

THE CALICO LINE



NGA TAWA
DIOCESAN SCHOOL

JULY 2020



News For Old Girls' Parents & Friends



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This magazine is co-jointly produced by the Nga Tawa Old Girls' Association, Nga Tawa Parents and Friends Association and Nga Tawa School. If you would like to contribute to future issues of The Calico Line, please email gilmourkatie@ngatawa.school.nz.

From the Principal

I'm sure you'll all agree that 2020 has been an unprecedented year. It has been challenging but with challenge comes opportunity and I am incredibly proud of the resilience and adaptability our staff and students showed during lockdown and the positive way they embraced a new way of learning.

During lockdown, you may have read a Stuff article written by Old Girl, **Judith (Tompkins) Doyle (1948-1950)** - a Wellington author. It talked about her experience at Nga Tawa during the 1948 polio epidemic when regions in New Zealand were locked down to contain the disease. Boarding schools, unlike day schools, remained open but required Judith as a new girl to quarantine for fourteen days. She described what life was like living virtually alone in a wing of Main Boarding looking out over the Rose Garden for two weeks, at just 13 years old!

Nga Tawa's safe, rural spacious campus hosted another, very different lockdown 72 years after Judith's experience. We created a bubble of 35 international students and students whose parents live overseas for the duration of the Level 4 and 3 lockdown. At the end of Alert Level 3, we welcomed back a small, additional bubble of junior students and were able to house them in a completely separate area of the school. We staggered the re-opening of the school via year group when we reached Level 2.

While Covid-19 restrictions have meant that Term 2 hasn't featured the usual sporting fixtures and House events our girls have forged ahead with their studies. Our Year 13 contingent in particular are glad to be back at school to make the most of their Nga Tawa experience and have been fantastic role models for our younger students.

The girls are on track for their NCEA exams and are all striving for the exceptional academic outcomes they received in 2019 (100% pass rate across all levels). This success is not just in the water and there is no academic test to determine enrolment at Nga Tawa. Behind this success is the hard work of my team to instil a love of learning in our girls.

The lockdown proved that our effective use of technology ensures learning at Nga Tawa is not limited by the classroom walls, or the timetable. Furthermore, our students are utilising technology to create products, digital outcomes and to master the skills of digital computation.

We are aware that an academic programme is not the only vehicle for learning and our rich co-curricular environment contributes hugely to the skill level of our girls, as well as just being fun. We are a small school, however our high attainment across sport and humanities speaks of commitment and perseverance. Every student plays sport which is a significant contributor to wellbeing. Every student is encouraged in the performing arts, whether that may be taking part in House Drama or an ATCL programme. All Year 9 students learn a musical instrument. This is not only a cognitive challenge but fosters a love of music.

In 2019 we partnered with external provider, Swivel Careers, to deliver successful career development. The programme begins in Year 10 with broad understanding of career pathways and narrows to individual psychometric testing and counselling for senior students.

Our Year 13 students now leave Nga Tawa with a CV that stands out in the pile and a purposeful LinkedIn Account.

Our committed staff play a critical role in these transformative years, and they willingly do that bit extra which teaching in a small school demands. Nga Tawa is a village and everyone has a contribution to its overall success. Staff have immense pride in Nga Tawa and recognise that their efforts both in and outside of the classroom build the school and its reputation for exceeding expectations.

The experience of living in community is a great teacher. Boarding fosters independence and equally collaboration through an appreciation of diversity. Our flexible boarding models - full boarding and two-day boarding - mean this opportunity is now available to more girls. I'm sure many of you, as Old Girls, have fond memories of boarding and the lifelong friendships you made while you were here.

During the secondary school years, we see a remarkable transformation where a child becomes a young adult. This year, Nga Tawa celebrated its 129th year of educating young women. 129 years ago, the story of this school began and we are all part of the continuing narrative carrying forward the legacy of May Taylor and Mary Barker. We hold true to our special character and values - preparing our girls to succeed and equipping them for the excitement, uncertainty and complexity of what comes next is at the forefront of everything we do.

I look forward to sharing our continued successes with you. Those who live locally are always welcome at our celebratory days and for those further afield, please do follow us on Facebook to stay connected.

Finally I would like to thank the PFA and the Old Girls' Association for their ongoing support for Nga Tawa. I have been hugely appreciative of the financial support for future students through the Old Girls' scholarships. Every year I meet students who would benefit hugely from the opportunities at Nga Tawa but the financial commitment is a step too far for their family. If you are in a position to help I would welcome your call.

Lesley Carter
Principal
CarterLesley@ngatawa.school.nz

"Preparing our girls to succeed and equipping them for the excitement, uncertainty and complexity of what comes next is at the forefront of everything we do."



Board Talk

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Diocesan Boards.

When I taught my children to drive, the first thing I said to them was “don’t focus on the end of the bonnet, because it is only two metres in front, and if you do you will most likely crash.” I told them to look as far down the road as possible so they can see what’s coming, to give them time to react and take action. Education and preparation for future is a fast-moving vehicle and Covid-19 has certainly reinforced this in 2020.



On behalf of both Boards, I’d like to acknowledge our fellow Board members and thank them for their service to Nga Tawa.

I am proud to chair the Nga Tawa Board of Trustees - a Board of governors that works cohesively with the Nga Tawa Diocesan Board and alongside a skilled management team led by a passionate, dedicated Principal. I’d like to acknowledge Lesley’s leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. Times of crisis call for strong leadership to guide us through and Lesley has been an unwavering figure. She has been ably supported by her team and I’d like to personally thank Nga Tawa’s dedicated staff for all their hard work.

Our two Boards, while each having their specific areas of the school to oversee, often work collectively. I’d like to acknowledge the Diocesan Board who fund a number of additional teaching staff over and above our Ministry funding. This enables us to deliver on our promise of small class sizes and offer the comprehensive and flexible curriculum that we do. While COVID-19 has certainly been a disruptor, the online teaching tools our students were delivered during lockdown meant they are well prepared for NCEA assessment. While we support the Ministry’s position to amend this year’s NCEA credit criteria, our teaching team worked incredibly hard to ensure our girls were well placed

for academic success without consideration given.

Our Board of Trustees works closely with the Ministry of Education and we’re mindful that outcomes of the reviews currently being carried out by the Ministry are still pending – particularly the ‘Tomorrows’ Schools’ review and proposed changes to NCEA. We will keep our school community informed and updated as and when this information comes to hand.

These are financially challenging times, but we are confident in our management of Nga Tawa. We began the year with strong roll growth. All facets of our school are well placed to continue to deliver an innovative, future focused education both inside and outside the classroom. Our academic results are excellent, and in conjunction with our Anglican based faith and values, we aim to prepare our girls with life skills and to give them academic pathways to grow, to think, to challenge, to question and to deliver both now and in the future.

Many of our current students and Old Girls continue to shine on the world stage. This is a direct result of our ‘Made for Girls’ student-centred, personalised education and our future focused philosophy. At last year’s prize giving, I asked the girls to look at the girl beside them, the girls around them. I told them that they are going to be their lifelong friends and they now all share a bond – they’re Nga Tawa Old Girls. I asked them to wear the label with pride, as I’m sure you have since you left.

We appreciate your support and encourage you to return to Nga Tawa any time you’re passing.

Dave Wilson
Board of Trustees Chair



NGA TAWA
DIOCESAN SCHOOL

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Staying Connected

With Nga Tawa and each other.



Sarah McVerry and Meredith Carpenter.

Welcome to the 2020 Calico Line – keeping you in touch with Nga Tawa and each other.

From the Parents and Friends.

It is wonderful to be writing this piece just days after New Zealand moved into Level 1 and life returned to almost normal. There is no doubt that 2020 has been disjointed for our girls and their parents and as a PFA we were forced almost into hibernation. However the texts, phone calls and emails continued, even during lockdown. The Nga Tawa PFA has always been a fantastic support network between parents, where strong friendships are formed.

In 2019, our PFA stepped up to represent Nga Tawa at several local and national events, such as Horse of the Year and the annual March Open Day. We also funded several important projects at the school including eight new spin bikes, a new pump and filtration system for the school pool and an Honours Board for the Head of Equestrian. We also farewelled long term members Sarah Marshall, **Judith (Cave) Lambert (1975-1978)** and **Kathy (Black) Gibson (1974-1978)** and **Rachel (Beilby) Williams (1989-1993)**.

I'd like to thank Lesley Carter, her exceptional teaching team and the entire school staff for how they handled the COVID-19 lockdown. Nga Tawa responded decisively and communicated clearly. Once safe at home, our girls' education continued almost seamlessly and they are well set up for this year's NCEA. Ultimately, I think COVID-19 will see us emerge an even stronger and committed group of ambassadors and fundraisers for our fantastic school.

Meredith (Collier) Carpenter (1985-1989)

PFA Chair
mers.carpie@xtra.co.nz
06 388 7712

From the Old Girls.

When I accepted the position as Chair of the Old Girls' Association last year I made a bold statement about my three goals. Firstly to work harder to help Old Girls stay connected with Nga Tawa; secondly to encourage Old Girls to donate funds that could help young women who may otherwise not be able to receive a Nga Tawa education and thirdly, to work towards re-opening the Nga Tawa Chapel.

The Nga Tawa Chapel is the responsibility of the Diocesan Board and we continue to talk with them about what might be required to make it safe in an earthquake. My fabulous exec of local Old Girls and I had spent the early part of the year preparing for an Auckland cocktail party for Old Girls and a re-launch of the commemorative brick wall fundraiser. But there is nothing like a global pandemic to derail the greatest plans. The party will go on at a future date and we have re-launched the brick wall fundraiser. I urge Old Girls to get in behind this wall which is being built behind the chapel. You can learn more on page 16.

In the meantime, to ensure you receive invitations and event notices please contact me or Sally Patrick.

Sarah (Willis) McVerry (1984-1988)

Old Girls' Association President
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06 327 6872

Introducing Our New Director of Sport

Claire Horner.



Our Director of Sport, Claire Horner, has been with us nearly four months now. Claire and her family relocated to New Zealand from Capetown, South Africa, so that Claire could take up our Director of Sport role.

Claire and her husband are accomplished athletes, having spent nearly 15 years travelling the world as professional triathletes. They first met when Claire fell off her bike, and was rescued by Kent. Since then, they've gone on to win 20 South African titles between them. Claire was South Africa's number one ranked triathlete (half ironman distance), reaching a career high of #15 in the world and Kent specialised in the Olympic distance and made the South African Olympic team in 2008.

Claire has completed eight ironman races, and given running is her favourite discipline, she's now moved into the world of trail running. She has her sights set on a few of New Zealand's events, particularly the Tarawera Ultra. She is also a swimmer and talented tennis and hockey player, having made regional teams back home in South Africa.

Teaching coaches how to coach is one of Claire's strengths - she and Kent have an online coaching business for endurance athletes, mytrainingday.com, that Kent is going to run from here. Claire and Kent have taken up residence in Bruce Cottage with their four year old son, Logan, and their three Jack Russells.

Here are some of the things Claire has implemented since taking on the role:

A review of our coaches and facilities.

As an Ironman University certified coach and with a degree in

Sports Science, Diploma in Sports Nutrition and various other coaching certifications to her name, Claire is well qualified to undergo a review of our coaches. She believes a good sports team requires a good coach. Claire is also looking at our sports facilities and hopes to add to our current offering of facilities. Her focus is on a few key sports which she sees as a top priority, particularly Cross Country, Cycling, Hockey and Netball.

Weekly strength and core workouts for all students and staff.

Currently Claire's Tuesday and Thursday strength and core workouts are compulsory for the whole school. She runs a 30 minute yoga/pilates class working on body weight exercises and strength and conditioning. Many of our parents even gave them a go during lockdown via Zoom!

A whole-school compulsory Monday run.

Claire believes that an active body is a healthy mind. She'd like all our girls to feel and see what it's like to be active, hence the Monday run is currently compulsory. The majority of our girls are enjoying the positive benefits.

A High Performance Academy.

Claire, in conjunction with our Director of Equestrian, Libby Rayner, is working on getting a High Performance Academy up and running. Our top athletes will use a training tool called 'Training Peaks' which is an internationally recognised website that tracks fitness, fatigue levels and nutrition.



Why We Packed Up Our Lives in Auckland and Moved to Marton

Hermione (Year 10) and Tracey Siva.

Tracey and Nelson Siva's youngest daughter, Hermione has dyspraxia and dyslexia. As a result, she's lacked a little confidence, especially growing up around her two sisters and brother who find things so easy.

As a ten-year-old, Hermione expressed an interest in horse riding. She wouldn't ride a bike, but Tracey optimistically signed her up for some riding lessons.

Hermione's confidence blossomed. She soon formed an amazing bond with her own pony.

Towards the end of 2018, she was at school in Auckland. She was doing okay, but the Siva's couldn't help but feel she was getting a little lost.

Tracey took horse-mad

Hermione along to Equidays at Mystery Creek. She came across the Nga Tawa promotional stand. Assuming Marton was a suburb of Cambridge, Tracey signed up to go along to the School in Action Day Nga Tawa was holding the following week. When that Friday rolled around, Tracey still believed she was Waikato bound. It wasn't until Nelson said to her "you do know that Marton is near Palmerston North?" that she realised she might be in for a slightly longer drive! Although, for all Tracey knew Palmerston North was in Waikato too. She'd never heard of Palmerston North either. She set her google maps and decided to make a weekend of it.

From the moment the Siva's drove into Nga Tawa, they felt a

positive air about the place. The Principal they met was passionate, knowledgeable and authentic. The students who took them on a school tour were articulate, friendly and positive. Hermione bubbled with excitement to board. Tracey and Nelson decided there and then that she would.

Nelson travels internationally for work, and Tracey had a business in Auckland, and the rest of their family were there. So, when Hermione was accepted as a day girl at Nga Tawa instead of a boarder, it was a shock. Tracey doubted it was even an option.

What happened next changed their entire lives. Within a month, they packed up in Auckland, purchased a home just down the road from Nga Tawa and moved to Marton so that Hermione could start Year 9 as a day girl.

18 months down the track, and the Siva's love their life in the Rangitikei. At Nga Tawa, Hermione isn't just a number. The staff know every child by name. The girls look out for each other. It's not like the other schools their children have attended - the inclusiveness is real. Despite Hermione's personal challenges, at no stage has she ever been treated differently.

In fact, Hermione is thriving. She is now boarding and loves spending more time down at the yards and with her friends. The whole COVID-19 experience made the Siva's realise just how lucky they were to be living on their Rangitikei lifestyle block. Fresh air, daily walks on the farm and daily rides on Hermione's beloved pony, Mousa, definitely wouldn't have been an option in central Auckland!

In Tracey's words, "It really is the best move we've ever made. For us, Nga Tawa is New Zealand's best kept secret and well worth changing our life for."

"For us, Nga Tawa is New Zealand's best kept secret and well worth changing our life for."



Pictured: 2020 Head Girl, **Georgina Bryant** and 2020 Deputy Head Girl, **Sophie McVerry**.



Academic Excellence

More fantastic NCEA results.



Angel King-Ireland



Anya Weth



Georgina Bryant

Academically, our girls are doing fantastically well. The number of Year 13's going on to tertiary education is now consistently above 90%. In 2019, our girls who completed the Nga Tawa academic year achieved a 100% NCEA pass rate at Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. What is even more pleasing is the number of girls who achieved Excellence endorsement. 44% of students at NCEA Level 1 attained Excellence endorsed, 38% at Level 2 and 44% at Level 3. That is 10% higher (on average) than all NZ decile 8-10 girls' schools.

Two of our most recent Old Girls, 2019 Year 13 leavers **Angel King-Ireland (2019)** and **Anya Weth (2015-2019)**, were awarded Scholarship in February. Angel in English and Anya in Biology. This is a fantastic achievement given only three per cent of Level 3 students are awarded Scholarship. Further congratulations to 2020

Head Girl, **Georgina Bryant** who received Scholarship (English) as a Year 12 student.

We awarded six academic ties at our Academic Awards ceremony in February, acknowledging students who have attained an Excellence endorsement for two consecutive years. This outstanding level of academic excellence speaks volumes about the dedication and commitment of our staff and students.

The top five academic students in Years 10-13 are selected annually to join the Scholars' Society. These students are identified as priority learners and often accelerated in their learning programmes. Members also take part in scholars' outings and extra-curricular activities such as running homework clubs for local primary schools, theatre trips and quizzes. Our 2020 highest academic achievers are this year led by Head Scholar, **Trelise Wattam**.



Down at the Yards

Home to New Zealand's largest on-site school equestrian centre

Our Equestrian Academy continues to attract girls from across New Zealand. Our yards are at full capacity with 78 riders and 89 horses at school (30 of which are school ponies). 35 of those girls are new to the Academy this year.

Despite an interrupted season, our school truck was able to attend various competitions before we went into lockdown.

We kicked the season off at the St Matthew's Equestrian Interschool. Our Nga Tawa Sapphires placed 2nd overall and Nga Tawa Gold placed 5th overall. Congratulations to **Toni Taylor** and Giovanni Bello who were awarded the Best Performed Thoroughbred.

Next up was Horse of the Year (HOY). HOY is always a huge week for us, and this year was no exception with 18 riders and 20 horses. We had a large contingent of show jumpers who rode well in huge classes, usually over 100 riders in each class – so it was very challenging to earn a ribbon! The show hunter, dressage and showing girls all did very well in their respective disciplines as well and it is really pleasing to see our girls achieving in a range of disciplines.

It was a big team effort from our Equestrian staff to both get students to the event and to compete in some cases. Mrs Amy McVerry, Ms Robyn North and Mrs Libby Rayner transported competitors over and back from the show. Mrs Sandy Fryatt competed in Level 5/Advanced Medium Dressage and Mrs Anna Ash competed in the Rising Star Park Hack Showing classes.

This year, for the first time, HOY ran a show jumping interschool competition which was an exciting addition. Unfortunately, it was the last class on the last day of the show and it clashed with some significant events that secondary aged riders were competing in. However, we were delighted to be able to enter a team and compete well to finish in 5th place on an overall total of 12 faults. Our team was made up of **Cat MacClure** on Jailhouse Rockin', **Libby Fussell** and Illusion, **Sabine Fawcett** and Parkridge Brenda, and **Maia von Busekist** and Flying Fletch. Cat and Libby had two beautiful clear rounds each and international students Sabine and Maia must be credited for riding well under pressure in a team situation at a national championship having only known their horses for a few weeks!

Some of our stand out performers were:

- **Annabel Rankine** – 4th Open Riding Horse
- **Molly Coutts** – 3rd Equitation Series Class; 3rd Pony Show Hunter 80cm; 5th Overall Rider Equitation National Series; 6th Overall Cat C Show Hunter National Series; 6th Cat C Show Hunter Open Pony Championship
- **Molly Pike** – 6th Cat C Show Hunter Handy Hunter; 8th Cat C Show Hunter of the Year
- **Mrs Anna Ash** – 5th Open Park Hack; 5th Rising Star Park Hack

Unfortunately we had to cancel our annual Nga Tawa Interschool, which generally sees teams from 20 different schools compete for the Nga Tawa Shield. We hope to defend our title in 2021.

Sadly, we also had to cancel our annual exchange with New



Our St Matthew's Interschool team.

England Girls' School (NEGS) in Armidale, Australia which was scheduled for Term 2.

Before the coronavirus lockdown interrupted the sporting world, one of our Year 12 students, **Lilly Carpenter** (right), and daughter of Old Girl **Meredith (Collier) Carpenter (1985-1989)**, was having a top year in the saddle. Lilly represented New Zealand twice in the past year and had been having a good summer. She was in the New Zealand Secondary Schools



Jumping team that competed at the Australian Interschool Show Jumping Championships in Sydney in September 2019 and in the New Zealand Secondary School team that competed at the Pacific Horse Challenge in New Caledonia in October 2019. In both competitions she rode unfamiliar mounts, which was challenging as all the Australian riders were on their own horses at The Australian Interschool Show Jumping Championships. She was one of the few riders to finish on the podium in one of her categories and was buoyed on by her Chef d'Equipe (Team Manager), Director of Equestrian, Libby Rayner. In New Caledonia she was thrilled to win a gold medal.

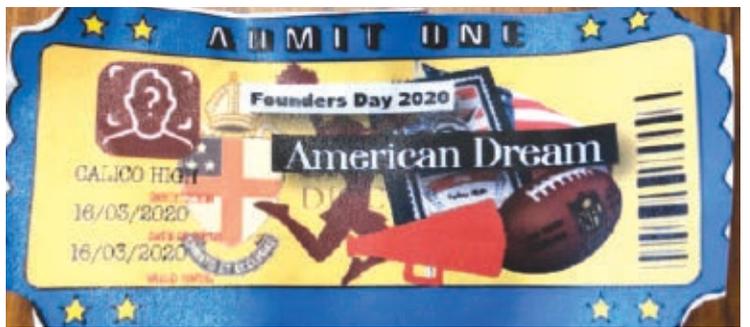


'Calico High' Themed Founders' Day

To celebrate our 129th birthday!

This year, Nga Tawa turned 129 and our Year 13's put on a very well-organised Founders' Day celebration. The day kicked off with a Calico High themed breakfast, the afternoon was filled with all-American fun on the field and everyone came together that evening for Chapel and Founders' dinner. Founders' is steeped in tradition - the Head Girl and youngest student cut our birthday cake, staff dressed as students and our new Year 9's were welcomed into the Old Girls' Association. Special mention to **Race Chan**, our youngest student, who delivered her reading in Chapel beautifully.





Your Association Update

Keeping you in touch

Kia ora koutou,

Greetings from the Nga Tawa Diocesan Archives and the Old Girls' Liaison office. I hope that you and your family have weathered the pandemic storm, and are safe and healthy.

Our Association has been busy working on a few projects since last year's Calico Line edition.

We've been conserving the treasures that you've gifted us by upgrading storage materials to a higher archival standard. In plain language, that means that as finances allow, we're slowly working through our burgeoning photograph collection, enclosing in acid-free paper or polypropylene, and storing in conservation-quality boxes. We hope this gives you the confidence to continue to gift us photograph albums from Nga Tawa's past. Our Year 9 students spent hours during their Term 1 study, be-gloved and fascinated, as they gently sifted through historic images.

I've been cataloguing the School's Historic Cups and Trophies. Currently we're focused on the discontinued trophies (such as the House Tidiness Cup!) Here I must make a special shout-out to Old Girls stalwart **Karen (Wilkes) Stothart (1975-1979)** who often leaves the Archives room covered in Silvo.

Ongoing from last year - and always a top priority - is ensuring your contact details are up-to-the-minute. Please email me patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz or for those reading this online, [click here to update your details](#).

We've been busy researching the stories of our Old Girls too. This allows us to refresh the school's Social Studies Unit on School Connection, where our current newbies can find an authentic touchstone that links Nga Tawa history to their personal present day. If you can help in any way by passing on family stories, achievements of Old Girls or sharing your own experiences of boarding and school traditions, we'd love to hear from you.

Our Oldest Old Girl.

Margaret (Mace) Barns (1931-1934), is our oldest living Old Girl. Her story is compelling, and there have been numerous articles recently in national media that reflect on Margaret's rich life.

Born in the Wairarapa on 2 October 1915 (yes, she's 104!), she and her sister **Shirley (Mace) Barns (1931-1935)** attended Nga Tawa in the early 1930's. In her last year of school, Margaret was Deputy Head Girl, Head of Sport and Head of Barker House. Her dream to become a games mistress led her eventually to Sweden to study. She travelled on the last ship from Sweden to cross the North Sea to England prior to World War II. The love of her life, Harry Bauchop, was killed during that war. While teaching Physical Education in England, she received news that her sister Shirley had



Sally Patrick



Margaret Mace

died, leaving two small children. Margaret returned home, where (in her words) "I fell in love with the children, and they fell in love with me so I ended up marrying their father." Later she and Arthur Barns divorced amicably and Margaret raised the children as her own. She taught at Wellesley College in Eastbourne for more than 30 years and recalls taking boarders for weekend tramping excursions, caring for them as she would her daughters. She's lived in the Rita Angus Retirement Village since 2002, with daughter Jenny close by.

We were delighted to host Jenny, her sister Libby and Libby's husband Jim at Nga Tawa in March, 2020. They've gifted the school a glowing photograph of Margaret, celebrating her two-day, 100th birthday party, and also a delightful family photograph where Margaret has the honour of wearing a treasured korowai belonging to the whanau/family of Wi Parata, Ngati Toa and Te Ati Awa leader and politician, who was also Godfather to Margaret's mother, Noeline Parata Cruikshank. Once again, for those reading this online, you can read more of Margaret's life [here](#).

Some other special Old Girl articles.

Sarah Gaitanos' biography, **'Shirley Smith (1931-1934): an examined life'** (Victoria University Press, 2019) provides the detailed backstory of the Nga Tawa Old Girl who was "one of the most remarkable New Zealanders of the 20th century, a woman whose lifelong commitment to social justice, legal reform, gender equality and community service left a profound legacy."

Watch out also for the memoir of the truly remarkable **Elizabeth**

(Entrican) Orr (CNZM) (1944-1946), 'Pay Packets and Stone Walls,' published in February by Steele Roberts. "Candid, tenacious and illuminating, Elizabeth Orr's memoir is a rich account of a 50-year dedication to campaigning for equal pay. With an eye for humour and self-appraisal, Orr shows us sides of New Zealand life that will surprise many readers, alongside the practical importance of good typing and a marriage of true partnership..' (Charlotte Macdonald, Professor of History, Victoria University of Wellington).

Moe mai ra, Bice.

I'd like to acknowledge the family and friends of **Bice (Young) Tennyson (1941-1945)**, one of our special Old Girl stars, who died just as we entered the Covid-19 lockdown. Bice, an inspirational

teacher in her day was honoured by her son, Te Papa Vertebrates Curator, Alan Tennyson, who named an extinct giant penguin after her: Kumimanu Biceae, in 2017. He attributes Bice with fostering his great passion for natural history. Moe mai ra, Bice.

As always, a heart-felt thank you to all who have engaged with and supported Nga Tawa Archives. We couldn't do without you! Please keep emailing, messaging, phoning and visiting as we forge Nga Tawa's future.

Sally Patrick

Archivist
 patricksally@ngatawa.school.nz
 027 200 6163

Scholarships

Empower tomorrow's women.

One of the major focuses for our Nga Tawa Old Girls' Association is to assist young girls to be the best they can be through the opportunities offered at Nga Tawa – the opportunities many of us benefited from.

We are indebted to the generous supporters of our school who

make this possible. You too can help deserving girls like Matilda, Keira and Libby to reach their potential, by contributing to our scholarships and hardship fund.

If you'd like to contribute or to learn more, please email NTOGA President Sarah McVerry at sarahmcverry@icloud.com.



Libby Fussell



Matilda Howard



Keira McLeish

AGM

Calling all Old Girls to attend our AGM

Friday 28 August at 10am

Upstairs in the Events Centre, Nga Tawa

Please join us for lunch followed by House Drama

RSVP to sarahmcverry@icloud.com

Work on our Brick Wall project is underway

Thank you to our generous donors.

Plans are being made for the construction of the Commemorative brick wall featuring Old Girls, families, staff and leavers.

Many thanks to Old Girl, **Sam Rollinson (2011-2015)**, who recently graduated as an Architect and did some initial plans that helped the Old Girls decide on a location for the commemorative brick wall, near the Chapel.

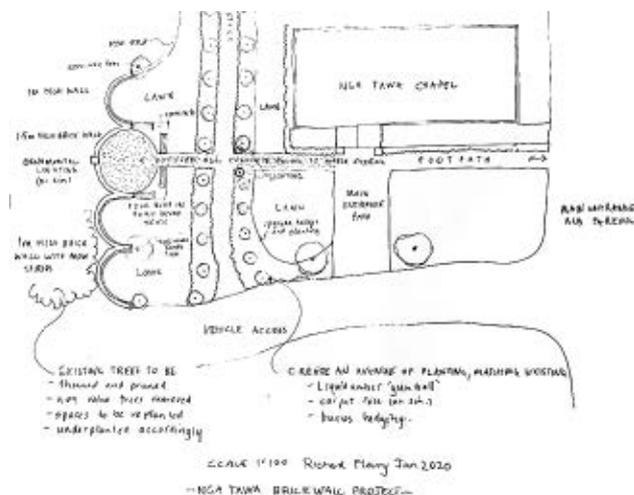
Past parent, Richie Fleury, has also generously donated his time to design the wall and will be carrying out the groundwork before brick laying begins.

Because bricks will be placed chronologically when the wall is built, this is your final opportunity to cement a place in our history by ordering an engraved brick. From 2021, new sections of the wall will be built using the names of Nga Tawa leavers only.

All proceeds of this stage of the project will go towards a scholarship fund administered by the Nga Tawa Old Girls' Association.

Are you here?

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Emma Robertson | Whitfield Family |
| Jess Craig | Jessica Hadlow |
| Aneeka Craig | Elizabeth Hadlow |
| Lilli Bradley | Rebecca Hadlow |
| Georgina Wallace | Samantha Fleming |
| Vicky Power | Kathryn Fleming |
| Daisy Power | Madeline Neal |
| Oliver-Thomson Family | Francesca Neal |
| Kim Duxfield | Olivia Neal |
| Ella Mather | Phoebe Macpherson |
| Brianna Dekker | Anne (Vosper) Sloman |
| Aliyah Dekker | Louise Sloman |
| Stella-May Collins | Lydia Harrison |
| Ebony Collins | Ian Harrison |
| Jackson Family | Kerry-Lee Probert |
| Harriet Roper | Jordan Neill |
| Adelaide Roper | Marjorie Fry |
| Lucy Marshall | Barbara Conway |
| Rosa Marshall | Rosemary Redmayne |
| Meg Marshall | Ivanna Botica Redmayne |
| Gaye Bailey | Hannah Wickens |
| Samantha Rollinson | Jasmyn McGill |
| Hannah Rollinson | Danika McGill |
| Rebecca Brown | Madison Genet |
| Lilly-Rose Olsen | Lily Genet |
| Niamh Waters | Kenzie Genet |
| Jessie Lord | Tracy (Smith) Quirk |
| Amelia Bryant | Sophia McDonald |
| Georgina Bryant | Catherine McLean |
| Lydia Whyte | Bridget Bone |
| Lara Westraad | Vicky (Perry) Duncan |
| Raienne Panesar | Kirsten Duncan |
| Sarah Wilson | Bridget Greenway |



You can engrave your place on this wall for a donation of \$200. Go to www.ngatawa.school.nz/brickwall to find out more.

Below is the list of all families, Old Girls, staff and friends of Nga Tawa who have purchased their place on this wall to date.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jan Lusk | Rachel Ridd |
| Evelyn Kilmister | Penelope Allen |
| Jeanette Cameron | Donna Wilton |
| Robin Goodwin | Raewyn Blade |
| Emma Baker | Anna (Hurley) Tipling |
| Alison (Giblin) Harries | Katie Gilmour |
| Karen (Wilkes) Stothart | Claudia McIlwaine |
| Claudia Stothart | Lucy McIlwaine |
| Roberta Stothart | Megan Nitschke |
| Annabel (Haddrell) Dawson | Anna (Dalgety) McLean |
| Michal Bevin | Tess McLean |
| Joanna (Grace) Reid | Alison Souter |
| Gillian Fletcher | Harriet Lambert |
| Philippa Horton | Anna Lambert |
| Amy Bulbon | Bridget Watters |
| Sarah Maunsell | Jaime Watters |
| Bice (Young) Tennyson | Alison Watters |
| Techa Intrawong Family | Lucy Wilson |
| Rosemary Percy | David Wilson |
| Diane Watson | Mary Shekleton |
| Deborah Kirk | Beverley Jardine |
| Nicky Abraham | Sarah Brown |
| Annabel Russell | Lizzie (Campbell) Lichtnecker |
| Fiona Sidey | Liane Griffiths |
| Prue (Sim) Hux | Chun Yin (Grace) Leung |
| Debbie (Savage) Schollum | Yortt Family |
| Gabrielle Townend | Madge (Ormond) Pomare |
| Helen Sligo | Miria (Pomare) Tamahori |
| Melissa Bryant | Phoebe (Tamahori) Fulton |
| Katrina Bryant | Anne Jardine |
| Caroline (Pearce) Ridd | Nancy McConnell |
| Amanda Ridd | Jaqueline McConnell |
| Charlotte Ridd | Malcolm McConnell |

Kate McConnell	Bridget Greenway	Brittany McLeod	Mary (Middleton) Haggas
Nina Bevin	Amy Macaulay	Rosie Irwin	Sheila Muir
Mackenzie and Marissa Belcaster	June Jackson	Charlotte Edwards	Bessie Howie
Rosemary Carr	Mary Willock	Renshaw Family	Victoria Norling
Susan Perry	Catherine Willock	Prue Tod	Georgia Green
Meredith (Collier) Carpenter	Furness Family	Lucy (Tod) Hori	Anna Green
Olivia Carpenter	Charlotte Grayling	Sarah (Martin) Horder	Presly Hood
Sophie Carpenter	Victoria Grayling	Annabel (Martin) Wilson	Bridget Bone
Lilly Carpenter	Phillippa Grayling	Hobson Family	Natalie Bone
Sue Cole	Gwendolyne Kellow	Brooke Family	Kylie (Sinclair) Turner
Nancie Pease	Gaylyn Hare	Jane (Whyte) Hamilton	Amanda (Knox) Carruthers
Priscilla Williams	Susan Redmayne	Anna (Hamilton) Baldwin	Nancy (Cowper) Sims
Anne (Shorland) Gambrell	Rob Crothers	Romilly Cumming	Susan (Sims) Fesche
Megan Rowe	Crothers Family	Lily Roygard	Jacqui (Fesche) (Shepherd)
Kate Mitchell	Betty Reid	Emma Roygard	Tessa Whale
Sheila Williams	Hodgson Family	Lindy (Bull) Horrocks	Georgiana Moore
Louisa (Openshaw) Craig	Jenny Partridge	Sarah (O'Neill) Dorward	Colleen Ware
Sarah Craig	Sarah (Polson) Lockwood	Nikki (O'Neill) King	Judith (Cave) Lambert
Mary Craig	Hannah (Lockwood) Brown	Jane Kissling	Amanda Swainson
Emma (Sargent) Ault	Amy Hare	Sutton (Potts) Waugh	Jessica Silk
Katie McWilliam	Jill Polson	Cill Waugh	Anna Tessin
Kirsty Campbell	Rod Polson	Lily Waugh	Clare Simpson
Beverlie (Sargent) Bennett	Nicky (Polson) Crowley	Kelly Corbett	Susie Dalgety
Berys Horrocks	Georgia Crowley	Judy (Morrison) Bailey	Georgina Dalgety
Charlotte Till	Bridget (Ellis) Bell	Ros (Arkwright) Fullerton-Smith	Pippa Dalgety
Elle Chotiwanih	Henrietta (Bell) Royston	Sue (Bull) Fullerton-Smith	Arna (Grace) Ward
Sue (Marshall) McKean	Amanda (Grace) Collier	Liz (Fullerton-Smith) Hutchinson	Christopher Grace
Julia Allen	Patrick Cronin	Bonner Family	Fi (Grace) Dalgety
Elise Ropiha	Su (Polson) Pendergast	Sue (Rainey) Taffs	Tahlia Harvey
Amy Tomsett	Lilly Pendergast	Rosemary Aitken	Charlotte (Stanford) Howard
Kylie (Frecklington) Knox	Sally (Dalrymple) Clark	Rosemary Twiss	Phoebe Howard
Mary Craven	Nicola (Marshall) Symes	Burne Family	Matilda Howard
Rebecca Anthony	Elizabeth Hall	Duncan Hart	Charlie McLeish
Kylie (Stone) Stewart	Dinah Hall	Sarah Hazlitt	Keira McLeish
Eilish Dwyer	Angela (Hall) Cook	Amy (Hazlitt) Williams	Janet Willis
Susan Allen	Sarah (Williamson) Glenn	Ash Hazlitt	Wendy (Dasent) Willis
Louisa (Lilburn) Gordon	Jenny Guthrie	Giorgia Miller-Thevenard	Susan Dasent
Charlotte (Gordon) Oswald	Sue Evans	Nicola Bryant	Sarah (Willis) McVerry
Katie Rose (Gordon) Cooper	Helen (Dalrymple) Tobin	Jeanette Biggs	Helen (Willis) Thomas
Suzanne Ogle	Gail (Lourie) Bird	Melissa (Simpson) Glynan	Kate Thomas
Vicky Spratt	Pattie Groves	Libby Rayner	Meg Thomas
Anna Fenemor	Sally and Muriel Groves	Jane Blackburne	Sophie McVerry
Liz Taylor	Joanna Jull	Jenna Blackburne	Daniel Willis
Kissling Family	Linda Clark	Jessica Forrest	Alan Willis
Jeannine Roygard	Ani Pomare	Andy Watson	Peter Thomas
Belinda Mayer	Manthel Family	Olyn (Williamson) Pezaro	Una Picot
Zoe Moller	Emma Hockly	Patricia Keiller	Anne Simms
Jessie Moller	Briana Allan	Heather Hocken	Verity Morey-Mackay
Charlotte Harding	Rose (Brawn) Hunt	Eve (Benjamin) Hiatt	Sarah Everton
Alex (Harding) Chapman	Anna Cuming	R & V Cook	Clara Matthews
April Newman	Florence Lee-Jones	Clare Cook	Laura Fetch
Juliet Bamford	Sarah Gordon	Kate Cook	Lesley Carter
Victoria Bamford	Kathy (Black) Gibson	Roger Marshall	Dianne Ellery
Sherie (Mortland) Batley	Rebecca Gibson	Deryn Marshall	Paul Ellery
Heather (Fairclough)-Lee	Elizabeth Gibson	Anna Wallace	Ashley Holland
Vinnie Baynes	Andrews Family	Julia Marshall	Joan Pointon
Prue (Stableford) Gard	Beverley Andrews	Sally (Marshall) Spencer	Tony Cosgrave
Sally Rowe	Caroline (Cook) Lampp	Caroline (Marshall) Wallace	Bridget Manunui
Jane Rowe	Charlotte (Lampp) Smith	Stantiall Family	Sprott House
Penelope (Mason) Boulton	Katy (Lampp) Phillips	Angela Salmon	Barker House
Jessica (Till) Handley	Barbara (Newton) Connell	Trelise Wattam	Studholme House
Koo (Duncan) Greenway	Alanah McLeod	Karla Rose	Birch House

If you have a query about this list of names, please contact:

Sally Patrick at patrickssally@ngatawa.school.nz or Sarah McVerry at sarahmcverry@icloud.com

In the Family

Daughters of Old Girls

Natalie Bone	Catherine McLean (1975-1979)	Barker
Lilly Carpenter	Meredith Collier (1985-1989)	Birch
Skyla Caldwell	Laura Burns (1998-2001)	Barker
Kelly Corbett	Jeannine Roygard (1981-1984)	Sprott
Lydia Harrison	Louise Sloman (1974-1978)	Barker
Matilda Howard	Charlotte Stanford (1977-1980)	Birch
Sophie McVerry	Sarah Willis (1984-1988)	Sprott
Margaret Menzies	Charlotte Gorringe (1983-1986)	Barker
Briar Nicholson	Pauline Wyley (1985-1989)	Sprott
Samantha Nicholson	Pauline Wyley (1985-1989)	Sprott
Georgia Taylor	Caroline Crawford (1986-1990)	Studholme
Issy Taylor	Caroline Crawford (1986-1990)	Studholme
Meg Thomas	Helen Willis (1986-1990)	Sprott



Back: **Briar, Skyla, Sophie** and **Meg**.
 Front: **Issy, Annabella, Margie, Samantha, Matilda, Lydia** and **Georgia**.
 Absent: **Natalie, Lilly** and **Kelly**.

Granddaughters of Old Girls

Lydia Harrison	Anne Vosper (1947-1950)	Barker
Sophie McVerry	Wendy Dasent (1957-1961)	Sprott
Georgia Taylor	Jillian Dawson (1960-1964)	Studholme
Issy Taylor	Jillian Dawson (1960-1964)	Studholme
Meg Thomas	Wendy Dasent (1957-1961)	Sprott
Annabella Tompkins	Felicity Faris (1942-1946)	Birch

Great Granddaughters of Old Girls

Briar Nicholson	Ula Ramsey (1929-1930)	Sprott
Samantha Nicholson	Ula Ramsey (1929-1930)	Sprott

Nga Tawa Class Catch Ups

Friends for life

Class of 1998 catch up.

In Taupo.

The 1998 leavers had an informal reunion in Taupo in July 2018. No one managed to take many photos as everyone was too busy laughing and catching up.



Back row L-R: **Elizabeth (Auld) Molloy, Harriet Wilson, Helene (Rowell) Kelly, Georgiana (Taylor) Plaister, Luci (Buckeridge) Firth, Jo (Moore) Turnbull, Caroline Maclaurin, Lucy (Hare) Cooper, Kirsty (Anderson) Stephenson, Louise (Bell)-Martin, Rosie (White) Prasser and Nicky (Wilson) Gaddum.**

Middle row L-R: **Rebecca (Whisker) Heatley, Kate Clausen, Hannah (Green) Stafford, Jane (Walkinton) Gorton and Marni (Lynn) McGregor.**

Front row L-R: **Gemma Collier, Sarah McKelvie, Anna (Cullwick) Couchman, Penny (Jolly) Egerton, Sarah (Owen) Walden, Louise Galpin, Vicki (Kydd) Allan and Dominique Scarf.**

Christchurch Reunion.

Ladies of 1951-1956.

Those who attended Nga Tawa in the early 50's met in Christchurch last September for dinner at the Christchurch Club, where some also stayed. The ladies then met the next day for lunch at Twenty-Seven Steps.



Above: **Sally (Firth) Coles and Gill (Fletcher) Horton**

Left: **Kerry (Ellingham) Lorck, Alison (Judd) Fenwick, Gill (Higgs) Corballis, Ro (Hobson) Acland, Sally (Firth) Coles, Gill (Fletcher) Horton, Belinda (Nott) Alexander, Vicky (McLean) Miller, Annie (Latham) Edmond (who sadly died two weeks later of cancer), Susan (Duncan) Speedy and Prue (Wilson) Porteous.**

A weekend in Whangamata.

For the class of 1977.

Our 1977 leavers gathered in Whangamata for three days in November 2019 (22-24 November).



L-R: Megan (Putello) Sixtus, Belinda (Williams) Bonner, Mandy (Hill) de Monchy, Margie (Hare)-Hermans, Belinda (Till) Nicolle, Minty Green, Julie (Poulton) Gray, Sue Abbiss, Sarah Grace, Penelope (Mason) Boulton, Anna (Pearce) Montgomerie, Julie Scotland and Mildy (Adkins) Eastwick.



L-R: Julie Scotland, Mildy (Adkins) Eastwick, Minty Green, Kirsty (Irwin) Jackson, Belinda (Till) Nicolle, Sarah Grace and Belinda (Williams) Bonner.



L-R: Megan (Putello) Sixtus, Kirsty (Irwin) Jackson, Sally Pearce, Minty Green, Margie (Hare)-Hermans, Belinda (Till) Nicolle, Belinda (Williams) Bonner, Julie (Poulton) Gray and Julie Scotland.

Ladies of the 1940s and 1950s who lunch.

In Auckland.



Here is a photo from the ladies' Christmas lunch photo held in December 2019.

Back row L-R: **Dinah (Hall) Parr**, **Anne (Shorland) Gambrell**, **Frannie (Collier) Richards**, **Anne (Jardine) Mercer**, **Nancy Mackay**, **Alison Mackay** and **Genevieve (Worley) Becroft**.

Front row L-R: **Anne (Vosper) Sloman**, **Joan (Weir) Haines**, **Sonia (Coleman) Franklin**, **Janet (Levien) Bothnerby**, **Myfanwy (Wynn-Williams) Armstrong**, **Barbara (Newton) Connell** and **Patsy (Lichtenstein) Laird**.

Others who regularly attend the lunches include: **Jenny (Stevenson) Henry**, **Judith (Wheeler) McWilliams**, **Gil (Taverner) Hanly**, **Ruth (Henson) Minhinnick**, **Cherry Hankin**, **Fiona (Riddett) Conway** and **Jill (Fullerton-Smith) Carter**.

Enjoyable friendships are kept warm with bi-monthly lunches of Nga Tawa Old Girls living in Auckland who attended Nga Tawa in the late 1940s to early 1950s.

The ladies reminisce, laugh a lot, catch up on personal news and generally set the world to rights.

The group of approximately 20 represents many interests and achievements over the years. Examples range from prominence in photography, painting and law; bacteriology, physiotherapy, journalism, a DSIR technician, occupational therapy, sport (especially tennis), kindergarten teaching and mycology.



We've also included an older photo of **Gene (Worley) Becroft** and **Anne (Vosper) Sloman** as they both now have Alzheimers. This was taken at their combined 70th party held in Takapuna in 2004.



'Namaste'

Nga Tawa 1987 leavers' trip to India with their daughters .

In 1983, they were wide-eyed new boarders and in 2019, many of them would be hitting the big 5-0. A birthday the still tight-knit class of 1987 decided was worth celebrating.

A year or two before the looming milestone, **Vicky Read (1983-1987)**, **Sue (Marshall) McKean (1983-1986)** and **Joanna (Mackintosh) Carr (1983-1986)** decided forget the party, let's all go to India.

As it happened, Vicky's daughter, Bea, was also turning 21 in the same year. Bea had lived and worked in Delhi for a NGO that ran a slum school when she had finished school. She was keen to go back and so, the idea of a mother daughter trip was born.

Expressions of interest were sought and 12 of the 1987 leavers joined 'Namaste' – the Facebook group responsible for getting the trip off the ground. Some of the girls hadn't been in touch since school days.

Phoebe (Tamahori) Fulton (1983-1987) had long been harbouring a desire for a trip to India with her husband and four young adult children (aged 16-22), but the rest of her family weren't showing the same enthusiasm for the destination as she was. She jumped at the chance to experience a part of the world she found so fascinating and signed two of her daughters up for the ride. The rest of her family would join them in India afterwards.

After much discussion, the date was set. The group would depart New Zealand in early November immediately after NZ University exams were finished. With details falling into place, 16 people confirmed - eight mums and eight daughters (aged between 20-23).

Joining **Phoebe (Tamahori) Fulton** and her daughters Meg

and Tessa were **Vicky Read** and her daughter Bea Pearce, **Sue (Marshall) McKean** and her two daughters Abby and Tess, **Joanna (Mackintosh) Carr** and her daughter Libby, **Mandy Waldin (1983-1986)** and her daughter Briar, **Jane Bramwell (1983-1986)** and her daughter Zoe Yibowei (who both live in London), **Ana (Grace) Ward (1983-1987)** and **Josie (Pettitt) Shelly (1983-1986)**.

Vicky had recently been to India to visit Bea, so they quickly became the tour leaders. Ana and Jane had also been to India many years before when they were more accustomed to intrepid travel in their youth!

There were lots of decisions to make - how much money did they need? Should they take probiotics? Antibiotics? What would be culturally appropriate to wear? Who wanted to do what? See what? Eat what? One thing they all agreed on was that they would probably get 'Delhi belly' at some point, so supplies of hand sanitiser, tissues, toilet paper, and diarrhoea pills were stocked up on before departure (surprisingly, they really didn't need them - there was the odd tummy rumble but nothing that required too much attention or emergency stops!)

The girls had two weeks together and at Vicky's suggestion, they decided on Rajasthan for one week and Darjeeling for the other week. They were set for two very different experiences within the same country, with an itinerary crossing from one side of India to the other.

The group met in Singapore, for a few hours' sleep in the transit hotel before arriving in Delhi in the early hours of the morning. Our clean living Kiwis were greeted by the worst smog they'd ever seen. They'd seen news reports of the smog before they left but this was another level! Luckily, they were prepared and masks



were dished out at the airport by Mandy and Jo. The air was 'thick' and their throats were scratchy so some even wore them inside the taxis on the 45 minute trip to their hotel, a restored Haveli in Chandni Chowk, the old part of Delhi near the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid (Mosque).

So began their once in a lifetime trip to India. The group stayed in a variety of different accommodation - often dictated by availability, but mostly haveli (a traditional Indian townhouse or mansion) with character or hotels famous in another era. This was not a backpacking trip nor was it filled with all the comforts the ladies could probably have convinced themselves they deserved to celebrate their 50th birthdays!

Team 'Namaste' mostly travelled by plane, two private vans with drivers and the occasional taxi and 'tuk-tuk'. Flights proved to be a bit problematic when Jet Airways, who they'd booked all their domestic flights on, went in to receivership six months out and they had to rebook on Air India. Phoebe's Air New Zealand pilot brother-in-law warned you couldn't pay him to take an Air India flight due to both pilot training and 'on time' stats. His advice - prepare for delays and last minute changes of plans. As it turned out everything went pretty smoothly and mostly on schedule!

They left Delhi and headed to Jodhpur - the Blue city, where they glamped (bed in a tent with no hint of luxury whatsoever), rode camels and experienced the most powerful thunderous and lightning storm in the Osian desert. They visited the Ranakpur Jain Temple en route to Udaipur - the city of lakes. From there they went to the Chittorgarh Fort on their way to Bundi, and onto Jaipur - the Pink city. They then spent a full day travelling across India, flying Jaipur to Lucknow to Delhi to Bagdogra. A three hour drive up in to the hills to Kurseong followed, and then onto Darjeeling.

Upon arrival in Darjeeling, Phoebe couldn't believe the difference in landscape! "We could have been in a different country - the people looked different (more Nepalese), they dressed differently (although it was pretty cold) and followed different religions. It appeared there were more Christians rather than Muslims, Hindus or Jains."

The group visited a tea plantation, took the Toy Train to Darjeeling, went to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute to see the Edmund Hillary Exhibition and visited the neighbouring zoo. On the subject of the zoo, Phoebe laughs and recalls an afternoon planning what they were going to do. "There were discussions with the locals who mentioned 'the jew'. None of us had realised any particular Jewish significance to the area and we questioned him further about this. It turns out they pronounce the 'z' as a 'j' sound and he was referring to visiting the zoo. Much laughter ensued."

Sadly, the Himalayas were hidden in a thick fog but some of the group managed to catch a glimpse of them early one morning. Even being that close to Kanchenjunga - the highest mountain in India and third highest in the world - gave the group an immensely spiritual feeling.

After Darjeeling, the girls returned to Delhi for their last night. They made great memories, renewed old friendships and made new connections between their daughters.

The food was a highlight of the trip, some enjoying the Thali style individual platters and yummy curries, and some opting for the odd Western takeaway! Everyone enjoyed the freshly baked breads and Marsala tea. Many opted for a vegetarian diet and some enjoyed more street food than others.

Most mornings started with yoga led by Vicky, followed by meditation led by Ana. They developed a fondness for a bottle of Kingfisher beer in the evenings and playing the game 'Mafia'. They've even picked up where they left off continuing online games of 'Mafia' during lockdown Level 4! Some became adept at bartering, others not so, but all left with special mementos to remind them of their trip - scarves, jewellery, art, clothes and carpets!

There is talk about doing it all over again. Maybe in five years' time, to some other part of the world. After reading this, we're sure there will be even more school friends wanting to join the fun.

Namaste, Jai Hind!



Sarah Jackson.

Trailblazing scientist tackles 3000km trek.

When Sarah Jackson (2003-2007) returned to Nga Tawa this year the girls were interested in her work as an earth scientist in Australia, but what really captivated her audience was her four month hike the length of New Zealand.

It had been six or so years since Sarah had been to visit, but greeting the familiar faces that had taught her some 13 years earlier reminded her of Nga Tawa's sense of community. The words of the School Prayer rolled off her tongue in Assembly and she laughed when the dishes girls were let go to lunch first. Not a lot had changed.

Sarah is the youngest daughter of June Jackson (Barker House Dean) who has taught at Nga Tawa since Sarah was a wee girl. A talented all-rounder, Sarah was Head of Humanities in her final year, a Scholar and keen on sport. Since leaving school she's fallen in love with the great outdoors, spending whatever free time she has in the hills hiking and trail running.

After school, she moved to Wellington where she majored in Geology at Victoria University. That led her to Canada where she completed a Masters in Chemical Oceanography. A highlight was spending a month at sea in the Arctic Ocean collecting sea water samples and being treated to stunning Northern Lights displays and polar bears swimming up to the boat. Sarah then moved to the United Kingdom where she worked at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in Cambridge.

Sarah now lives in Canberra, Australia where she is completing a PHD in Earth Science. It's no secret the Earth's climate is warming. Sarah's job is to analyse how the Earth behaves now and how it behaved in the past. Tree rings and coral tell us some stories, but

Sarah predominantly works with ice cores from Antarctica to paint a picture of what happened. Ice cores are cylinders of ice ranging from a few metres deep to three kilometres. The oldest cores she works with are one million years old.

The decision to take four months off and walk the 3000-kilometre Te Araroa trail that takes in spectacular New Zealand landscapes from Cape Reinga in the North to Bluff in the South started way back in 2014 when a friend announced she would be doing it. It was fairly new, having been opened only a couple of years earlier in 2011 some 14 years after journalist/author/musician/playwright Geoff Chapple wrote a piece for the Sunday Star-Times outlining a proposal for a walking trail to run the length of New Zealand.

Sarah googled it. Te Araroa's website referred to the trail as the greatest New Zealand adventure. She parked it on her bucket list until another friend mentioned they were going to do it in 2016. Living in Canada at the time and spending most weekends in the mountains hiking, Sarah's attention soon turned to when she could fit it in, not if.

The trail had grown in popularity. From just a humble 100 or so 'crazy' adventurers taking on the challenge in 2011, five hikers a day were now setting off from Cape Reinga (pre-Covid-19).

On a warm November day in 2018 Sarah began her four month walk the length of New Zealand. She hiked around 30km every day, sometimes climbing well over 1000 metres. Starting solo, with two pairs of knickers and a pack full of dehydrated food, she arrived in Bluff in March 2019 with five new friends for life. After walking the majority of the North Island on her own, she'd spent two months in the South Island with her walking



posse – an Austrian, an American, an Australian, a German and a Frenchwoman.

“The friendships you form – it’s hard to put into words. You meet people from all walks of life and you all have this shared purpose,” says Sarah.

The majority of the other walkers were international visitors aged 25-35, although one New Zealand family with a six and eight-year-old in tow had all the other walkers talking and at one point Sarah shared the road with two Kiwi girls who were doing it in their university holidays.

Both islands were very different. She described the North Island as more of a cultural experience, passing through lots of small New Zealand towns – Kerikeri, Huntly, even Bulls and Feilding. Three full days were spent walking 90-mile beach and seven canoeing the Whanganui river!

For Sarah, the South Island was the truly special part – the mountains, the rivers, the jaw-dropping beauty. It was a lot more physically demanding and in some sections, they didn’t pass through a town for seven days. Thankfully, it was a long, hot summer which meant she didn’t get too wet and the river crossings were slightly easier.

Sarah now has a bank of beautiful photos to look back on to remind her of her amazing achievement and a time where she had nothing to think about each day but walking. Until her next adventure, she’s back to her day job saving the planet.

“So far, I’ve managed to combine my passion for science, the outdoors and travelling just nicely,” she said.

We’re intrigued to see what this go-getter does next.



TeAraroaNewZealandsTrail



Teararoanztrail



www.teararoa.org.nz





Anna Tait-Jamieson (née Willacy-Kuhn).

A pioneer of modern NZ food culture.

Born 19 September, in London, 1959

Died 12 August 2019, in Wellington, aged 59

Anna (Willacy-Kuhn) Tait-Jamieson (1971-1976) was a pioneer in the development of a modern food culture in New Zealand, both as a manufacturing entrepreneur and later as a nationally significant food writer and journalist with roles across print, radio and television.

Anna grew up initially in the Wirral, across the Mersey from Liverpool, before her family moved to Wellington. She left behind her childhood of wild woods, bluebells and badgers for the flax bushes of Kelburn and the sand dunes of Waikanae. As cultural preparation for the new life, Anna recalled being told to watch a New Zealand film on British TV. It was about the New Zealand land wars. After the long boat passage ended with the family's arrival in Auckland, she was mightily relieved to see concrete buildings and people wearing clothes.

After Kelburn School, she went to Samuel Marsden Collegiate in Karori, before starting at Nga Tawa. She went on to graduate with a BA (Hons) in English at Victoria. At university she met and fell in love with the man who was to be her life partner, husband, co-parent and business partner, Dan Tait-Jamieson.

She and Dan left New Zealand soon after their respective graduations and travelled Europe for two and a half years, mostly working in food and wine-related businesses. In a London delicatessen, where she had her own franchise, she was introduced to the world of fresh pasta.

In New Zealand at the time, there were no commercially available fresh pasta products, only dried pasta. Soon after their return to New Zealand they started a business making fresh pasta. It was hard work – they often worked from 5am till late – and it was tough to begin with. They supplemented their earnings with income from house painting for some years.

They married in 1986 but, because the business had to keep going, they took separate honeymoons: Anna to New Caledonia and Dan later went skiing. Both reported their honeymoons were very successful.

The long hard hours eventually started paying off with rapid business growth that was still averaging a third each year when the business, Pasta Fresca, was sold in 1999. Anna managed the accounts and computing systems, business partner Steve Hanna the marketing, and Dan the product.

Anna and the company were early adopters of technology, with their own national distribution system placing computers in trucks (novel in the early 90s), and the company became the market leader in the face of multinational competition. Anna and Dan had created more than they'd ever planned and eventually escaped to pursue other things.

The sale of the company allowed Anna to head off to journalism

school to fulfil her long-held ambition of becoming a writer and a journalist. She was quickly snapped up on graduation by Radio New Zealand, where she was recognised for her intelligence, her ability to tell stories and her knowledge of the food industry.

For several years she reported from the newsroom on the agricultural sector, made documentaries about food producers, farmers, growers and horticulturists for *Country Life* and *Rural Report* and read the *Rural News*. This work was perfectly aligned to her love of great food and her belief that good food bonded people. It also gave her a broad knowledge of the food-producing sector. In 2001, she became the food editor of *onHoliday*, a magazine that celebrated the way in which New Zealanders spend their leisure time. This work thrilled Anna as she had a special gift for holidaying in fine style. Anna's work in that magazine still stands today as ground-breaking for the fine food she developed, building on the Kiwi basics, yet taking authentic food to another level.

In her next role, as food editor for the lifestyle magazine *NZ Life & Leisure*, she travelled the country seeking out the finest food producers, be they fish farmers or mushroom gatherers, truffle growers or orchardists. She loved meeting producers, learning about how they crafted their products, and she got excited about bringing their stories to a wide audience.

During this period she also enjoyed researching *Al Brown's TV show Get Fresh*, a role that also took her throughout the land in pursuit of fine food and its producers. She worked very closely with Annabel Langbein, writing recipes and menus for *NZ Life & Leisure*, and planning photo shoots, and in more recent times, with Ruth Pretty and her recipes in the same magazine role.

Anna's knowledge and skill were recognised with her appointment to the judging panel for the Outstanding NZ Food Producer Awards, where her judgment was highly regarded.



The significant body of work she created in her professional life as an agrijournalist, food writer, recipe creator and food judge is part of a remarkable evolution of New Zealand food in the past two decades. From the days of soup, roast and pud in a hotel dining room or a ham sandwich and a lamington in the tearooms, to the exciting way New Zealanders eat today, Anna played a role in showing the way.

She lived for her family, for the opportunity to share fine food with them and with her friends. She lived most of her adult life in Kelburn, in a house overlooking Zealandia, where she and Dan threw great dinner parties and served sensational food.

Her other great love was the Marlborough Sounds, where she and her family had holidayed for many decades, initially aboard their classic launch and then in their beautiful boatshed. Anna also loved France, and she and Dan moved there for a year in 2005.

Anna, as usual, became engrossed in the local food scene and became the local champignon expert, separating comestible from toxique and mortelle for the locals. She was intrepid. The ones she wasn't sure of, she would try first and, if she was alive in the morning, they knew they were OK.

An internet search for Anna today will unearth this Stuff headline: "Burglars chose wrong woman to mess with". She found two men skulking in her house one day in 2012. She shouted at them, chased them down the street, flagged down a motorist, called the cops and had them cornered by the time they reached Messines Rd.

Anna's five-year fight against cancer was not easy, but characterised by her strength and bravery, and by her always putting her family first. She is survived by Dan, and by children Jimmy, Will and Maddie.

Adapted from words by Kate Coughlan

Editor of *NZ Life & Leisure* magazine

Images kindly supplied by Anna's son, Will.

News

Rosamond (Ros) Robertshawe (1944-1946) who was a former staff member and President of the NTOGA (1981-1983), celebrated her 90th birthday with an afternoon tea in the Hatherly Hall of Taranaki Cathedral, New Plymouth, early in June 2019. Nga Tawa friend, **Valda (Fyson) Woods (1945-1946)** and her husband Brian, came from Christchurch for the event. **Elizabeth (Entrician) Orr (1943-1946)**, who turned 90 last year was unable to attend because of an impending operation. Ros was headmistress of the Waikato Diocesan School for Girls in Hamilton from 1968-1977 and St Mary's Diocesan School Stratford from 1984-1988 (now Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls). Rosamond lives in a villa at the Tainui Retirement Village in New Plymouth.

Ros's sister, **Con Robertshawe (1952-1954)** was matron/principal nurse of the Taihape, Taumarunui, Thames and Te Aroha Hospitals prior to her retirement in 1996, when she moved to New Plymouth. She is now in the Sedgwick Wing of the Tainui Rest Home, New Plymouth.

Their youngest sister, **Helen Robertshawe (1954-1957)** was a public servant, mainly in the Health Department. After school, on her OE, Helen worked in the office for the All England Lawn Tennis Club for the first Open Era Wimbledon Tennis Tournament in 1968. She returned to New Zealand and from 1972-1984, she was Secretary to the Medical Laboratory Technologists Board, which included running national examinations, minute taking and the initial registration of medical laboratory technologists. Helen retired in 2010 after 11 years with the Legal Services Agency in Wellington and moved to Waikanae in 2011. Through the University of the Third Age (U3A) "Kaleidoscope," she meets Old Girls **Sue Skerman (1944-1946)**, **Margaret (Harris) (1952-1956)** and **Rosalind (Curtis) Bailey (1956-1960)**. She sings tenor in two choirs.

Margaret (Mace) Barns (1931-1934), our oldest living Old Girl, turned 104 last October! Mace was Deputy Head Girl, Head of Barker House and Sports Captain. A week later we also congratulated **Bunty (Dobson) O'Neill (1929-1933)** on her 104th birthday. Sadly, Bunty passed away days later.

In February, **Anna McConachy (2001-2005)** completed the Coast to Coast in just under 15 and a half hours. Her 243km effort earned her 5th place in the Open Women category.

After school and completing her nursing degree, **Nicky (Cox) Skerman (1977-1980)**, worked as a Plunket nurse until she had her four children. After years of being a full-time-mother, she decided to upskill. Ten years ago, Nicky completed two post graduate papers in the School of Nursing at EIT, then progressed to gain a Master's degree. Little did she know that her research thesis would become nationally recognised and make it into Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's Wellbeing Budget 2019. For her Master's thesis, Nicky interviewed 21 teenage mothers asking them what they wanted from the Well Child/Tamariki Ora (WC/TO) service. She surveyed what these mothers liked and didn't like about services which they had experienced after their midwifery care had finished. Realising how significant her findings were, Nicky, alongside Plunket, applied for a Vodafone Foundation World of Difference scholarship. She was granted

\$80,000 to start a pilot programme for teen mothers based on her thesis recommendations. Last year, her programme to support vulnerable teen mums was granted \$10 million of funding in Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's Wellbeing Budget.

We have two newly elected local Politicians. **Heather Gee-Taylor (2010-2014)**, was elected as a Manawatu District Councillor and is the youngest Councillor ever in that region at just 23. Former Nga Tawa Old Girls' Association President, **Fi (Grace) Dalgety (1981-1985)**, was elected as a Rangitikei District Councillor.

Kate Franklin (2002-2006) was one of three young winemakers who battled it out for the 2019 NZ Young Winemaker National title last year. She finished in a very commendable second place. Kate is a winemaker at Sacred Hill in Hawkes Bay and took out the Tonnellerie De Mercurey North Island Young Winemaker of the Year 2019 to qualify for the National Final in September 2019.

Three Nga Tawa Old Girls were named in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Rowing Squad. Congratulations to **Kerri Gowler (2007-2011)**, **Jackie Gowler (2010-2014)** and **Georgia Nugent O'Leary (2010-2014)**. The Gowler sisters' inclusion was announced after they won Gold at the 2019 Rowing World Champ Gold. Georgia was one of only two girls outside of the World Champs squad to be selected for the Olympic Squad - an amazing comeback from concussion three years ago. We wish them all the best as they now work towards 2021.

Jess Hadlow (2007-2011) graduated from Auckland University in December 2019 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and has started work as a house surgeon at Waikato Hospital.

Libby Hadlow (2009-2013) graduated from Otago University in December 2019 with a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws (Hons). She had plans to do her Professionals course this year before a three month stint at Camp America in New Hampshire for the northern summer. Unfortunately COVID-19 has put a stop to those plans.

Deanne (Lennox) McKean (2002-2006) is an ED nurse in Christchurch, New Zealand and two years ago she started Little Lunches with her husband, Steve. They are on a mission to make Christchurch a happier, healthier city by feeding Kiwi kids. Lunches are just \$5.90 and Dee donates her time (along with a great team of volunteers) to deliver the lunches to schools and hospitals for free. There is also an 'enjoy one, give one' option when ordering. Little Lunches have fed hundreds of Kiwi kids already and somehow Dee squeezes this in around shift work and family life. We were very pleased to hear Dee and Steve won a People's Choice award at the David Awards - NZ's small business awards.

At last year's prize giving we were honoured to have Nga Tawa Old Girl, **Miria Pomare (1984-1988)**, address our girls as Guest Speaker. Miria was Head Chorister, the first ever Head of Humanities, a Nga Tawa tie recipient and a member of the 1st XI Hockey and Cricket. Miria's story about her life since beginning Nga Tawa was thought provoking and fascinating. She spoke about her life walking in two worlds (Maori and Pakeha), and how Nga Tawa set her up brilliantly for her work today. Miria is an

Environmental Commissioner with extensive experience in local government issues and Maori resource management. Many of the girls got to speak further with Miria who joined in treating the junior girls with ice-creams on the last night of school and presenting the Year 13 leavers with their Old Girls badges.

Belinda Waymouth (1976-1980) was our 1980 Head Girl and is now an environmental journalist, videographer and advocate. She's worked as a broadcast journalist for Radio New Zealand, in print journalism, public relations, and as a photographer. She's also had a career in the entertainment industry both in New

Zealand and in the United States. Belinda lives in Santa Monica, California, with her family.

You may remember **John Howell**, who for 54 years ensured Nga Tawa students had the best experience possible when training and competing in the school swimming pool. The 92-year-old began his affiliation with Nga Tawa in 1965, teaching our students how to swim, coaching them to get better and later maintaining the pool. Last October, Howell retired from his pool caretaker duties.

Births

Virginia (Algie) and Ted Thorp - Forbes	January 2019	Megan Nitschke and Brett Illston - Frankie	September 2019
Lucy (Tod) and Mac Hori - Te Haukāinga	April 2019	Pippa Best and Callum Tahau - Aliah	September 2019
Nicola (Corser) and Matt Thorne - Connor	May 2019	Liz (Fullerton-Smith) and Paul Hutchinson - Florence	September 2019
Melanie (Weitenberg) and Matt Redmond - Hunter	June 2019	Vanessa (Norwood) and Clint Parkinson - Kyree	October 2019
Kloe (Palmer) and Josh Aplin - Ruby	June 2019	Gabby Harvey and Kim Speedy - Gray	October 2019
Leith (Hatfull) and Aaron Uings - Elliot	June 2019	Alice (Franklin) and Simon Bourke - Willa	November 2019
Toni (Walker) and Piet Baars - Gwendolyn	July 2019	Hayley (Jewell) and Shaun Hadfield - Cooper	December 2019
Charlotte Harding and Fraser Falloon - Angus	July 2019	Natasha (Smith) and Mark Bull - Sophie & Jasper	December 2019
Rebecca (Rhodes) and Fraser Pursglove - Heidi	July 2019	Samantha (Frecklington) and Andrew Morriss - Alivia	December 2019
Anna (Anderson) and Matthew Trott - Bridget	August 2019	Sam (Tod) and Toby Haliday - Lily	January 2020
Toni (Hayden) and Adrian Griffiths - Azalea	August 2019	Katie (Gordon) and Grayson Cooper - Lachie	March 2020
Alice Pritchard and Angus Buchanan - Charlie	August 2019	Deanne (Lennox) and Steve McKean - Florence	April 2020
Aimee (Picot) and Paul Harmer - Sofia	August 2019	Jenha (White) and Dan Phillips - Edward	April 2020
Amy (Hazlitt) and Michael Williams - Beau	September 2019	Amy Cheetham and Matthew McMurray - Frankie	April 2020
Emma Moore and Aaron Bell - Reggie	September 2019	Sarah (Grogan) and William Kirkland - Sophie	June 2020

We Remember

Heather (Fairclough)-Lee	1975-1978	Studholme	20 May 2014
Barbara (Frost) Cotter	1948-1951	Birch	5 October 2017
Di (Barnett) Cross	1954-1959	Barker	10 December 2018
Anne (Fraser) Fullerton-Smith	1943-1947	Barker	19 April 2019
Felicity (Faris) Tompkins	1942-1946	Birch	22 July 2019
Anne (Andrews) Lockwood	1943-1945	Barker	5 August 2019
Anna (Willacy-Kuhn) Tait-Jamieson	1971-1976	Barker	12 August 2019
Vicki (Low) Alexander	1963-1967	Barker	12 September 2019
Jess Reid	2013	Spratt	20 September 2019
Bunty (Dobson) O'Neill	1929-1933	Spratt	12 October 2019
Annie (Latham) Edmond	1952-1956	Barker	23 October 2019
Cherry (Reeve) Dingemans	1954-1957	Studholme	2 November 2019
Nancy (Picot) Gibbons	1938-1940	Barker	7 November 2019
Philippa (Monckton) Foxley	1937-1941	Spratt	25 December 2019
Bryony (Gray) Hollinrake	1940-1943	Spratt	7 January 2020
Rachel (Kay) Tyler	1938-1941	Spratt	4 February 2020
Bice (Young) Tennyson	1941-1945	Barker	26 April 2020
Mary (Middleton) Haggas	1946-1950	Birch	5 June 2020

We have honoured more of our Old Girls and friends of the school on our website. Read their obituaries on our website at ngatawa.school.nz/obituaries



Kate (Fallaver) and Hamish McKellar were married by Nga Tawa Old Girl, **Katie Gilmour**, at Kate’s family home in Mangaweka. Nga Tawa Old Girl **Brooke Hobson** (middle) was one of Kate’s bridesmaids.

Image by David Lewwww.davidle.co.nz

Marriages

Grace Morrison to George Vance	February 2018	Emma Sargent to James Ault	January 2020
Leah Stratford to John Small	February 2018	Sophie McDougall to Cam Wenn	January 2020
Lucy Tod to Mac Hori	December 2018	Ani Ross-Hoskins to Andrew Leggett	February 2020
Paula Case to Rhys Martin	April 2019	Keri Hayden to Hamiora Tāmati	February 2020
Harriet Mackie to Chris Bean	September 2019	Emma Crothers to James Conroy	February 2020
Kate Hurley to Shay Ashworth	December 2019	Rebecca Coss to Wiremu Te Awe Awe	March 2020
Penny McLean to Tom Cunningham	December 2019	Emily Franklin to Ben Dobson	March 2020
Kate Fallaver to Hamish McKellar	January 2020	Laura Knight to Stephen Nickalls	March 2020



Penny (McLean) and Tom Cunningham had a New Year's Eve wedding at Penny's family home in Marton. Nga Tawa Old Girls **Ali Palmer**, **Task Bulkolt** and her sister, **Lucy McLean** stood by her side.



Emma (Sargent) married James Ault in Auckland in January. She's pictured with her Nga Tawa bride tribe, **Anna (Anderson) Trott** and **Sarah (Williamson) Glenn**.



Laura (Knight) and Stephen Nickalls with their daughter, Mya, on their wedding day photographed by Old Girl, **Alex Pearce**.



Keri (Hayden) and Hamiora Tāmāti had two magical wedding celebrations which were attended by a team of Nga Tawa friends she is still close with. Her sister, **Toni (Hayden) Griffith**, was her bridesmaid and Toni's daughters were also a special part of the celebrations.



Leah (Stratford) married John Small, in February 2018. A team of Nga Tawa girls attended their special day.

L-R: **Georgia Thompson, Emma Lourie, Bridget Humphrey, Tayla Mason, Susie Dalgety, John and Leah, Jessica Moller, Genevieve Walshe, Sophie Muir, Amy Cheetham and Mikayla O’Riley.**



Kate (Hurley) and Shay Ashworth were married at Kate’s family home in Waituna West. Shay’s mother, **Jo (Parkes) Ashworth**, is a Nga Tawa Old Girl. Pictured is the Hurley family including her brother Jack’s partner, Nga Tawa Old Girl **Emma Lourie** (far right).



Harriet (Mackie) married Chris last September with a team of Nga Tawa Old Girls in attendance. Pictured are **Hannah McKay, Caitlin Peterson, Annabel Dekker, Harriet, Ani (Ross-Hoskins) Leggett, Hannah Frost** and **Emma Baker**.



Ani (Ross-Hoskins) and **Andrew Leggett** were married in Whangarei Heads where Ani grew up. She had Nga Tawa Old Girls **Kate Blackburne, Hannah Frost** and **Emma Baker** by her side.



Emily (Franklin) married her husband Ben Dobson in March this year with Nga Tawa Old Girls, **Cushla (Bruce) Fraser, Grace (Morrison) Vance** and her sister, **Alice (Franklin) Bourke** by her side.





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