



**The Fleur de Lis Club**  
Our annual Fleur De Lis Club Morning Tea event took place again this year with over 60 guests joining us for a delightful morning catching up with their peers.

After reminiscing with friends and viewing some very impressive Year 12 artwork on display, our Old Girls were entertained by the Junior School choir and string ensembles, and some lucky grandmothers were joined by their granddaughters.



## You're Invited

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

5.00PM, SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER 2023  
The Chapel of St Mary at School

Old Girls and their families are invited to join the St Mary's community for the Blessing of the Crib and Holy Communion. The service is an opportunity for the School community to come together to celebrate the great festival.

*All are welcome.*

### Old Girls' Day

THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2024  
St Mary's Anglican Girls' School

This special Old Girls' Day is an opportunity to have an exclusive tour of the new Creative Arts and Design Centre. Guided tour groups will give guests an exclusive look inside this world-class facility.

### West Perth Belle Community Notice Board

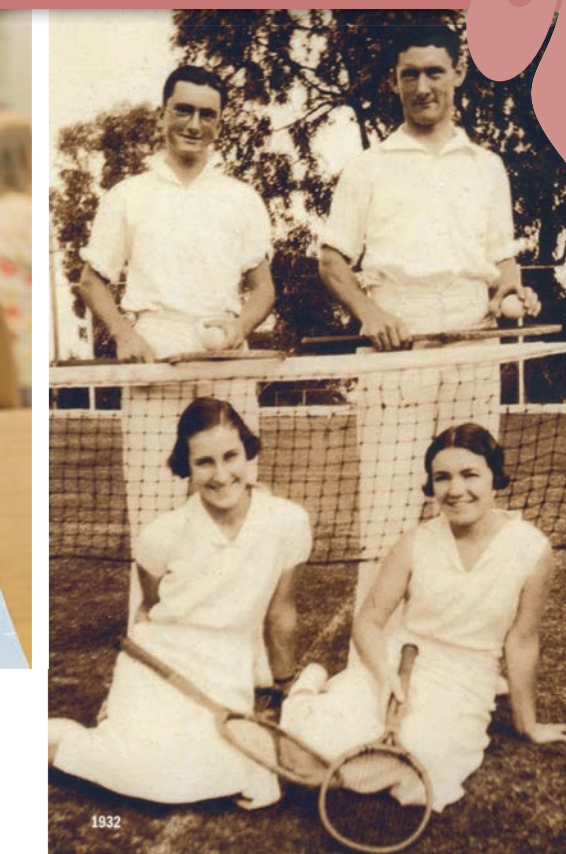
We would love to use this newsletter to share news about Old Girl community groups, clubs and volunteering opportunities. If you know of any fantastic book clubs, quilting groups, knitting circles, mosaic groups or anything that our Old Girls might like to be involved in, please send us an email at oga@stmarys.wa.edu.au or call 9341 9132. We love keeping our Old Girls connected!

### Junior School Human Library

We're excited to launch the 'Human Library', a new Junior School initiative, and we're inviting our Old Girls to share their expertise with current students. From neuroscience to knitting, no area is too obscure for the Human Library. Our Human Library will feature knowledgeable individuals who are available for students and teachers to 'borrow' their expertise. If you have an area of expertise (career, personal interests or studies) that you would like to offer our girls, please email oga@stmarys.wa.edu.au

# The WEST PERTH BELLE

2023



## Remembering our Old Girls

**This year, two of our most extraordinary and longest living Old Girls, Dorothy Harbisher (Van Dal '39), aged 101 and Lorrie Maley (Rowledge '33), aged 106 – the last of Miss Dannatt's girls – sadly passed away.**

A past President and Honorary Life Member of the Old Girls' Association (OGA), Dorothy was the quintessential Old Girl, making a lasting impact on our community and attending events at St Mary's up to the age of 100!

Dorothy was a trailblazer in her time, studying Medicine at the University of Melbourne, the only university in Australia at the time that offered a Medical degree. During World War 2, Dorothy put her medical skills to use, stationed in Perth Hospital and

working with disease samples and the new wonder drug, penicillin.

Lorrie, who was our oldest ever Old Girl at 106, also served on the OGA Committee as Treasurer and was known for her generosity of spirit, as well as her fabulous homemade Victoria Sponge, which she was still baking well into her 90s!

Lorrie was incredibly special to the school, attending West Perth from 1923 to 1932. Lorrie received form prizes for academic achievement and was involved in many school productions, once wearing Anne Symington's (Paton '33) father's formal dinner suit to play the main role in *The Tempest*.

Our hearts are with the families and friends of these inspirational Old



Girls. Dorothy's family said it best in her obituary with 'she gave everyone a lesson in dignity and grace and will be greatly missed but always in our hearts'.

VALE Dorothy and Lorrie. 'Life's duty done'.

## Life's Done Duty

We express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following members of our St Mary's community who have passed away this year.

Ann Gibb Cornish (Maitland '44), Old Girl and Biology teacher at St Mary's 1973 - 1986.  
Lila Dixon [Favas '39]  
Gaena Duncan, St Mary's Head of Home Economics 1971 - 1993  
Larissa Faye Golden ('07)  
Sandra Noni Gray ('51)  
Dorothy Harbisher (Van Dal '39)  
Barbara Jane Hurst (Cuming '47)  
Dr Ray Hyslop OAM, husband of Helen Hyslop (Judge '50, Head Girl)  
Lorina (Lorrie) Maley (Rowledge '33)  
Johnella (Joni) Page (Holland '63)  
Mary Smith (Ellis '59)  
Joyce Stowe (Nicolay)(Cole '65)  
Stephanie Ann Thomas (Scott '62)  
Norah (Micky) Williams (Clement '40)

### ST MARY'S ANGLICAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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The West Perth Belle is for St Mary's Old Girls who attended St Mary's in Colin Street and in doing so, helped to shape the history and culture of our school today. Through the pages of this annual newsletter, we endeavour to keep West Perth Old Girls in touch with each other, provide an opportunity for you to share memories of the students, staff and school in Colin Street, and celebrate the achievements of West Perth Old Girls. We welcome your comments and suggestions so that we can ensure that *The West Perth Belle* is of interest and benefit to you.

TOP LEFT Principal, Mrs Judith Tudball and Dorothy in 2022. TOP RIGHT Lorrie sitting on the left in 1932, the year she graduated from St Mary's. BOTTOM Dorothy third from left in back row, 1936.



## With Roses and Remembrance

The long-awaited sculpture of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Statham (Bullwinkel) AO MBE was unveiled at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 2 August 2023. Recognising the selfless service and sacrifice of all nurses in war and peacetime, it also shed greater light and public awareness onto particular war crimes such as the sinking of the *S.S. Vynar Brooke*, the Banka Island Massacre, and the plight of the POW nurses during World War 2. One of our Old Girls and World War 2 Army Nurse who was killed at Banka Island was Peggy Everett Farmaner ('30), a Prefect in 1929 and 1930, and a great friend of Lady Treatt (Frankie Wilson '32, Head Girl).

As surviving POW nurses recuperated after the war at Hollywood Military Hospital, Peggy's mother, Flora, presented the returned nurses with roses from her home garden. Flora also donated a church entrance table to St Mary's in memory of her daughter. Affectionately known as 'Peggy's Table,' as you enter and leave the Chapel of St Mary at every school chapel service, Peggy is remembered. Our Year 10 students honour Peggy each year with roses at the commemoration of the tragedy, and their attendance is awarded with the presentation of badges and certificates from the RSL WA at the Anzac Day Service assembly. The Year 7s also visit the Australian War Memorial on their annual trip to Canberra, placing poppies on the Wall of Remembrance for Peggy, and viewing the newly dedicated statue, which not only depicts Sister Bullwinkel, but has twenty-two inlaid steel discs, reflecting the victims of the massacre.

Lest we forget.



## Caring and Giving

We often remember the wonderful sense of service to others that Bishop Charles Lawrence Riley CBE and Miss Ethel Dannatt instilled in the fabric of the foundation years of the School and built into the character of a St Mary's girl. It has continued to this day, with an ongoing culture of a caring and giving school community. One Old Girl and her husband, Helen Hyslop (Judge '50, Head Girl) and Dr Ray Hyslop OAM, exemplified such concern for and generosity towards others, with their chosen careers in medicine, their wonderful family life, and donations to St Mary's. Helen attended St Mary's as a weekly boarder from 1946 – 1950. A sporty and clever student, she was awarded

the Archbishop Riley Prize in 1949 and was Head Girl in 1950. She rode horses in Kings Park whilst at school, made lifelong friends and thrived with a deep sense of purpose. Asked once about her zest, energy for life and strong set of values, Helen stated, 'I got it from St Mary's – they made me who I am.' She trained as a nurse at Royal Perth Hospital, moved to King George V Hospital in Sydney, training as a midwife, where she met her future husband. Dr Ray Hyslop was educated at Sydney Grammar School and became a specialist in obstetrics and gynecology. He also served with honours in the Army Reserve. Married in 1960, they had four children, numerous grandchildren, and still maintained their respective careers and interests in sport, the arts, and rural life. Although incredibly busy and committed both professionally and with family, Helen always made time to attend St Mary's reunions when they were held in Sydney, stating, '... it was like walking into a family'.

Due to her love of art, Helen established an Art Prize for Year 12 students, in addition to an arts award for an Old Girl studying at university. By way of a bequest, Ray graciously gifted \$100,000 to the School in Helen's honour. On behalf of the entire St Mary's community, we wish to acknowledge Ray for his extremely generous gift to the School, which will enable even more girls to flourish in the arts.



## Enduring Friendship

Our annual Year 3 St Mary's Past and Present excursion to St Mary's West Perth Church and the Constitution Centre, the old Hale School site, was made even more exciting this year with the inclusion of the Year 3 boys from Hale School. The boys sat on the right, and the girls on the left-hand side of the church aisle, as they learnt about our shared history and school stories in the streets of West Perth. Lunch was shared on the old Hale School lawn, with skittles, quoits and Double-Dutch skipping games for heritage fun. Other activities included interpretative sketching of the rose window at the St Mary's Church, rubbings of the School Centenary plaque on Colin Street, and answering the why, what, when, where, who questions in the traditional way, before technology and even cameras were invented. They also learnt about the changing landscape and demographic of West Perth, and the enduring friendship with our brother school, Hale School.

LEFT Helen Judge in sports uniform, Colin St West Perth, 1949. TOP RIGHT Helen Judge nursing c1950s. MIDDLE RIGHT Ray and Helen Hyslop, travelling c1990s. BOTTOM St Mary's and Hale School Year 3s rubbing the Centenary plaque on Colin Street.

## School News and Updates

In the previous edition of The West Perth Belle, construction was just underway for the new Creative Arts and Design Centre. This edition sees it near completion, and by Term 1, 2024 our state-of-the-art facility will boast teaching areas, gallery spaces and studios, and a cutting-edge media centre.

Art has always been deeply woven into the fabric of St Mary's, and we showcased this recently at the Bishop Riley Bequest Society Dinner, where guests were given an exclusive preview of the Senior School Art exhibition.

We were proud to show our guests the impressive talents of our current Senior School students, including the incredible wearable art dress from Bernadette Arto, current Year 12 student and 2023 recipient of the Jane Gillon Arts Award.

The Bishop Riley Bequest Society Dinner is an opportunity for the

School to recognise and thank the members of our community who have chosen, or intend to, leave a gift to St Mary's in their will. During the evening, we also acknowledge new members to the society, this year welcoming Di Porter (Wardle '60) and Margaret Saunders (Harris '70).

As well as becoming a new member of the Bishop Riley Bequest Society, Margaret has also established a new annual award for Year 9 students. The Margaret Saunders Citizenship Award acknowledges girls who have focused on the needs of others, are compassionate and caring, and make a significant contribution to the classroom and their peers. The inaugural award was presented recently to Jorja Foster, a very deserving Year 9 student. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret for her generosity and support of our girls.



## Crowns and Kisses



The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla was celebrated at the School with a display in the main Administration reception area, incorporating a history of the Royal family's visits to Perth and a small exhibition of Royal memorabilia from the Marlene Carter Heritage Centre. Items that delighted many visitors and students, included images from the Prefects' Coronation Dance in 1953, Coronation issues of the 'Illustrated London News', and 'The Queen Elizabeth Coronation Book' donated by Dr Jan Ring (Hatfield '64). What intrigued the students most, and generated many giggles and queries, was the dance card from the Prefects' Dance, which had boys' names next to each dance, but one boy in particular. Questions were raised about the longevity of that possible romance, and how mannered and structured events used to be. It was wonderful to see the community joining in the celebrations, and learning through the smallest of museum objects, about the social history of the lives of our Old Girls.

TOP RIGHT Jane Gillon (Fisher '70) with Bernadette Arto's dress. MIDDLE LEFT Margaret presenting her award to Jorja at a Senior School awards assembly. MIDDLE RIGHT Diane Porter (Wardle '60), Margaret Saunders (Harris '70) and Jane Gillon (Fisher '70) at the Bishop Riley Bequest Society Dinner. BOTTOM Prefects' Coronation Dance, 1953.

LEFT Peggy Farmaner in Singapore 1942 (courtesy of the Australian War Memorial). TOP RIGHT Sister Bullwinkel statue at the AWM. BOTTOM Year 7s in remembrance at the Australian War Memorial.