near her daughter, Jennifer, in Brisbane where she died on the 18th June of this year.



Greta Firth (Principal 1985-1994) with Yvonne Dennison, 1991.

## OGHS 150th Celebrations- Waitangi Weekend 5-7 February 2021

Planning is already underway for our 150th Celebrations in 2021. You can help us out by making sure any ex-students or staff you know have registered their interest in this event. If you aren't already on our database you can go to the school website and enter your details on our Alumni page. Alternatively you can email us at [alumni@otagogirls.school.nz](mailto:alumni@otagogirls.school.nz)



Otago Girls' High School Alumni Association

41 Tennyson Street, Dunedin 9016

03 474 0496

<http://www.otagogirls.school.nz>

[alumni@otagogirls.school.nz](mailto:alumni@otagogirls.school.nz)



*This newsletter was compiled by Jane Smallfied on behalf of the OGHS Alumni Association.*