From Our President

Having filled the role of President now for a year, I am only just beginning to appreciate the size of our Old Scholar network, and now firmly believe that this is one of the most significant assets acquired in our school years. The number of people I have met, many of whom I have known for some time, who have come up to me and let me know they also went to Pembroke, King’s or Girton continues to surprise me.

I will try to put this network into context. I am a numbers person! There are over 14,000 Old Scholars, of which 55% reside in South Australia. Add more than 220 leavers last year and this network is a significant growing community. Try to think of other groups or networks you are involved with of this size or larger.

This is a huge undertaking and progresses with increasing momentum. From preserving memorabilia and stories of the founding of both King’s and Girton, recording the ‘old School songs’ as well as publishing School newsletters (in both soft and hard copy), the archives are developing and we hope will soon be more widely available.

Principal Luke Thomson joined POSA in hosting the King’s Tea, Girton Luncheon and Lillie Smith Afternoon Tea in recent months. These events provide a great opportunity to relive old stories and keep alive the memories of the School in its early days. We now enter the busy season in the next few months in which many of the reunions will be held. I hope as many Old Scholars as possible participate in these events. In this manner we keep our network alive.

Scott Peters (82–86)
President, POSA

POSA continues to touch and connect with as many of these members as we can. Without ceasing normal communication methods, POSA must also embrace new technologies. We hope, in the future, to more effectively and efficiently use technology and social media to reach our members. So watch for these exciting developments!

Technology is also helping us with our past as we assist the School develop the archives.

Chart: Old Scholar Network = 14,261 members

Generations Project

Our aim is to find the families from King’s and Girton who have a history that now reaches through four generations. Old Scholars are invited to advise the Association if their family’s connection with the School falls into this category. As we hope to represent the families pictorially, we encourage copies of named and dated photos of the students in each generation to be submitted. Oral stories/anecdotes are also very welcome.

Lillie Smith Afternoon Tea

On Saturday 6 August, we celebrated with two of our Lillie Smith students, Grace Trott and Betty Phillips, by inviting former students of Girton from the Dorothy Angove, Edith Bishop and Dorothy Poole eras to join them for afternoon tea in the Senior School Resource Centre. It was a very happy, lively occasion with so much reminiscing. We welcomed Luke Thomson, School Principal, and Tony Houey, Deputy Principal, who, like us, really enjoy the rich oral histories that belong to this founding School. Some of these ladies have offered to participate in the recording of stories from Girton’s past as so much has changed over the past 92 years! Warren Bonython, who went to Girton in 1924, attended with his Old Scholar wife Bunty Bonython.

Philippa Hook
Vice President, POSA

Reunions still to be held

10-year (2001) Reunion
Thursday 22 December 7.00 pm
Bistro, Festival Theatre

30-year (1981) Reunion
Saturday 29 October 7.30 pm
Queen’s Head Hotel
Girton 50-year Group

This group of former Girton girls left school in 1956, 1957 or 1958 (Intermediate, Leaving or Leaving Honours). They meet twice a year for a casual lunch. It is always exciting when one of our peers who lives interstate makes the journey for the lunch or times a visit to South Australia to coincide with the get-together. There are other groups from the Girton eras who meet regularly, and the Pembroke Old Scholars Association would welcome photos and a brief paragraph from such a gathering. We often receive a request from people who would like to make contact with their year-level cohort.

35-Year (1976) Reunion

Approximately 40 of the 1976 cohort gathered at the Astor Hotel in late August to celebrate the passing of 35 years.

Organisers Rosey Batt, Jane (Dickson) Lowe, Hugh McPharlin and Ruth (Angove) Stentiford were delighted with the support for this interim gathering. Travelling from interstate to join the group were Andrew Bazzica, Jim Gaffey, Mark Houston, Nicola (Sandford-Morgan) Reynolds, Mike Mellor and Tammy (Mount) White. Warrick Abbott joined the party by telephone. It was particularly pleasing that a few people who had not attended some of the earlier reunions were able to attend, including Martin Dahlenburg, Arlene Hume, Fiona McDonald, Sue (Fricker) Randall, Tracey (Powell) Simpson, Kym Scutter, Tracey (Deane) Thomson and Rose (Corani) Wilson. This active group of alumni plan to meet again in 5 years’ time to celebrate the passing of 40 years!

Hugh McPharlin (73–76)

Girton Luncheon

On Saturday 28 May, Girton Old Scholars gathered for lunch at Tiffins on the Park. Many were concerned enough to send their apologies so we were thrilled with the interest shown in continuing this event. The POSA Committee is enjoying working with our new Principal, Luke Thomson, and he braved the usually all-female function to be our guest speaker. Luke spoke of his understanding of the strong Girton traditions and the links that bind them to the Pembroke School of today, which continues to nurture the spirit.

We are acutely aware that there is a rich oral history among our numbers, and we would encourage Old Scholars to share stories from their schooldays as we prepare to celebrate 100 years, in 2015, since Girton was established. It is appreciated that Luke has assured us of the School’s support for such a significant event in the history of Pembroke.

Philippa (Ward) Hook
Vice President, POSA

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