



Ut Prosim

WENONA SPRING 2011 EDITION

ENGAGE, LOVE
CHALLENGE, INSPIRE



From the Chair



NSW Governor Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO with Chair of the Wenona Board of Governors Dianna Crebbin at Wenona's 125th anniversary concert at Sydney Town Hall

In our 125th year of excellence in girls' education, the Wenona community has been delighted to welcome Dr Briony Scott as Principal at the start of this semester.

Dr Scott has a Masters and Doctorate in Education from the University of Sydney, where her study interests were girls' education; the utilisation of technology in the classroom; and non-government school funding policy.

Until commencing at Wenona, Dr Scott was Principal at Roseville College. Previously, she helped establish a new secondary school at Oxford Falls, and has worked as a computer systems analyst for Olivetti.

Briony Scott is a dynamic, inspiring educator, with an outstanding reputation for nurturing excellence in contemporary girls' education, and a commitment to community engagement and professional development.

For the past few years, Dr Scott has been a regular columnist on educational and parenting issues for *The North Shore Times*. She speaks frequently at community forums and conferences and is currently President of the Association of Heads of Independent Girls' Schools (AHIGS).

A strong leader, Dr Scott is well known for creating dynamic and supportive teaching environments, working closely with parents and former students, and winning the respect and engagement of students.

Symbols of office

At her induction, Dr Scott accepted Symbols of Office from representatives of all members of our community; staff, parents, old girls, and all students, both day girls and boarders.

These symbols included a book symbolising academic achievements and the continual pursuit of knowledge; a Bible, for the Christian values that are the foundation of Wenona's philosophy; a globe, representing the global nature of the Wenona community and the unlimited horizons of Wenona's Vision for our girls; and a candle, symbolising the strength of Wenona's motto, *Ut Prosim, that I may serve*, bringing light into darkness.

WENONA'S UT PROSIM:

Editor: Alison Handmer **Design:** Kudos Studio
Wenona School Ltd ACN 000 250 304 • CRICOS Provider Code 02275A
Address: 176 Walker Street North Sydney NSW 2060
Tel: 02 9955 3000 **Fax:** 02 9959 4460 **Website:** www.wenona.nsw.edu.au

Welcoming Dr Briony Scott

The Board was pleased to host a popular series of evenings at the Independent Theatre at which parents could meet Dr Scott and hear about her educational philosophy, to "engage, love, challenge and inspire" every student.

In her addresses, Dr Scott presented powerful arguments based on research literature which support her conviction that girls' schools are the best environments for educating girls to become healthy, independent, accomplished young women, empowered to make a valuable difference in the world.

Celebrating 125 years

In other news, against the ever present background hum of vibrant teaching and learning inside and outside classrooms, Wenona continues to celebrate its 125th anniversary in memorable fashion.

We were honoured that NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO graced us with her presence at the first of our two spectacular 125th anniversary concerts at the Sydney Town Hall.

In a letter congratulating our community, Professor Bashir described Wenona as "clearly one of the finest of the schools in New South Wales". "It is providing young people with the precious legacy of its history and an awareness of the joy of learning, and of serving," Professor Bashir has written.

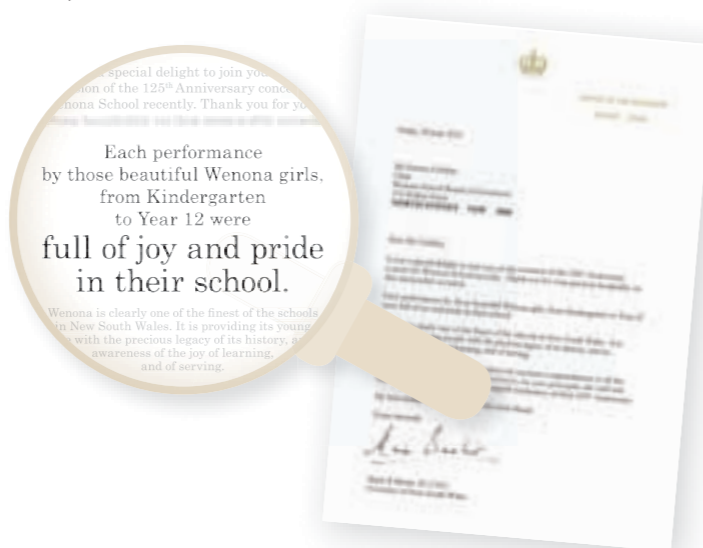
Every student has received a copy of the recently launched book *Ut Prosim that I may serve: Wenonians celebrate 125 years*, by historian and former principal Denise Thomas AM. (See page 17.)

We were also pleased to give thanks for the life of pioneering paediatrician the late Dr Judith Dey AO (1940), who, sadly, passed away earlier this year. Dr Dey's life of service inspires us all. (Please see pages 20 and 21.)

We warmly thank the many members of our far-reaching community, Wenonians and friends of all ages, whose memories and contributions, be they told or untold, continue to enrich Wenona.

Dianna Crebbin

Chair, Wenona Board of Governors



Cover:
Xian Ho and Charlotte Ritter of Year 5 at the Junior School inter-house netball competition. Photograph by Mr Dean Pomfret

From the Principal

The vision holds true

Dr Scott gave the following address at her induction with student leaders at St Thomas' Church earlier this semester.

It is wonderful to be able to gather together as a community. 2011 has been a milestone in the history of Wenona as we have celebrated 125 years of educating young women.

In this 125th year, we acknowledge the past, and give thanks for God's hand of blessing on our School. We thank Him for the founding principals, Miss Hooke, Miss Messiter and Miss Ralston, who had the strength of character and the vision, to see the benefits of investing in and educating young women, ensuring they have the skills and attitude to serve, and make a difference in their world.

For 125 years, their vision has held true. This baton has been passed from Board to Board, from principal to principal, from teacher to teacher, and from girl to girl.

We know that by accepting the baton, and choosing to run with it, we carry a great responsibility; responsibility to honour and guard the history of previous generations; responsibility to stay true to the values that have been dear to this School for over a century; and responsibility to preserve the underlying philosophy of the founding women.

But much as we acknowledge the past, history will not determine where we go from here or the school that we become. There is no magic wand that will set that direction for us. We hold the baton. We decide. In the words of Jeremiah, we stand at the crossroads and look; we ask for the ancient paths, we ask where the good way is, and we walk in it.

Today, as a community, we accept the baton, not for the purposes of holding onto and preserving the past at all costs. After all, schools are not museums and we are not curators. Schools are meant to be dynamic, and evolving. We are constantly looking for new ways to ensure our girls graduate as women ready to play an active role in today's society.

Our motto, *Ut prosim, that I may serve*, is a reminder to us of our purpose. Schools are not just about instructing and passing on facts. We are more than exams and ATARS and scaling. We are about educating; about developing young people to make wise, informed, thoughtful decisions about their life; and about ways they can contribute to make this world a better place.

Now, you might think this makes me idealistic and optimistic, and you'd be right, but I have good reason to be. I have witnessed the extraordinary accomplishments of young people who genuinely believe they can make a difference, and are empowered to do so; in their own world to start with, and over time, within our country and around the world; and we need them.

More than ever, we need to raise a generation who are not scared to lead, who are strong, who will stand up against injustice, who are intelligent and compassionate and proactive. Who will not stand on the sidelines and observe but who will serve, in whatever capacity they find themselves, speaking out loudly and clearly for a better world.

So as we stand here, in our 125th year, we celebrate and we give thanks for a strong history, and also for a wonderful, exciting future. We are thankful for this community; for those who stand prepared to serve in leadership roles, and for those who serve behind the scenes in their daily lives. Finally, we are thankful for every child, every parent, and every teacher at our School.

Congratulations to our new leadership team and a deep, heart-felt thanks to those who step aside after a year of faithful service.

Dr Briony Scott
Principal



Above: WPA President Emma Snodgrass (left) with Ella Cottee of Year 11, Head of Senior College Suzanne Kerr, Deputy Principal Dr Elizabeth Guy, Principal Dr Briony Scott, Deputy Principal Mrs Julie Wiseman, Chair of the Wenona Board of Governors Dianna Crebbin, Lucinda Priestley of Year 4, Head of Middle School Ms Carolyn Shaw, boarder Lily Scolari of Year 7 and Head of Junior School Mr David Browne at the induction of Dr Scott and school leaders

“More than ever, we need to raise a generation who are strong, intelligent, compassionate and proactive.”

WENONA
125
YEARS



"Sisters" in the rock concert medley



"I am woman" by Wenonians Inc members Michelle Sloane (1977), Jo Cunningham (Bates 1979), Lisa-Maree Montgomery (Golding 1981) and Merran Doyle (Bates 1980)



- 1. Above Right: Laura-Leigh Smith (2009) singing the Welsh national anthem
- 2. Opposite page (top right): Former Co-Principals, current Deputy Principals, Dr Elizabeth Guy and Mrs Julie Wiseman and cake cutters Esha Waller of Kindergarten and Sue Jenkins (Burt 1964)
- 3. Opposite page (circle): Christine Pan of Year 8



Behind the scenes with 125 events manager Mrs Naomi Young (top left)

Celebrate



What I loved about the 125th anniversary concerts

Isabel Zhang of Year 4: I enjoyed the rock concert medley because of the singing and dancing. I was on stage in Petite Voices, and it was really fun to do just what we wanted to do.

Mia Barham of Year 4: I liked the House song, *Song for the Mira*, because everyone was part of it.

Sarah Sang of Year 5: I loved the balloon drop, because we got to keep them. I saw them up there, and finally they dropped down!

Cate Carson of Year 6: I liked the glow sticks. The moment you cracked them, they were so bright and so cool, the coolest thing ever.

Bella Rooney of Year 6: I was onstage when it started and I really liked holding the candle.

Victoria Palmer of Year 5: Everybody was super happy when the balloons came down at the end.

Hope Feros of Year 5: I was in the Junior Choir, and I liked the rock concert and balloons.

Charlotte McAuley of Year 5: I liked all of it.

Tamsyn Navra of Year 5: I loved the fact we could all sing in front of such an audience.

Georgia Hopkins of Year 7: I loved it when the dancers and soloists performed.

Lottie Mellowes of Year 10: It was a great showcase of our community. We loved having the chance to do things we don't normally do and seeing other girls performing. It was breathtaking when all the choirs sang together.

Anna Marquard-Karp of Year 10: It was a really memorable event, and it was great because the whole community was involved, whether or not you had a specific talent.

Sophie Finch of Year 10: I was one of the pop-up actors, quoting a student from the past who was often naughty but learnt some valuable lessons and grew up to be a journalist. It was fantastic and a lot of fun.

Remy Williams of Year 10: It was a once in a lifetime experience, a really memorable event. We also loved the old girls' choir, singing *I am Woman*.

Claire Stulajter of Year 10: The concerts brought Wenona together as a community, especially the rock concert medley. Everyone was singing together and it was a really homely feeling.

Emma Turner of Year 6: The glow sticks brightened up the whole hall. When we sang the school song at the end and the balloons came down, it was a really great ending.

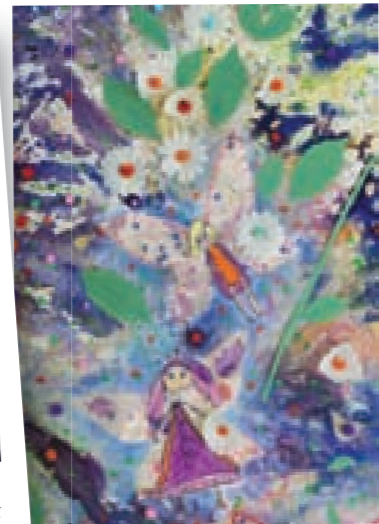
Imogen Gay of Year 6: I liked the whole concert. It might sound corny, but it made me feel proud of my school.

Emily Joyce of Year 6: I really liked the balloon drop at the end when everyone started laughing. I was trying to play my violin, with balloons falling on top of me.

Woodstock Infants



Kindergarten to Year 2 Coordinator Julie Collier with Chloe Clarke of Year 2 and chick



Woodstock students' fairies artwork helped raise about \$11,000 for the School



World Vision ambassadors Hi-5 at Wenona launching their Smiles Day catalogue

Learning journeys at Woodstock Infants

Girls have transitioned enthusiastically into Woodstock, opened earlier this year.

The aim at Woodstock Infants is to develop girls who have confidence in their own abilities, who can think for themselves, express their opinions and develop the skills to become independent learners.

"Woodstock is a vibrant and purposeful environment, rich in possibilities," said Kindergarten to Year 2 Co-ordinator Mrs Julie Collier.

"The girls are continually invited to undertake extended exploration and solve problems in our flexible learning environment.

"Our learning journey has been wide and varied, with the girls

embracing new challenges, discovering new information and making sense of their world."

Visitors have included Hi-5 and World Vision launching their Smiles catalogue, North Sydney Mayor Genia McCaffery, Indigenous story teller and author Monty Pryor, fathers on Father's Day, both parents at Snapshots of Learning sessions, and boarders and other older students such as reading buddies.

Woodstock girls have also had many opportunities in our 125th year to see themselves as part of the wider school community.

"The learning pathway takes many twists and turns and we have had many positive outcomes this year. Journeys are shaped by different experiences and remembered for various highlights along the way."



Bella Wilson of Year 5 with Ineke Jones of Year 2

Year 2 and Year 5 reading buddies:

Chloe Clarke: I enjoy reading because you get to read to your buddy. If you make a mistake, your buddy helps you break up the words.

It's not just about sitting with your buddy. It's about reading and trying to learn. You are on a train, to get further and further, into harder books.

Georgia Soghomonian: My buddy Charlotte McAuley is kind to me and if I don't get the words right, she tells me the starting letter and spells it out for me.

Sophie Rantzos: My buddy Alexandra Perko is nice. She's fun and if I get stuck on a word, she helps me.

Isabella McAuley: I like reading with my buddy Emmah Caruana because every time I finish a chapter she tells me I'm a really good reader.

Georgia Fox: I enjoy reading with my two buddies, Sophia Bartter and Olivia Dixon, because when I am struggling on a tricky word they help me. They are very nice to me.

The Piazza

explore, experiment, discover



"A thousand mile journey begins with but a single step."

Lao Tzu

Classrooms in the heritage cottages along Ridge Street open into the Piazza, a space for engaging girls in rich, open-ended learning opportunities. The garden is also popular for learning and play.



Above: Dr Massimo Piccardi with daughter Mila of Year 1

Above right: Mr Campbell Lobb with daughter Amelia of Year 2. Mr Lobb and his wife, Susie, hosted the recent Wenona Parents' Association (WPA) Infants' Cocktail Party



Parents visiting Kindergarten

Snapshots of teaching and learning



Eleanor Lunn, Laura Kenny, Jasmine Singer, Madeleine Chee



Left: Year 5 parents watching class parliament in action

Parents are invited to be active participants in the learning process through Wenona's Snapshots of Teaching and Learning program.

As a regular component of the teaching and learning process, Wenona's Junior School classes have been welcoming parents into classrooms to share the lessons experienced by their girls.

"In the Junior School, we encourage everyone to explore, experiment, discover, and most of all, have a go at everything we have to offer," Deputy Head of Junior School Mrs Karen Ahearn said.

Year 6 parents were invited to spend time in their daughters' science and technology lesson, to help them understand the types of activities undertaken during Murder Under the Microscope investigations.

Year 5 parents took part in a session of class parliament witnessing their daughters' inquiry and debating skills in action. The girls filled roles as party leaders, ministers and members of the opposition,



Francesca Hopkins, Zara Penklis, Sophie Talbot

including a Minister for IT, Minister for Behaviour, Appearance, Cleanliness and even a Minister for Fun.

"Useful motions were put forward such as more organised lines to collect laptops and discussion of student blogs on Portal," said Year 5 teacher Miss Rebecca Preston.

Year 3 and Year 4 students have been extending their understanding of the mathematics syllabus.

"Year 3 explored area, looking at units of square centimetres and square metres and when to use them appropriately," said Stage 2 Coordinator Mr Dean Pomfrett.

"Year 4 have been learning about fractions, measurement and scale.

Part of their investigation was to create their own flag design using a variety of equivalent fractions.

Year 3 created PowerPoint presentations of their excursion to Nan Tien Temple (pictured above and top left).

"We encourage parents to ask girls about their learning experiences."



Lucia Downes of Year 3 in film club



Above: Victoria Palmer of Year 6 enjoying patchwork

Above right: Photo club artwork from Charlotte Ritter of Year 5



Student-selected activities

For one hour every Friday afternoon, Junior School students swap their pencils and laptops for skipping ropes, swimmers, cameras, cook books, trowels and more.

Student-selected activities include embroidery, pool games, skipping, scrapbooking, quilting, photography, gardening, robotics, brain games, readers' theatre and Da Vinci Decathlon competition preparation.

A number of parents volunteer their time to assist.

Knitting Eleanor Marr of Year 3: I wrote a note to Mr Browne earlier this year asking about knitting. We are knitting squares for a charity.

Quilting club Izzy Letherbarrow-Verran of Year 5: It's fun sitting here, spending time with people who have the same interests as me but I hadn't really talked to before. You get to know them.

Film club Evie Hamilton of Year 5: You learn about filming and about different effects and lighting. Now when I watch television I notice if there is too much head room.

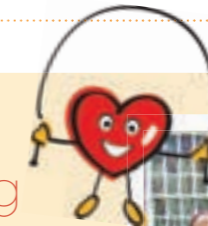
Catherine Fos of Year 5: I like experiencing the different angles and techniques, such as close-ups and mid-shots. It's actually a lot of work!

Cooking craft Amelia Pegum of Year 3: I like it because it's fun and you get to eat the food. We've made sorbet, cookies, frogs in ponds, cupcakes and rice paper rolls.

Grace Wagner of Year 3: Now we're learning about food from different areas, and we are making PowerPoint presentations about it on laptops.

Charlotte Brigstocke of Year 3: You know that even if you mess up it will be okay. We all just love it, and we help each other if we do something wrong.

Heartfelt thanks for service through skipping



When Junior School teacher Mrs Vicki Burkett created a Friday afternoon club to build skipping skills and fitness, she had no idea Wenona would break records.

Mrs Burkett signed Wenona up for the Jump Rope for Heart program, and by Term 2, all girls from Kindergarten to Year 6 were skipping and seeking sponsorship.

"At our 'jump off' in St Leonards Park in late May, parents were invited for lunch," Mrs Burkett said. "We skipped to music, delighting them with our skipping skills.

"The girls had been sponsored by relatives and friends and raised an amazing amount of just over \$48,000. This money will go far in the research of heart disease, still our biggest killer in Australia."

Heart Foundation CEO Mr Tony Thirlwell OAM recently visited, presenting a plaque naming Wenona as the highest fundraising school in the 28-year history of Jump Rope for Heart.

He thanked the Wenona community, saying the amount raised was more than twice the previous record, and also praised



Head of Junior School Mr David Browne (left), with Yvonne Wavish, Heart Foundation representative Rhonda Grant, Principal Dr Briony Scott, Jordan Wavish of Year 6, Bill Wavish and Heart Foundation CEO Tony Thirlwell OAM

Jordan Wavish of Year 6 who raised more than \$5,000, breaking the record for the largest amount raised by an individual.

Girls who had each raised more than \$500 were presented with certificates.

Inspiring service



Year 6 leaders Eleanor Foster, Isabel Freudenstein, Amelia Beaney, Charlotte Doughty and Grace Malin

Junior School leaders showcased Wenona's motto, *Ut Prosim, that I may serve*, at the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA) Social Issues expo at The King's School.

Their experience has helped to inform the Junior School ethics committee.

Eleanor Foster: This was a great experience as we met NSW Premier Mr Barry O'Farrell and representatives from Mission Australia, Anglicare and World Vision who talked to us about how we can make a difference.

Grace Malin: It has certainly inspired me to continue my charity efforts and it was lovely to see how other schools were helping to make a difference.

Isabel Freudenstein: The main ideas from the presentations were advocacy, awareness and action!

Charlotte Doughty: I was very happy with our presentation that showcased what our motto is all about.

Linking learning



Left and below: Year 8 students took their fitness and mathematics studies to Sydney's Olympic Park at Homebush



Wenona's unique Connected Curriculum program, commended by the NSW Board of Studies, gives students in Years 7 and 8 the opportunity to see their subjects in a new light.

"The program enables students to connect classroom theory to real-world applications of the designated disciplines," said Middle School Director of Teaching and Learning Ms Amy Van Arkkels.

"Students are provided with opportunities to engage with and make sense of big ideas which reach across and beyond traditional subject boundaries.

"Middle years students are highly curious with a strong preference for active, hands-on learning experiences.

"Young adolescents engage with theory when it can be related to real-life problems and situations, so it is no surprise that the Connected Curriculum days have been incredibly popular with our Year 7 and 8 students."

Science teacher Mr Luke Bouzguenda: The girls enjoyed the connected curriculum day visiting a power station and a mine. It allowed them visualise real processes and think outside of the box, instead of just learning about it in class. (See page 11.)

Head of Physical Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Miss Lisa Bauer: The combined Mathematics and PDHPE activities allowed the girls to benefit physically through engaging in the activity of bike riding. It also provided them with a relevant context for the more theoretical concepts studied in both PDHPE and Mathematics. (See right.)

Head of Technology and Applied Studies (TAS) Ms Jan McNally: The Year 7 connected curriculum day combined TAS and Languages Other Than English (LOTE), with students designing a promotional package to welcome foreign exchange students to Wenona. Students then applied their knowledge of the design process, technology and language skills to work collaboratively in the design of a variety of items to go into these packs.

A day of discovery

Teachers from the Mathematics and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) departments combined forces to design an exciting day that allowed the girls to experience the concepts of ratios, rates, graphing and tabling in real life scenarios coupled with pulse rates and training zones.

"Our students learnt all these things while riding around on a push bike," Mathematics teacher Mr Justin Newall said. "The girls were thrilled to be taking their learning outside the classroom.

"Despite some early wobbles, everyone had a great day looking at heart rates, acceleration, circumferences and average speeds.

"The students were well behaved throughout, with staff receiving compliments from passengers on the trains, and from the bike hire company."

Emily Fisher and Chelsea Rodgers of Year 8: We were given booklets to complete in various parts of the park, including checking your heart rate, measuring distance, experimenting with gears on our bikes and much more.

The bike riding was quite challenging for some people but overall we had lots of fun. Most of us were very surprised by how PDHPE and Mathematics can go together.

It was a great learning experience and everyone enjoyed themselves a lot.

Powerful ideas

Natalie Marcarian and Charlotte Lewis of Year 8:

What a day! The Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) and science departments created a really successful excursion for us to the Hunter Valley to visit Bayswater Power Station and then to Bloomfield Coal Mine just outside Maitland.

When we got to the power station we learnt many interesting facts. We learnt about all the different processes used to convert energy to power. We saw steam turbines, boilers, generators and cooling towers which amazed us.

Then it was off to the coal mine where they mine coal for Japan and elsewhere. We learnt about coal mining and saw pieces of equipment so big we had to crane our necks and stare out the bus window to see the top.

It was an experience we will never forget.



Above: Taylor Sladden and Chelsea Rodgers

"We all had much to tell the family when we arrived back at School."



Above: Nicky's hand-drawn, winning advertisement

Right: Lauren Shore of the Cancer Council with Nicky Burke



Nicky Burke of Year 8 was thrilled to learn that her anti-smoking advertisement for the Cancer Council NSW had won a competition promoting non-smoking outdoor areas in North Sydney.

Nicky, for whom drawing is a relaxing hobby, used colour pencils to depict a scene at a North Sydney cafe, in which a person at one table begins to smoke.

"Everyone else has stopped what they are doing and is staring at her," she explained. "Even the chef has stopped cooking and opened the door to clear the air.

"Cigarettes are as good as any other harmful drugs," the advertisement states.

"I hope smokers will have the chance to think twice about their habit," Nicky said. "So much money goes into smoking, and it's so bad for your health. It doesn't do anything for you. You might as well just burn the money. I have tried to get the message across. It is up to smokers to take it on board."

Nicky was delighted to welcome Cancer Council Regional Programs Coordinator Lauren Shore to Wenona. Lauren congratulated Nicky and donated 12 large sunscreen dispensers to various parts of the School.

Premier's Award for Wenona teacher

Congratulations to Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) teacher Ms Liz Criddle for receiving a Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Ms Criddle's area of expertise is financial literacy, particularly for people who are marginalised.

"In our globalised world, where inequities exist between nations, women in less developed countries tend to be the most marginalised group when it comes to having control of family finances," Ms Criddle said.

"In developed countries, gender revolution has changed the workplace, transformed the definition of marriage, and challenged the values of males. Younger women have even more choice in this world of options and I enjoy being able to help them navigate these challenges."

Beyond the "mechanics" of budgeting and setting financial goals, she enjoys empowering others to make life decisions for themselves and their community, and to consider the possibilities of being globally socially responsible.

Senior College



On a Venetian bridge



Above: Natasha Butorac (2010) with NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir

Top: Daffodil Day supporters Bella Rodgers, Eliza Nugan, Millie Slaytor and Bonnie Sheldon of Year 10

Rewarding challenges

Congratulations to Natasha Butorac (2010), among a number of Wenonians to be presented with her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award by NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir earlier this year.

"I found the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme to be highly rewarding, as it furthered my personal development in a whole range of areas," Natasha said. "It caused me to think outside the box, to extend my personal limits outside of my comfort zone and to become more open-minded, as well as allowing me to gain skills and experiences that I would not have otherwise achieved."

"I was lucky to have the opportunity to complete the award alongside a great group of my peers, all of whom received their Gold awards at similar ceremonies."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wenona for the support and opportunities they provided us in order to ensure our successful completion of the award. I would also encourage all girls to become involved in the scheme, as the skills, experiences and friendships gained are invaluable."

A large contingent of current students participated in Duke of Edinburgh expeditions over the Easter holidays. Students completed Gold practice and qualifying journeys as well as Silver practice journeys, with about 80 students taking part in their first Bronze expedition more recently.

Broadening horizons in Europe

A group of 23 Senior College students, three members of staff and a host of European cultural hotspots added up to enriching, inspiring and unforgettable memories.

The Visual Arts and Ancient History students explored Venice, Florence, Rome, Athens, Crete, and Santorini, swapping 17 days of Sydney winter holidays for some northern warmth and sunshine.

"It was a fantastic experience," said Head of Ralston House Ms Debra Clarke. "To be able to visit some of the world's most important locations for art and ancient history provided an extraordinary opportunity to broaden the girls' horizons."

"Travelling in this way also helped foster their independence, forged new friendships and nurtured their love and understanding of culture. We saw great things, had fun, bonded as a group and they were great travel companions."

Georgia Pinkerton of Year 10: I had always wanted to go to Italy because I am really interested in history and architecture. It was a very long flight.

This tour was amazing, particularly walking through Venice.

Rome was a great mix of the old and the new. I loved Greece, particularly Crete and exploring the ancient Minoan civilisation.

The Parthenon in Athens was very, very impressive. When we got to the top, we could see all of Athens, which is huge. It is not a large hill, but Athens is really flat. We could even see the sea.

I also enjoyed learning about contemporary and more traditional art, and becoming really good friends with girls I hadn't really known well before we went.

It was such a big experience! I keep replaying the trip in my head so I won't forget it.

Alice Rein of Year 10: I have never been to Europe before. I think I enjoyed being in Venice most. It is just a really different city and so beautiful. The history of the Parthenon in Greece was also amazing.

I also loved some of Bernini's sculptures which we explored in Italy. They looked so realistic.

I became really close to people I wouldn't otherwise have come to know, such as the girls in Year 11. I loved the community feeling.



Emilie Nelson (left) and friends with Junior School teacher Miss Rebecca Preston walked nearly 12km to help clean up after the recently Oxfam Trailwalker Sydney challenge



Above: Year 11 drama students presenting Noel Coward's *Waiting in the Wings*

Below: Ella Cottee with 1 Million Women founder Natalie Isaacs at Wenona

Make your mark

Senior College students are taking up the challenge issued by Head Prefect Mollie Tredinnick and her team of school leaders upon their recent election; to "make your mark".

"Making your mark is about making a difference," Mollie told students. "It is about changing the world. 'Make your mark' acknowledges the individual, promotes self-recognition of abilities and talents and encourages each and every one to become more involved in school life and service."

"This is your chance to make your mark on Wenona's history. This is your time to contribute, to serve, to make a difference, to leave your mark on our School."

"For 125 years women have been making their mark here at Wenona. Now it is our turn to create initiatives, to build an inclusive community and create the School we deserve."

The motto was chosen in recognition of the fact that students have different passions and strengths and will choose to contribute in different ways.

Some have been making their mark through service. Tiffany Londish of Year 10 recently raised \$1,350 for the RSPCA, for example, while others have assisted at the Oxfam Trailwalker, raised funds for the cancer council on Daffodil Day or promoted environmental awareness and action.

The dramatic talent of Year 11 students was showcased at a performance of Noel Coward's *Waiting in the wings*; and Year 12 students shared their HSC major works with the community in a range of recent forums and exhibitions.

Bonnie Sheldon of Year 10 has been honing her skills in public speaking since her time in the Junior School. This year, Bonnie has made her way through successive rounds of the prestigious Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition to compete in the NSW State Semi Finals at NSW Parliament House.

Bonnie's engaging and exciting speech, presented without palm cards, explored Facebook and the dangers it poses to privacy.

In the field of Chemistry, Wenona's Year 12 titration team of Fiona Tout, Jennifer Batchelor and Mahalia Theau have won medals in the national championships, having secured Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) medals at the Inter Schools Titration competition, hosted at Wenona earlier this semester.

Fiona Tout: I enjoy a challenge and it's nice to do chemistry in a team with others in a relaxed environment.

Mahalia Theau: I really enjoy titration, going through a process and coming up with results. It's almost like a game. The medal was very unexpected.

Serving up a cooler climate

Charity Captain and Students' Representative Council member Ella Cottee of Year 11 welcomed 1 Million Women founder Natalie Isaacs to the Senior College assembly earlier this semester, inspiring each Wenonian to cut her carbon footprint by one tonne a year.

Ella signed up to the environmental campaign about a year ago and is a 10,000 Teens ambassador.

Natalie and Ella invited students to visit the 1 Million Women website at www.1millionwomen.com.au and chart their own progress in reducing their carbon footprint.

A number of Wenonians are already part of Natalie's campaign, having joined up following Natalie's presentation at the inaugural Wenonians Inc Women of Spirit Breakfast in 2010.

Principal Dr Briony Scott praised Ella for showing leadership in this way.

"We are very proud of our young women as they develop an awareness of the needs of others and learn how to support various causes in constructive and meaningful ways," Dr Scott said.

"All of our students are encouraged to express Wenona's motto, *Ut Prosim, that I may serve*, in ways that are relevant to them."





Year 6 parents Valeska Dominguez (Over 1988) with Bruce Mansfield and Sandy Oldham



Year 7 parents Deborah Corbett (left), Rochelle Beumont, Narelle Pitt and Monica Jacobs



3.

“A welcome opportunity for our community to mingle”



5.



6.



7.

Meeting Dr Scott



In a series of popular cocktail evenings hosted by the Wenona Board of Governors at the Independent Theatre, parents and carers of girls in all years had the opportunity to meet Principal Dr Briony Scott and hear her views on contemporary education, raising girls and life after children.



2.



Lesley Weatherdon (1979) with Fiona Collard, Emma and Adrian Hondros and David Collard



8.



9.

1. Above: Year 1 parents Lisa and Jason Wagner with Year 3 parents Trish and Matthew Lunn

2. Right: Year 8 parents Dr Roger and Julie-Anne Brighton (left) with Claire and Richard Alder and Shayne Smith

3. Top right: Principal Dr Briony Scott (centre) with Kym Fowler, Doris Campbell and Peter and Jane Hazlewood

4. Below left: Principal Dr Briony Scott with Year 5 parents Ben Stoner and Elizabeth Treweeke

5. Year 9 parents Philippa Dalco, Jan Beach, Fiona Reid, Johanna Oakes and Anna Barr with Head of Middle School Ms Carolyn Shaw

6. John Oakes with Board of Governors Chair Dianna Crebbin and Russell Reid

7. Suzie Lee, Carolyn Cochrane and Deborah Shtein

8. Year 12 parents Board of Governors Director Bruce Phillips, Bruce and Catherine Craven, Julie-Ann de Kantzow and Penny Curry
9. Jane Maughan, Cassie and Stephen Wilson, Cathy Dovgan

Introducing the boarder leaders for 2011 and 2012

Wenona recently hosted a number of boarders from nearby Sydney Church of England Grammar School (SHORE) for a barbeque on Woodstock rooftop, followed by games in the park. "The day was a resounding success," said Wenona's Director of Boarding Mrs Sarah Bruhl.



Boarder Prefect Ruby Charlton Shick of Lord Howe Island: I started boarding at Wenona in Year 9 and have loved every aspect of boarding. This year I was thrilled to be chosen as the incoming Boarder Prefect of 2011 and 2012 and I hope that I will be able to fill the place of Katie Ball who has done such a wonderful job.

Working closely with Boarding Captain Ingrid and Vice Captain Alexandra, I have been organising the dinner seating plan and morning duty rosters, and helping out with the 125 celebrations, the Year 12 students' farewell and other projects.

Boarder Captain Ingrid Kraefft of Merriwa in the Upper Hunter: I started boarding at the beginning of last year when I was in Year 10. Since then I have been privileged to be part of this close-knit community and to be elected a Boarder Captain.

I hope that our ideas and fresh energy will strengthen the boarding community and continue on from the amazing work of the previous



Out and about in Centennial Park

1. Above left: Boarders welcoming staff to share their dinner in the Messiter Dining Room; Anna Charlton Shick of Lord Howe Island (left), Lily Scolari of Tomingly, Japanese teacher Mrs Rosemary Harrison and German teacher Mrs Ineke Amer

2. Above centre: Year 9 boarders Winya Zhang of China, Johanna Hermanns of Germany, Nicole Lo of Vanuatu and Felicity Brown of Muswellbrook

3. Above: Boarder leaders Ingrid Kraefft, Alexandra Price and Ruby Charlton Shick

boarding leaders, Samantha McKendry of Mudgee, Alison Lloyd of Narromine and Katie Ball of Lane Cove.

Our boarding community is an invaluable and integral part of Wenona life. The supportive and caring nature means a lot to me and really helped me through my first term at Wenona.

Boarder Vice Captain Alexandra Price of the NSW Central Coast: I have been attending

Wenona as a boarder since Year 9 and I love being part of the boarding community. I will work to the best of my ability with my fellow leaders to promote boarding and support the home-away-from-home feeling of the Boarding House.

Wenona's history launched



Above: Members of the class of 1955: Margaret Cameron (Spain), Leona Clarke (Wilkins), Norma Lough (Bell) and Judy Campbell (Beardsmore)

Above right: Mrs Lucille Seale (de Lepervanche 1950) with Principal Dr Briony Scott and Ut Prosim author Denise Thomas AM

Wenona archivist Michele Ginswick with "Ut Prosim" author Denise Thomas AM

Wenonians of all ages, family and friends gathered in the Wenona Hall recently for the launch of the School's 125th anniversary history, *Ut Prosim, that I may serve*.

"I am very grateful to all those people who shared their memories with me," said historian and former principal Denise Thomas AM, who wrote the history.

Mrs Lucille Seale (de Lepervanche 1950) who launched the book, congratulated Mrs Thomas on achieving a publication which was "accessible to people of all ages, full of wonderful photographs and written with a great deal of humour".

She commended Mrs Thomas's passion and perseverance, describing her as "a living example of Ut Prosim".

"It is terribly interesting and informative as a history of the education of women in this state and of the times in which the School evolved ... a fascinating record of life as seen from the point of view of the School through World War I, the Depression, World War II..."

"When I came here in the 1940s, World War II was still raging. It was a time of great austerity and anxiety. Stationery and the correct school uniform were unobtainable. My father was away at the war. We were brought up during those years by one-parent families."

She spoke of how much she enjoyed it when her Principal, Miss Edith Ralston, took classes when a teacher was away, always discussing "lessons about life" such as the importance of good manners, compassion and service.

"It is still the people who matter the most. The spirit of Wenona and the vision of Miss Hooke are alive and well and I am sure will continue."

Principal Dr Briony Scott remarked on the similarities between Wenonians of the past and present revealed in the book. "The spirit, energy and enthusiasm of our girls are as strong as always," Dr Scott said.

Ut Prosim, that I may serve, celebrates how the School's motto has inspired generations of students to make a difference in the lives of others.

Please visit www.wenona.nsw.edu.au/community/publications/ourhistorybook.cfm to purchase the book online, email uniformshop@wenona.nsw.edu.au or telephone (02) 9955 3000.

Uniform memories

Our page 3 image of current students modelling past uniforms in the Autumn 2011 *Review* prompted a phone call from an observant Anne Jack (Rickards 1963). She kindly pointed out that the blouse under the tunic second from the right should have been a short-sleeved white blouse with a larger peaked collar, no blue trim, with a House badge in felt sewn on the left side of the tunic.



Left: Nina Perera (left), Harriette Greenhalgh, Charlotte Kindred, Molly Tredinnick, Georgia Baird and Sophie Sinclair in Wenona uniforms of the past

A mysterious moment

Among the memories and memorabilia offered to Denise Thomas AM as she researched Wenona's 125th anniversary history book earlier this year was this black and white photograph.

It was taken by Deirdre Franklin (1955) who boarded from 1950 to 1955 and remembers taking the picture of boarders "being disinfected".

The student busy spraying is former Head Prefect Margaret Catlett (Birch 1952).

Does anyone remember the occasion or why the spray was thought necessary?



Gathering together



Left: Pictured at the Reception in Woodstock after the Memorial Service for Dr Judith Dey at St Thomas', the Dey family greeted dozens of guests who came to pay their respects to their much-loved relative, friend and colleague. The extended Dey family includes several Wenonians. Mrs Patricia Berry (centre front) is the sister of Dr Judith Dey, AO. On her left is Ms Lindsey Dey (1976) niece of Dr Dey and daughter of Mrs Joan Dey, seated right. Among the men is Dr Dey's nephew Mr Alex Dey, one of a rare breed of Wenonian Old Boys! Alex is standing, fifth from the right.

Right: Mrs Caroline "Tommie" Champion (Thompson, 1956), Ms Rosemary Christie (1979) Ms Dianna Crebbin (1967) Chair of the Wenona Board of Governors, and Mrs Doris "Dodie" Thompson (1956)
Far right: Mrs Elisabeth Kingsford-Smith (Francis 1951) with her husband Bill



1. Left: UK sisters Malinda Zerefos (2002) and Kareen Zerefos (2001). Kareena, designer of the 125th Anniversary Concert Program, holds the final product of her artwork.
2. Far left top: Wenona Foundation Executive Director Trish O'Brien (left) with Jenna Martin (2006) and Helene Yeldham (Thomson 1931)
3. Far left centre: Laura Wood, Sophie Sinclair, Jenna Martin (2006) and India Gates
4. Bottom left: Mrs Christine Douglas (Browne 1965), Lady Deborah MacMillan (Williams) and Miss Prue Waterhouse, classmates from the Class of 1961, in London

Top: Wenonians, past and present, and Yeldham family members at Foundation Day 2011 with (centre front) guests of honour Helene Yeldham (Thomson 1931) and orator Jenna Martin (2006)

An air of celebration

The zephyr of 125th anniversary celebration has continued to breeze through Wenona. Through song and dance, food and wine, memorabilia, morning tea and memorials, badges and banter there has been much to celebrate, including the commemoration of past leaders' achievements.

In memory of Dr Judith Dey AO

One such leader was Judith Dey AO (1940) whose outstanding life of service and contribution to Wenona was summarised in her eulogy at St Thomas' Church by Board of Governors' Director Mr John Ralston.

Her achievements were put into context for today's Wenonians in a Reflection by our new Principal Dr Briony Scott (Edmonds 1981), one of the first winners of the coveted Judith Dey Prize. (See pages 20 and 21.)

Annual Giving

On the philanthropic front, Wenona parents and friends have shown tremendous loyalty and generosity towards the Foundation over the past year.

Not only is the last day in June an obvious point at which to take stock for financial reasons, but it also provides a time to reflect

on the incredible commitment of parents to assist the School in providing the best possible facilities for their daughters.

We are deeply grateful for a large increase in end of financial year donations to the Scholarship Fund and a significant increase in contributions via tuition fees on last year's income.

At a time of economic instability, this is a superb result and we thank parents wholeheartedly for their generous assistance in keeping the philanthropic wheels turning.

Over the next couple of years when the time comes to embark on successive stages of development, we will be looking for similar indications of support. The generosity of Wenona parents gives us cause for great hope that we will achieve our goals together. Thank you.

Back to Wenona

The 125th Anniversary "Back to Boarding" reunion presented a day full of memories and reconnections, with more than 100 former boarders treated to the spoils of the current Boarding House. Director of Boarding Mrs Sarah Bruhl and the 2011 Boarders played host to these loyal old girls, who were astounded at the changes and privileges enjoyed by the current residents.

Among many of the former boarders who attended the Boarders' Reunion was Judy Usher (Dunk 1970) whose beautiful recollection about her mother, Margaret Dunk (Ridge 1948), is summarised on page 23.



London reunion 2011

Eight UK-dwelling Wenonians joined up to celebrate their connections over High Tea at the Langham Hotel in London on Friday 6 July. More than 80 Old Girls are currently living in the UK and the response to this opportunity was overwhelming, with at least 40 replies!

Timing was clearly not great for many who were away on long summer holidays, but there is evidently a strong desire to connect, so we will foster future reunions through WINC Online and via the Foundation.

If you know of others living abroad who don't hear from us, please put them in touch with the Foundation at foundation@wenona.nsw.edu.au or telephone +61 (0)2 9409 4481.

Trish O'Brien
Executive Director Wenona Foundation



Dr Dey on her retirement as Chair of the Wenona Board of Governors in 1997



Above: An early photograph of Dr Judith Dey

Celebrating the life and legacy of Dr Judith Dey AO

The life and contributions of pioneering paediatrician Dr Judith Dey AO (1940), "a perfect role model" were honoured and celebrated at a service of thanksgiving and remembrance at St Thomas' Church in August.

By 1956, after studying and practising in the UK and Australia, Dr Dey entered the field of developmental disabilities, in which she became recognised as a world expert.

By 1980 she was appointed Clinical Director of Mental Retardation, Development Disability Services for the Health Commission of NSW and in 1983 Senior Specialist Development Disability Services, Department of Health NSW.

Dr Dey was a member of the Australian College of Paediatricians for more than 45 years. Dr Dey was a firm believer in early stimulation programs for Down Syndrome babies and children with other developmental disabilities and was heartened by the huge changes in the treatment of such children over her career.

Despite her busy professional life, Dr Dey still found time to devote to other issues of considerable importance, particularly the Zonta Club and Wenona, and, after her retirement in 1985, the Bowral Horse Show, the Bradman Museum, the National Trust, Toy Box and Tangara School.

Dr Dey began as secretary of Wenona's Old Girls Union while she was at university, becoming president in the 1960s. On 1 January 1959 ownership of the school passed from Miss Edith Ralston to a new not-for-profit company called "Wenona School Limited" which is still the owner of the School.

Dr Dey was among the eight people who were the first directors or governors of the new company which had been created the previous year. She remained a director and governor until 1997, a period of 39 years.

"The first Chairman of Wenona School Limited was my father and he remained in office until he died in 1971 following which in 1972 the Board elected Dr Dey as chairman, a position in which she gave exceptional service for 16 years, followed by a further nine years of service as a Director of the Board, until 1997.

"Notwithstanding her retirement from the Board, Dr Dey continued as a member of Wenona School Limited and kept an active interest in the affairs of the school right up until her death."

In 1977 she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal and in 1987 Dr Dey was created an Officer of the Order of Australia for her work in paediatrics and developmental disabilities.

"It is most appropriate for us at Wenona to look back on the career of a woman who has in so many ways set the benchmarks and provided the example for a path to follow."

At a time when educating women beyond school was unusual, Dr Dey challenged the men in a field many of them regarded as their own.

"She not only become a doctor but established a career and a fledging medical specialty which is now a major area of practice in the medical and related professions," said Wenona Board of Governors Director Mr John Ralston in his Eulogy.

Rather than seeking fame and celebrity status, in the 1950s and throughout her life, Dr Dey showed that women could have a career and serve their community.

"Over her life Dr Dey contributed so much to Wenona and to the wider community, but perhaps her most enduring legacy is that generations of Wenonians, now and to come, will take her achievements and commitment to the community and the dignity of her life as benchmarks for their own achievements and lives. If some Wenonians surpass her then I am sure Dr Dey would be the first to offer congratulations."

Born in 1923 to the Wenona school doctor, Dr Lindsay Alexander Dey, Judith died earlier this year aged 88.

"She is our most distinguished Wenonian and the greatest exemplar of the school motto *Ut prosim, that I may serve.*"

Judith excelled academically, was keenly involved in archery and was a prefect.

In 1939 she sat for her leaving certificate and won the chemistry prize. Just 16, she stayed at Wenona and sat the leaving certificate for a second time, securing Honours in three subjects and the school prizes in Geology, the Senior General Knowledge Quiz and Chemistry.

"With this academic achievement Judith was finally allowed to attend Sydney University where she studied medicine and graduated with Honours in 1946, just after World War II ended. Thus she became Wenona's first medical doctor."

"She provided the example of a path to follow."

What truly matters in life

Excerpts follow from Principal Dr Briony Scott's Reflection on the life of Dr Dey at the Memorial Service, which was attended by all Year 7 students.

We all want to live a good life; maybe aspire to greatness, and to be remembered as having made a difference in the world. It is easy to wait and wait, thinking that something will happen, and when it does, we'll stand up and do the right thing then...

It turns out that life is nothing more than a series of steps. Our lives are the sum total of small decisions we make each day.

This is what strikes me about Dr Dey's life. Bit by bit, she has created a story of dedication, service and commitment that by the end of her life, has left a legacy that has touched and impacted on thousands of women over many generations. And she did it, not with one spectacular act, nor by setting out to do so, but by being true to herself and making good decisions about what mattered.

We can take inspiration from people like Dr Dey. She studied medicine when women rarely did, and when most men and even some women believed women couldn't or shouldn't. She didn't let other people define what she could or couldn't do.

She specialised in paediatrics when women, rare enough in medicine anyway, hardly ever specialised, and she chose a discipline, paediatrics, that was just beginning and definitely a man's domain.

When she saw a lack of facilities for children who needed special care, she didn't ignore the problem, she created facilities and developed programs that ensured that they lived fulfilled and satisfying lives.

When there was no real women's movement, she made deliberate investments in girls' education, determined that young women would have opportunities to stretch themselves academically, and to serve their community in roles that are not defined by gender but by ability, and a capacity to serve others from a position of strength and not weakness.

It is always wise to stop every now and then and remember that the privileges and opportunities we have available to us here, happen because of the sacrifices and investment of women like Dr Dey who have gone before us, and blazed a path so that we can follow.

We thank God for the life and the influence of Dr Dey on the lives of current and future generations of women, and I personally give thanks to God for her compassion, her intelligence, her strength and her determination to make a difference in the lives of others.

Wenona Parents' Association

WPA News

While the end of first semester had an amazing finish, with the fabulous **125 Concert**, second semester saw a terrific new start for the whole School.

The student leaders for 2011 and 2012 were inducted alongside our new principal Dr Briony Scott. The WPA enjoyed welcoming Dr Scott and congratulates all these young women in their new roles.

All parents and carers were given the chance to hear Dr Scott speak about the education and the challenges of raising young girls and helping them develop into strong, independent women.

The evenings were a wonderful introduction to Dr Scott and a welcome opportunity for her to meet as many parents and carers as possible. It was a truly positive way to start Wenona's next era.

The **WPA Wenona Fair** was a huge success and many thanks go to all the parents and carers who came and enjoyed our community day.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed to making it such a fun day for our girls. In particular, the WPA thanks Rowena Stulajter who coordinated the Fair once again with such commitment and passion. It would not have been possible without her leadership.

This year's **WPA Tennis Day** was held at the Oxford Falls Tennis Academy. Mothers and fathers enjoyed the round robin format, lunch and fun awards. We thank Deb Hannes and Claire Levisohn for organising this great social day.

The **WPA Annual General Meeting** will be held Monday 14 November, in GPLA 4/5 at 7pm. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

The **WPA Golf Day** will take place on Wednesday 16 May 2012 at Avondale Golf Club, Pymble.

Warm thanks to the whole community for making this year's WPA events friendly, fun and inclusive.

Emma Snodgrass
2011 WPA President

Sun and fun at the Wenona Fair



Thousands of people of all ages enjoyed the WPA Fair in glorious spring sunshine. Surplus books were donated to Kanga Schools, assisting Sierra Leone.



From the WINC Co-Presidents

At our second "Women of Spirit" Breakfast, in May, we were extremely honoured to have Lyndey Milan (Hall 1971) as our Guest Speaker. Lyndey had only recently lost her son to leukaemia so we were extremely grateful that she was still able to speak at our Breakfast under such sad circumstances. Lyndey made us laugh and she made us cry talking about what she had done at Wenona and since leaving school. Lyndey also shared with us the joy she had making her recent SBS television series, *Lyndey and Blair's Taste of Greece*.

Foundation Day on Friday 24 June was attended by many Old Girls. We were very fortunate to have Jenna Martin (2002) deliver the Oration. Jenna spoke with passion about her recent project working with Indigenous students and also shared with us her journey since leaving Wenona. Jenna has achieved so much in such a short time; she is an inspiration to all Wenonians. We will look forward to hearing what she achieves in the next 10 years!

The **125th Anniversary Concert** was a great success and enjoyed by everyone. Two old girls cut a birthday cake at each concert, Sue Jenkins (Burt 1946) at the daytime performance and Elisabeth Kingsford-Smith (Francis 1951) at the evening performance. An old girls' choir also gave a stirring performance of *I Am Woman*. The concert was a wonderful way to celebrate Wenona's 125th birthday.

The fourth annual **WINC Careers Evening** in August for Senior College students featured 22 old girls who returned to School to answer questions and share with current students some insight into life either at university or in the work force. We sincerely thank them for volunteering their time and expertise at this well-received event.

The French-themed **WINC "Ooh la la Café"** at the Fair was a wonderful contribution and we would like to thank all our Committee and WINC members who worked so hard to make the day a great success. All money raised from the Café and the joint raffle with the WPA goes to the WINC Scholarship Fund.

On Monday 19 September we gave our traditional lunch to the 2011 Year 12 students. The girls are always very appreciative and we do enjoy being able to provide and host the lunch and speak to them about Wenonians Inc.



Ooh la la: Samantha Over (1983), Valeska Dominguez (Over 1988), Danielle Moore (Over 1981), Marie Soghomonian (Seferian 1992), Vicki Schramko (Edwards 1962), Lisa-Maree Montgomery (Golding 1981) and Michelle Sloane (1977)



Year 12 parents and Wenonians Inc members Helen Byak, Pam Clinch, Principal Dr Briony Scott (Edmonds 1981), Anne Lister (Dawson 1979), WINC Co-Presidents Liz Hing (Ronfeldt 1978) and Stephanie Anderson (Vogan 1973), Merrienne Sinclair (1979) and Stephanie McCann (2003) serving lunch to departing Year 12 students



WINC Careers Evening presenters from left: Jenna Martin, Alex Day, Rebecca McCallum and Alexia Takis from the class of 2002; and Louise Kennedy (2006), Kate Bilson (2004), Floss Rutter (2004) and Amelia Tanner (2006)



Old girls are most welcome to meet Dr Scott and attend our Annual General Meeting. Please see details below.

Stephanie Anderson and Elisabeth Hing Wenonians Inc (WINC) Co-Presidents 2011

In fond memory

We acknowledge the passing of the following Wenonians and give thanks for their diverse contributions.

Scott Armstrong, father of Georgette of Year 12 and Tilly of Year 10, husband of

Clemency, passed away peacefully and unexpectedly in October. Our thoughts are with the Armstrong and Purchas families.

Miriam Cort (1941) passed away in 2010 at 85 years of age after a long battle with cancer. Miriam's sister **Enid May Murray (Cort 1934)** died in 2006 aged 88.

Noreen Joseph (Waller 1948) died in October 2010.

Janette Rae Stewart (Alce 1941) of "Bannockburn", Camden West, passed away in December 2010. Jan's sisters Lyn Grigg (Alce 1965) and Jenny Alce (1976) also attended Wenona.



An inspirational "bush" boarder

Judy Usher (Dunk 1970) has kindly shared the following inspirational memories of an "ambassador of the bush", her mother, the late Margaret Dunk (Ridge 1948), a former Wenona boarder from the bush who died earlier this year.



Margaret Ridge second from right in 1946

Margaret, born in Bourke, attended Wenona from 1943 to 1946 after losing her own mother at the age of eight to pneumonia and completing her primary schooling by correspondence.

She absolutely loved her time at Wenona with Miss Ralston as Headmistress and often spoke of the experience of living so close to Sydney Harbour during wartime. There was the constant threat of attack, having to sleep with a gas mask by her bed, the trenches in the playground, the air raid shelter under the classrooms and food rations. At Wenona she became a prefect and excelled both academically and at sport.

She reluctantly left school after the Intermediate year to look after her father who was unwell. Although family circumstances prevented her from completing her Leaving Certificate, it did not impede her pursuit of knowledge and excellence.

Margaret had a thirst for knowledge that never waned, but her overriding passion was the bush and she became a true ambassador of it, writing extensively and conducting a radio series on the history of many of the original properties. This was all done, not only without the aid of modern technology, but also without ready access to a library. Our property, Warroo, was 200 kilometres from the nearest town.

At 19 she married "best friend" Peter Dunk and moved to nearby Warroo Station, Hungerford. In his memoirs, Peter described the marriage as "full of great love, happiness, friendship and trust... We worked together, we played together, we made decisions together, we tightened our belts together so that our children would have the best possible education."

In 1971 Margaret became the first woman elected to the Darling Shire Council in Bourke, polling the highest vote of any councillor in 100 years of local government. She served her 30,000 square kilometre electorate with distinction for many years.

My mother was an unstinting worker for her community. Margaret and Peter were recognised by the Royal Flying Doctor Service for their tireless support over more than 50 years.

An outstanding tennis player, we have trophies won by Margaret for every year from 1941 to 1990, an achievement in anyone's terms.

Margaret received a Bicentennial Medallion in 1988 as a nominee for the "Women of the West 88" awards for "Leadership, Compassion, Humanity and Courage in their Life and Work." In 2000 when invited to walk and talk with the Queen on the royal visit to Bourke, it was ironic that in such an arid area, rain prevented her from attending!

In 2001 Margaret and Peter were selected by the Bourke Shire Council to appear in the Peoplescape project, the national finale event of the Centenary Year, "honouring ordinary Australians who have done extraordinary things".

One of Margaret's greatest community legacies is the Hungerford Field Day which she initiated in 1980 and ran for 19 years. It is still seen as a very essential community event for the people of the far south-west Queensland and north-western NSW.

In 2004 the Bulloo Shire Council gazetted Dunk Road in Hungerford in recognition of Margaret's and Peter's contribution to the community.

Margaret truly upheld the Wenona motto *Ut Prosim, that I may serve* and never wavered from the visions, values and strengths that set leaders apart.

Lindsay Roya Hart (Jamieson 1941) passed away in January 2011 aged 86.

Late Pennant Hills resident **Dorothy Clare Galbraith (McNeill 1961)**, who preferred to be known as Clare, boarded at Wenona. Clare suffered Mesothelioma caused by asbestos. Current parent Wendy Priestly was Claire's barrister in this work-related case.

Kate Taunton (1968) and Sue Burke (1968) passed away in January 2011.

Keitha Lorna Crouch (Jones 1968) died in April 2011.

Mr Adrian Bryan Poole, late of "Dellawong" Wellington, NSW, died in November 2010. Mr Poole was the husband of Mrs Philippa Poole (Curlewis 1950), who is the daughter of Sir Adrian Curlewis. Mrs Poole still lives at Wellington.

Helen Orissa Wotton (1944) of Yass, formerly of Sydney, passed away peacefully at Canberra Hospital in her 85th year.

Janet Margaret Ryback (Webster 1944), known as Peg, died in May aged 84, fond sister of Frances, Anne, Jim, David (dec), Joan and Poss.

Engagements

Congratulations to **Georgia Ditton (1999)**, daughter of Chair of the Wenona Board of Governors Dianna Crebbin (1967), on her engagement to Andrew Gregerson.

Births

Congratulations to **Zara Hall (Campbell 1996)** on the birth of daughter Eloise.

Sarah Thurl Abrahams (Pulman 1992) and husband Patrick welcomed daughter Abigail Abrahams on 26 April 2011.

We congratulate **Jillian Masselos (Stacker 1995)** whose new baby, Belinda, was born on 18 May this year, a sister for Alexandra.

With her husband, Scott, WINC treasurer **Jenny Jacobson (Robertson 1997)**, daughter of former Wenona registrar Jill Robertson, has announced the birth of a daughter, Holly, on 24 March this year.

WINC events

Monday 21 November: **WINC AGM**. All welcome; RSVP to wenoniansinc@wenona.nsw.edu.au to assist with catering.



Some 60 Wenonians from the Class of 1991 enjoyed a recent reunion. Mariam Withana (Arian) (back, left), Susan Stone, Emma Shead, Kelly Jack, Claire McClennan (Peterson) and Georgia Knudsen were snapped meeting some current boarders.



Class of 1971: Pictured above are Carolyn Graham (Holdsworth) (back, left) with Ruth Downes, Jill Young (Scanlen), Linda Gray (Davies), Cathy Bray, Cathy Connor, Lyndey Milan (Hall), Christine Dawson (Morehead), Sally Rowe (Benness), Sue Denning (Enson), Eva Goodman (Scott), Jillian Prowse, Sally Davies (Forsyth), Noni Harrison, Linda Anderson (Vessey), Margaret Dunstan (Franklin), Jenny Scott (Gibson), Lilly Kerr and Michele Ell (Davies); along with Kim Makeyev (Harris) (front, left) with Penny Chalmers (Snelling), Judyth Carroll (Wright), Annette Jamieson, Jann Debney (Berkman), Catherine Cadell, Judy Gardner (Howe), Ann Horan (Beveridge) and Harriet Minter (Garland).

Class reunions

Class of 1951: Wenonians who left 60 years ago will meet for lunch at the Queen's Club in Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on Thursday 3 November. For details please contact Mrs Elisabeth Kingsford-Smith (Francis) on (02) 4787 6876 or at weaks@bigpond.com; Mary-Rose McDonald (Baldwin) on (02) 4868 2361 or 02 9251 2216 or mrmcd@bigpond.com; or Robin Laforest (Kelso) at b1laforest@optusnet.com or on (02) 4782 6430.

The **class of 71** had a wonderful 40 year reunion on 14 August 2011 at the Cabana Bar at St Leonards. A number of girls enjoyed a tour of the school beforehand, commenting on how the school had been transformed and how fantastic the facilities are now.

"The reunion was great fun and so many girls had travelled from country NSW and interstate including Armidale and Moama in NSW, and Ferny Hills and Buderim in QLD, to be there," said Judy Gardner (Howe).

"Everyone present commented on how lucky we were that Wenona had given us the bonds of friendship that could be picked up so easily after 40 years."

Any interest in the following groups: pre1950, Classes of 1952, 1957, 1962, 1987, 1997, 2002, 2007, or even London, New York or Hong Kong?

Please contact WINC Reunions Representative Merriane Sinclair at wenoniansinc@wenona.nsw.edu.au or telephone (02) 9409 4481.

Back to Boarding

More than 100 guests were welcomed by current boarders at the **125th anniversary Back to Boarding reunion**. Former boarders from the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s and more recently laughed to hear the memories of Valerie Johnson (Lincoln, Kelly 1960) of Bathurst which included:

- "Our beds had to be made like an ironing board with hospital corners.
- "No doonas, teddy bears or anything personal ...
- "Miss Ralston always knew if we had our navy bloomers on under our pink dinner dresses. Amazing.
- "The good things were ... ballroom dancing



Susan Davies (1970), Anne Dawson, Linda Hart (Savage 1969), Kris Charody (Allan 1970), June Croft (Johnston 1968), Pam Williamson (Powell 1970) whose great great grandfather built Ernville, now School House, and Judy Usher (Dunk 1970)

classes with the Shore boys on Saturday night in winter term, wow; the only time we were allowed to talk to boys ...

- "But best of all, our peers became not only our friends but also our family, and over 50 years later, a lot of us are still friends."

Regional reunions 2012

The **Boarding School Expos** in Dubbo, Tamworth and Griffith provided opportunities in 2011 to connect with Old Girls from those regions. In 2012 we will again revisit Dubbo, as well as Wagga and Narrabri. If you know of future boarders, please contact the Registrar, Mrs Lynn Siebels at registrar@wenona.nsw.edu.au or if you would like to take part in a regional reunion to connect with others in your district, please contact Mrs Trish O'Brien at foundation@wenona.nsw.edu.au.

Join WINC Online

Please visit <http://internet-alumni.com/nsw/wenona/> to register.