

Spirit

Inside:

Dr Kuljit Singh

Clinical Director of Projects
for KnG Healthcare

Where Are They Now?

School News and Updates

OGA Reunions
and Events



Welcome



As you take the time to read the Spirit Magazine and enjoy the memories and stories that outline the amazing achievement of our Old Girls, I remind you that each of our St Hilda's Girls is a cherished thread in the beautiful tapestry of our shared history and hopes for the future.

In the evening on Friday, 31 May, there will be a Gala event featuring performers from Opera Queensland and our very own Old Girls. Tickets will be released soon and will be available via the St Hilda's School website and Facebook page.

I would like to acknowledge Simone Crowther, Community and Alumni Liaison Officer, past parent, and ongoing supporter of our Community Support Groups, including our OGA community, for her service to St Hilda's School. Simone has joined the TSS staff and will continue to foster strong connections with our brother school through our shared community events.

The first significant shared event for 2024 is the TSS Musical, *The Addams Family*, with a shared cast including over forty St Hilda's girls. Tickets are available via the TSS Facebook page. Later this year, the Parents and Friends Associations of St Hilda's and TSS will host a joint Trivia Night. While our students across all year levels gather regularly for shared learning experiences, these wider opportunities to connect as a joint community are a special part of what makes a St Hilda's and TSS education so unique.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Amanda Shuttlewood (Deputy Principal - Head of Junior School) for her dedicated service to St Hilda's School since 2019, and as Acting Principal in 2023. It continues to be a pleasure to serve alongside Amanda and the rest of the School community as we support excellence in learning and promote a sense of flourishing in our community.

What a joy it has been to meet so many of our Old Girls at events across the start of this year and to listen to the stories and shared journeys of our alumnae. The generations of inspiring women who have shared in a St Hilda's education remain a driving force and positive influence on our current students and the generations to come. What it means to be a St Hilda's girl remains a strong reflection of the Non Nobis Solum culture, which epitomises belonging, service and the valuing of the unique gifts each girl brings to serve and shape the world.

I encourage you to stay connected with us through the Old Girls' Association as your active engagement supports us as we weave a path forward for a bright and prosperous future for all our girls.

In closing, I would like to thank the entire St Hilda's School community for the warm welcome and extend an open invitation to all our Old Girls and families to visit, call or write. I look forward to hearing your story, and your ongoing hopes for St Hilda's School as we navigate our path into the future.

Warm Regards
Mrs Virginia Warner
Principal

Each St Hilda's girl, past and current, contributes to our collective story, and our Old Girls' Association plays a vital role in ensuring our stories get passed down and our traditions remain an important part of a St Hilda's education.

Celebrating the threads of connection that continue to empower confident, capable and kind young women, this year our students across the campus have already been blessed by the sharing of wisdom, advice and encouragement from several of our Old Girls. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to our alumnae who reach back to offer insights and to mentor students who are about to follow in their footsteps.

Old Girls Alaina Marsters (2010), Elle Davidson (2005), Vanessa Paraka (2010) and Celeste Humphrey (2006) joined our student-led initiative, Croissants and Conversations, in March as part of our International Women's Day celebrations.

Thank you also to Dr Kuljit Singh (1993) who spoke about the importance of seeking inspiration and following your passion with a persistent and open approach to finding pathways to achieving your dream at our Fathers' Club Father Daughter breakfast. Dr Singh shared that her inspiration was her dad's work as a GP and that her openness to studying interstate punctuated a happy, successful and fulfilling journey towards realising her dream. A passionate GP and current St Hilda's School parent, amongst other things, Dr Singh is working with a focus on preventative and lifestyle medicine and the national implementation of social prescribing for those most vulnerable and in need of preventative intervention.

The updated Granowski building, named after Rev. Dr Helen Granowski, fifth Principal of St Hilda's School, is due to be officially opened on Friday, 31 May by The Most Reverend Jeremy Greaves KCSJ, Archbishop of Brisbane.

Dr Granowski was not only a strong advocate for girls' education, but was also involved in the national conference which worked for the ordination of women in the Anglican Church. We look forward to the incredible learning that will take place in this beautifully appointed Performing Arts space.



Spirit

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We acknowledge all First Peoples of the land on which we live, walk and work. We honour them and their Ancestors for their survival, continued traditions and spiritual connection to, and caring of country, land, sky, water and sea.

We pay respect to their Elders past and present, emerging leaders, and will continue to support their right to self-determination. In particular, we pay respect to the Traditional Owners, the Kombumerri People of the Ngarahngwal and Yugambah language groups of the Mibiny nation.

Tharangini Thirumurugan,
School Captain 2024.



Cocktail Reception Invitation

Festival of the Arts

Friday 2, August 2024

5pm - 7pm

Granowski Building, St Hilda's School

Join us for drinks & canapés as we celebrate our yearly Festival of the Arts. At this event, you will get the opportunity to purchase artwork from our talented 2024 artists.

Scan to get your tickets



A fantastic start to 2024



Since my last reflection in the Ammonite at the conclusion of 2023, the OGA is off to a busy start in this new year. We have hosted two events in two states, connected with our Old Girls all while undertaking planning for all that lies ahead this year.

In February, we hosted our second Old Girls' Association Sydney Soiree which was held again at the fabulous Opera Bar beneath the Sydney

Opera House and overlooking the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Old Girls congregated in Sydney from a vast range of graduating years, relishing in our shared connection – St Hilda's School.

In March, we made our way to Toowoomba for the Annual St Hilda's School Old Girls' Association Toowoomba Luncheon. This year marked our 4th Toowoomba Luncheon. The event held at The Royal Hotel is highly anticipated and provides a special opportunity for Old Girls far and wide to come together and reminisce.

Last year, the Old Girls Association released our OGA Cookbook which has been well received by the OGA and School communities. The OGA Cookbook is a special medium that exhibits the St Hilda's Story through recipes from past and present, day and boarding St Hilda's students, parents, friends,

staff, teachers and members of our wider community. Recipes provided by people who have differing backgrounds yet a shared connection being St Hilda's School.

Recently, it was announced that Simone Crowther, St Hilda's School Community Liaison Officer will be departing the school. Simone has been so very instrumental in the continuing strong progress of the OGA. On behalf of the Old Girls Association, I express deep thanks and gratitude to Simone for her sustained love for St Hilda's School, the school community and the unwavering support and energy she has shown the Old Girls Association.

Simone has given so much of herself to St Hilda's School and our OGA and has made such an incredible difference. Her dedication to the school and our OGA has been remarkable and I cannot thank you Simone enough for everything you have done to assist in advancing our OGA to be the incredibly fun, engaging and substantial Alumni Association it is today.

From the St Hilda's School Old Girls Association, we wish Simone Crowther all the very best in her new role at TSS.

As we look ahead, the Old Girls Association will focus our energy towards our Ladies Luncheon in August and the OGA Reunion Weekend which will be held over the first weekend of November.

The Old Girls' Association Committee remains devoted to strengthening our Association, and we look forward to continuing to provide our Old Girls' with many opportunities to connect through our events.

Alana Chesser (2018)
OGA President



Simone Crowther (left) pictured with Old Girls at the OGA Toowoomba Cocktail Luncheon and Kokedama Workshop.

Meet Mrs Virginia Warner, Principal



Q Can you describe your initial feelings about joining St Hilda's as the Principal?

There is something truly special about a St Hilda's education. I have been deeply moved by the collective brilliance and positive influence that permeates every corner of St Hilda's since my arrival in January. What an honour and privilege it is to serve as the 12th Principal of this remarkable school.

Q What feelings and impressions do you experience as you navigate St Hilda's grounds?

As I walk through the grounds, step into the chapel, and visit the boarding house, I'm enveloped in a sense of peace and joy. The echoes of laughter from generations past and the legacy of those who've walked these grounds before me fill the air with wisdom and warmth.

“
My life journey has been a global one, driven by an insatiable curiosity and a deep commitment to learning.

Q How has the legacy of inspiring women at St Hilda's influenced your commitment to the school?

The inspiring women of St Hilda's, past and present, have shown remarkable dedication and loving service in nurturing our students to achieve greatness. Their legacy fuels my commitment to ensure that we continue providing a world-class education where ambition, agency, student voice, and wellbeing are at the forefront, and where the pursuit of excellence is celebrated.

Q Who have been your inspirations within the history of St Hilda's School?

Just outside my office, there is a photograph of Ms Helena Davenport (1880-1911) and Ms Catherine Bourne (1912-1923), the foundation Principals of what is now St Hilda's School. They had the vision for an Anglican school for girls, in an era when that was well beyond the norm. They paved the way for St Hilda's to become the thriving community of learners and learning our girls enjoy today. I am inspired by the courage, commitment and ongoing pursuit of equality and excellence in education that underpinned those early leaders of St Hilda's School and the remarkable leaders, teachers and students who followed.

Q What is your vision for St Hilda's School?

My vision is to ensure we continue to foster excellence in education and the development of confident, capable and kind women who serve and shape the world. Enriched by faith and tradition, St Hilda's will continue to provide a world-class, active learning environment where ambition, agency, student voice and wellbeing are nurtured, and we focus on the growth of the whole girl. Empowering our girls to pursue excellence, not for themselves alone, to light the path, inspiring others to reach for the stars while transforming lives and communities.

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As I walk through the grounds, step into the chapel, and visit the boarding house, I'm enveloped in a sense of peace and joy.

Q Can you share your life journey and how it has shaped your passion for education and community support?

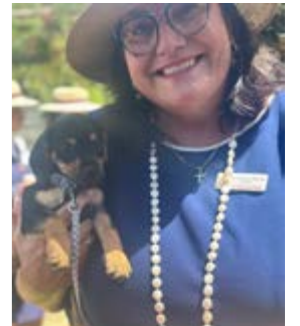
Certainly! My life journey has been a global one, driven by an insatiable curiosity and a deep commitment to learning. I've been immensely blessed by God's plan for my life. Originally from Canada, I immigrated to Western Australia to join my mother, Emeritus Professor Dr Anne McMurray AM, a renowned figure in the field of

education. Over the years, I've studied at three universities, each contributing to my diverse educational background. This journey has always led me towards a calling in education, where I feel most fulfilled in supporting communities to flourish.



Q How has your experience at St Hilda's and living in Knott House enriched your connection with the community?

Moving into Knott House at St Hilda's has been a true blessing for my family and me. We've relished the opportunity to connect with the St Hilda's community, engaging in various activities like weekend visits to the boarding house and guest appearances at early morning sport training. This experience has helped us quickly feel at home and strengthen our ties with the vibrant community here.



Q Could you tell us about your family and their roles within the community?

My husband Dean and I share our home with our two dogs, Millie and Moose. We also have a daughter, Nina, who works as a paramedic at Southport station. Both our parents live just 15 minutes away, adding to the sense of family closeness and support in our lives.

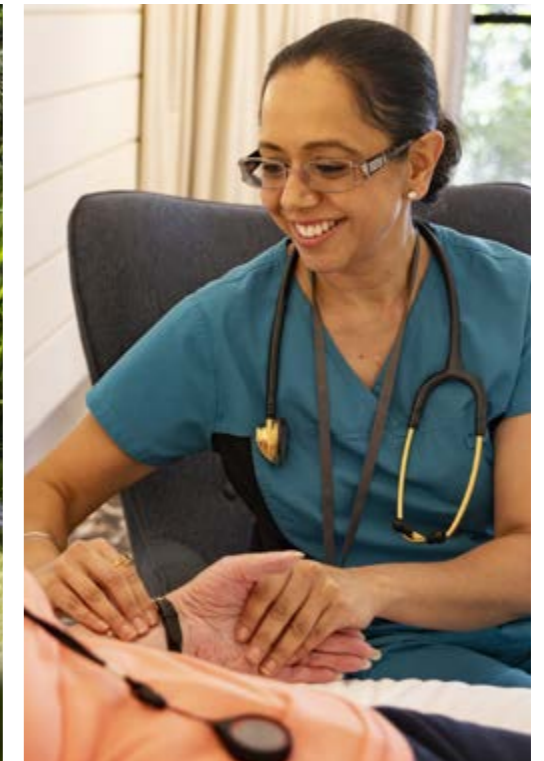
Q What message would you like to share with the St Hilda's community, past and present?

Thank you for the warm welcome. I am delighted to serve this community, and I extend an open invitation to all our Old Girls to contact me or to visit St Hilda's. I am interested to hear your story and to capture your hopes for St Hilda's as we chart a course that honours our intergenerational ambitions, so that St Hilda's School continues to be a place where minds are ignited, character is shaped and each person is supported to reach their full potential.





Dr Kuljit Singh (1993) (BMedSc, MBBS(Hon), FRACGP)
 National Chair RACGP, Social Prescribing Special Interests Group,
 Clinical Director – Projects, KnG Healthcare and General Practitioner



Q What path did you take after completing your education at St Hilda's School?

After graduating from St Hilda's, I joined Medicine straightaway at the University of Tasmania, where the six-year course was divided into three years first for Bachelor of Medical Sciences and then three years to obtain my Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery MBBS degree, with Honours.

I was seriously contemplating the research pathway into neuroscience and stroke rehabilitation at the end of third year but decided to complete the additional course instead.

After graduating as a doctor, I moved back to Brisbane and did my internship and residency at the Princess Alexandra Hospital (seconded to other local hospitals over two years); I knew in fifth year Med School I was going to be a GP, so the postgraduate pathway was simple to follow (two years prerequisite hospital and rural terms followed by two years supervised in General Practice) at the end of which I obtained my FRACGP (Fellowship with the Royal Australian College of GPs).

I also spent a year as the Assistant Professor of General Practice at Bond University as well as mentored a few medical students in practice. I worked with (and learned a lot) from my father who is also a local GP and my inspiration in medicine!

Q Were there any unexpected or unplanned outcomes throughout your journey?

Recently becoming Clinical Director of Projects for KnG Healthcare and leading their innovative Low Acuity Facility has been eye opening and extremely rewarding. It is a different style of general practice where we work heavily with both the Hospital and Community sectors for our patients.

Knowing we are making a real difference in the Bed Crisis situation is super satisfying. I've also been able to set up TLC@Splash – a social prescribing pilot project for the betterment of our residents and staff.

Towards the end of last year, I was honoured to be appointed the National Chair for RACGP's Social Prescribing Specific Interest Group, chairing approximately 540 GPs across the country!

Humbled and exhilarated as this is, it has been my true interest area which I've been working on in practice and now I will be able to spread the word, educate and create awareness, and help implement Social Prescribing nationally into primary care (and society at large).

Along with this, something exciting could be cooking for the health of our beautiful Gold Coast and its residents! Stay tuned.

“ I worked and learned from my father who is also a local GP and my inspiration in medicine! ”



Q Can you share a fond memory from your time in School and explain how your journey at St Hilda's has influenced the person you have become?

Attending science class with Miss Caughley (who retired only recently!) was one of the highlights of my school years. She

“ I believe the St Hilda's motto of Non Nobis Solum has inherently stayed with me and hence my strong desire to want to help more of society in terms of health and wellbeing.

was such an enthusiastic, passionate teacher whose love for science was palpable and obviously transferred over to me.

Being at St Hilda's for six years allowed me to experience so many different subjects and activities - exposure to the performing arts, sports, and languages has made me who I am today.

I love dancing, singing, writing poems, cycling, learning about different cultures, spending time in nature and volunteering in whatever capacity I can.

I believe the St Hilda's motto of

Non Nobis Solum has inherently stayed with me and hence my strong desire to want to help more of society in terms of health and wellbeing.

Q What does being appointed National Chair for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Social Prescribing Specific Interest Group mean to you?

Becoming the National Chair is a sizeable, but very welcomed responsibility. It goes hand in hand with my ever-growing desire to prevent rather than cure, to help in wellness rather than illness and to fix us collectively rather than just as individual "I's"!

My love for social prescribing and lifestyle medicine can hopefully be passed on to the many who want to be empowered to fix things before they occur... and with our team of likeminded, passionate GPs around Australia, I think this is a very real possibility.

I hope with Social Prescribing we can bring down the rate of social isolation, loneliness, chronic medical diseases, and mental health ailments throughout our communities, thereby creating healthier, stronger, and more resilient ones!

Q What are you currently pursuing and how has this changed your life as it is today?

My roles of Lead GP & TLC@Splash, as well as National Chair are keeping me quite busy!

It means I have many more online and face to face meetings and workshops (both locally, nationally and internationally), conferences and travel, and obviously plenty of bedtime reading to keep up to date with the latest in social prescribing both globally and in Australia.

This means a fine balance between work, play and family - plenty more multitasking, better time management and delegation of duties to my 'Village' (without whom none of this would be possible).





2024 Tour Dates

Boarding



- 1** DUBBO, NSW
ICPA Conference NSW State
6 - 7 March, 2024
- 2** TOOWOOMBA, QLD
Dinner & OGA Luncheon
16 - 17 March, 2024
- 3** GOONDIWINDI, QLD
Aspects Art Show & Goondiwindi Show
2 - 4 May, 2024
- 4** ROCKHAMPTON, QLD
Beef Week
8 - 10 May, 2024
- 5** TOWNSVILLE, QLD
ICPA QLD Conference
3 - 6 June, 2024
- 6** EMERALD, QLD
Cocktail Party & Emerald AG Grow
21 - 22 June, 2024
- 7** ROMA, QLD
Roma Rugby Races
22 - 23 June, 2024
- 8** ILFRACOMBE, QLD
Ilfracombe Races
13 July, 2024
- 9** ICPA Federal Sydney, NSW
Boarding Schools
24 - 25 July, 2024
- 10** MOREE, NSW
Boarding Schools Expo & Tennis Clinic
24 - 26 July, 2024
- 11** NORTHERN RIVERS, NSW
Afternoon at The Farm w/ TSS
28 July, 2024
- 12** TALWOOD, QLD
Pink Ladies Day
TBA
- 13** TEXAS, QLD
Triathlon
TBA
- 14** MOUNT ISA, QLD
Boarding Schools Expo
1 - 2 December, 2024

Our team look forward to connecting with you during our visit.

Where are they now?

Celeste Humphry (2006)
Director – Novasoma Photography

Q What path did you take after completing your education at St Hilda's School?

Immediately after my Year 12 Graduation from St Hilda's in 2006 I went on a nostalgic family vacation to visit my birthplace in California. When I returned, I started a double degree in Arts & Business at Griffith University and then switched over to do a degree in Business Management at Bond University.

In 2010, I graduated from Bond University with Distinction and was fortunate to secure a Microsoft Internship in Brisbane. There I learned about the fast-paced world of the corporate IT environment and successfully delivered a Spotlight project to the Premier of Queensland Anna Bligh AC and the Queensland Government. After my time at Microsoft, I took a break with my best friend from St Hilda's, Alexandra Rey and we travelled around Europe for four months. It was one of the happiest times of my life and this is where my love of photography began because I wanted to document everything.

My twenties saw me explore the city and corporate life in Sydney and Melbourne. I cycled through several different roles in IT and digital marketing before I took on a role at Optus headquarters as a Business Analyst. In 2018, I returned to the Gold Coast to be closer to my family and turned my love of photography into a full-time business!

Q Were there any unexpected or unplanned outcomes throughout your journey?

The most unexpected outcome of my journey was the gradual conversion of a weekend 'hobby' into my own full time photography business. The corporate working environment was invaluable and gave me skills in organisation, negotiation, client interaction, and digital marketing that I've translated into many areas that are needed in my new chosen career.

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The teachers and the boarding house staff at St Hilda's are a particularly special group of people. Their kindness and thoughtfulness made such a long lasting impact on me.

Q Can you share a fond memory from your time in School and explain how your journey at St Hilda's has influenced the person you have become?

My fondest memories of my times at St Hilda's stem from my time as boarder in the boarding house. Going into an All-Girls Anglican boarding school at Year 10 was such a massive change for me from living as an only child at home with my family and going to International American co-ed schools.

The teachers and the boarding house staff at St Hilda's are a particularly special group of people. Their kindness and thoughtfulness made such a long lasting impact on me. The boarding staff really helped me with my homesickness and they also taught me Australian culture. I still laugh from memories of weekends with the girls in the boarding house – especially how we used to scare ourselves with ghost stories.

The friendships I made with the other boarders and day girls are still going very strong twenty years later and I'll be forever thankful for our shared experiences together.



Q What do you love about being a photographer?

There are so many things to love about being a photographer! It is such a stimulating and exciting occupation – no two days are the same and I am constantly meeting people from different backgrounds and working environments / industries. From celebrity photos for the Magic Millions, to social images for Property Development launches, to marketing content for the City of Gold Coast events team – each week is varied and unique (and fun!).

And on a personal and simple note, I am just very passionate about capturing moments in time. I am a nostalgic person and I consider myself a visual historian. I receive such pleasure when people share delight in my work. It really warms my heart and soul when I can capture special memories whether family, sport, work or social events for others. After all, photos are meant to be shared! Non Nobis Solum – Not for Ourselves Alone.

Photography is a tool to capture different elements of human lives which can be kept and enjoyed by present and future generations. I know St Hilda's provided the building blocks for those current experiences.

Q What has been the highlight of your career?

There have been many highlights since this beautiful photography journey began, but so far the one that stands out the most was a moment shared with my fellow boarding classmate from St Hilda's, Katie Stewart.

Katie was living in America in 2020 and the Australian tech company she was working for went public on the New York Stock Exchange. Because of COVID restrictions at the time, they were unable to attend the event in person. Instead, they were asked to submit photos of each of the staff members so they could be published on the massive NASDAQ screen in the middle of Times Square New York City. To my absolute delight, she selected a portrait I had captured of her in Sydney a few years prior! A fun way to say I've had my work displayed in Times Square!

Other significant highlights include – photographing actor Chris Hemsworth and his gorgeous wife at the Magic Millions Polo (photos were used by News Corp and published internationally), snapping home games and community events for the Gold Coast Suns for the past 6 years, and recently my work with the City of Gold Coast events team. I was also very happy to have my photo of Zara Tindall MBE OLY featured on the front page of the Gold Coast Bulletin early last year. I'm so proud that some of my work provides a visual story of our local community life.



Celeste and her boarding friends at St Hilda's 2004.

Q What are you currently pursuing and how has this changed your life as it is today?

Part of running a photography business means continued self-development in photography equipment, skills and trends. At the moment I am especially interested in learning how AI will help my business. I am already integrating it into my workflow to deliver work faster to my clients.

I am always striving to capture the best images I possibly can, and wake up every day with a passion and a purpose which is incredibly fulfilling and meaningful to me. I want to document and show off the Gold Coast in its best possible light. I want its community to have moments for the enjoyment and recording of our city for present and future generations. Part of my mission means I have the opportunity to work with City of Gold Coast to document engagement activities for the upcoming Brisbane 2032 Olympics. Can't wait!

New arrival

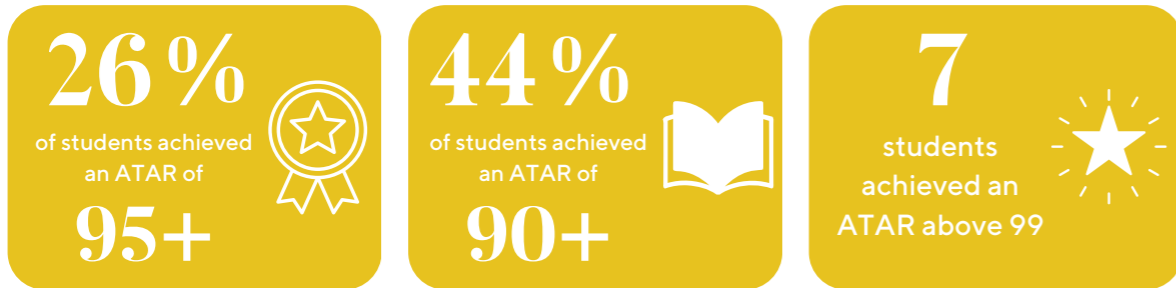


Allegra was welcomed by her parents Brittany Baldwin (2006) and Mitchell Clough (TSS 2004) on Mother's Day in 2023. She is so tiny, so small and loved by all.

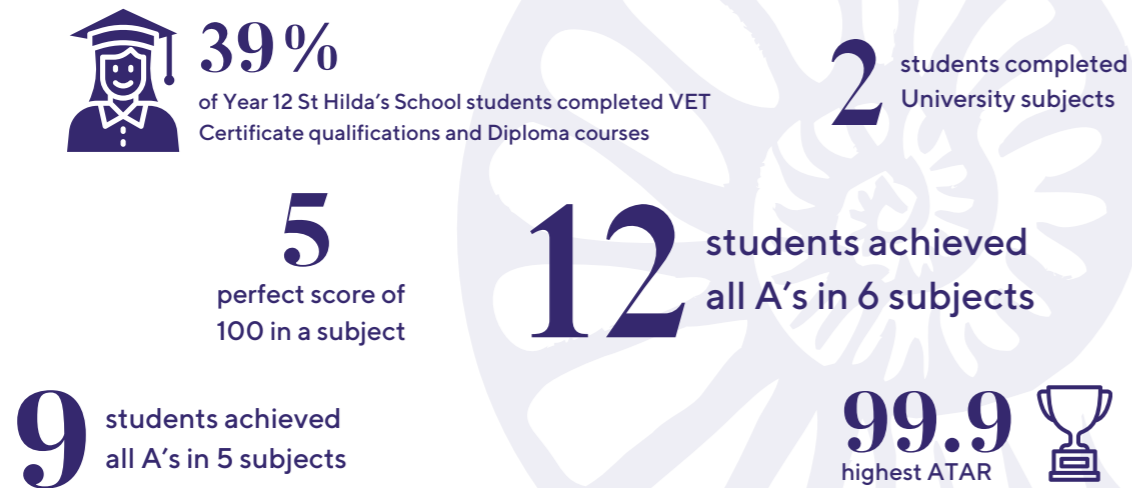


Academic Achievement Results

CLASS OF 2023



34 students completed Diploma courses



Reflections from 2023 Graduates

School Captain - Amelia Salmon

To all current St Hilda's students, and especially to those in their senior years of school, my best advice is to cherish every moment of your school journey.

Opportunity surrounds you, so embrace the incredible culture that the school community provides and take pride in being a St Hilda's girl.

Though it is incredibly important to involve yourself in every way you can, I would say that it is not the quantity of your commitments, but the quality, that counts the most.

Whatever extracurricular involvements you choose to take on, make sure to always participate with vigour and passion. This doesn't have to mean always aiming for first place, it simply means giving your personal best effort, and cheering on your peers when they do the same. Ultimately, you only get out what you put in.

The same can be said for your studies. In my years at school, I consistently found that the best results come when you stay engaged and participate in class to the best of your ability. On top of this, remember that you are surrounded by an amazing group of staff, so always reach out for help when you need it.

I know that stress often runs high, especially in Year 12, but if you put in the work and trust your preparation, it is much easier to stay calm and focused.

Though I'm sure you've heard it many times before, your time at school will pass before you know it, so enjoy every minute with your friends, because the memories and connections you make will last for many years to come.

I also would encourage you all to broaden your social horizons when you can, as sometimes it is from the most unlikely moments that a friendship can be born.

This year I have commenced a double degree in Law (Honours) and Advanced Humanities with a major in Western Civilisation at the University of Queensland.

I was fortunate enough to receive the Ramsay Undergraduate Scholarship, which provides generous financial support as I complete my studies, as well as giving me the chance to complete a semester abroad. While I study, I am in residence at King's College, where I am thoroughly enjoying the chance to continue my involvement in sport and cultural activities and continue giving back to the community.

I will never forget my 14 years at St Hilda's, and I am so grateful for the innumerable lessons I have learned which are serving me in my pursuits beyond school. I will always be proud to call myself a St Hilda's Old Girl and I hope that every student can find the same sense of enjoyment and pride in the red, gold and blue.



“
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Yvette Willemsen

For those with a countdown on their laptop to graduation, and for those finding themselves contemplating, “who am I?” and “what am I going to do with my life?” (me, I was both), let me assure you this: the world will keep turning after Year 12. School should not encompass the ‘best years’ of your life – rather, the stepping stones to who you will become.

My first piece of advice for upcoming graduates is to just show up. Whether you cannot fathom another Shakespeare lesson, show up. Whether you cannot think of anything worse than playing in band on a rainy afternoon, show up. Yes, it’s easier said than done; but if I have learnt anything over my fourteen years at St Hilda’s, it is that consistency is key. Doing these small things each day – turning up to class, musical rehearsal, sport training – when compounded over time, will lead to success and fulfillment. Big or small, you will feel this shift, and the immense pride that comes with it.

However, it is okay to feel bone-tired at the end of the week; it is *more* than okay to take a day of rest when your body and brain tell you. In fact, at the end of the day, no mark, no accolade, no achievement is worth sacrificing your mental health. The mind is your greatest asset – take care of it. Having the courage to speak out is not easy; but you do not deserve to suffer in silence when there is opportunity for help.

Secondly, don’t be afraid to carve your own path, even when yours looks different to everyone else’s. Marching to the beat of your own drum is not easy – it is downright tough. For me, I loved the performing arts at St Hilda’s; however, I was reluctant to continue this pathway post-school – would people look at me differently? Would I be judged for such a ‘risky’ choice? The bottom line is, don’t set yourself on fire to keep others’ warm. If you love Drama, study it passionately. If you love to write, immerse yourself in English. Life is too short to not be true to yourself. St Hilda’s will appreciate you for you.

Without my education, I would not be studying psychology and drama within the Bachelor of Arts at the University of Queensland.

Finally, in the words of Taylor Swift, “just be yourself. There’s no one better.”

involved in community initiatives. Not only will this help you de-stress and recharge, but it will also enrich your high school experience and provide valuable life skills.

Embarking on the next chapter of my journey, I was thrilled to be offered a place in the Bachelor of Medical Science program at the University of Sunshine Coast, granting me provisional entry to Griffith University’s Doctor of Medicine program. It’s a dream come true for me, one that I’ve worked tirelessly towards, and whilst there is a long road ahead, I’m excited for the adventures and experiences that are yet to come.

As I move forward on this exciting new chapter, I am filled with gratitude for the experiences and opportunities I had at St Hilda’s. It’s a place where I not only received an excellent education but also made lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories.

To all the current Year 12 students, cherish your time here and make the most of every moment, because before you know it, it’ll be over.



Makenzie Newton

As a recent graduate of St Hilda’s, I vividly remember the mix of excitement and nervousness that comes with the pivotal senior year, but I also know the incredible sense of accomplishment that awaits those who work hard and persevere.

If there’s one piece of advice I could impart to current and future students, it’s this: never underestimate the power of hard work in achieving your dreams, even when they seem impossible.

Trust me, there were times when I questioned whether I would ever reach my goals, but I learned that with determination and resilience, anything is possible. So, whatever you dream of doing in the future, don’t let obstacles deter you. Keep pushing forward, even when the journey gets tough.

However, it’s also crucial to maintain a healthy work-life balance. While academics are undoubtedly crucial, it’s equally essential to engage in extracurricular activities, whether it’s playing sports, pursuing a part-time job, spending time with friends, or getting

Lessons in the Power of the Woman



Anna Aquino (Year 12)

Not For Ourselves Alone... the very first lesson taught at St Hilda’s, and now, with the current, complicated state of the world, this adage has never held more relevance.

The month of March heralded one of the most important dates of the year for our school: International Women’s Day. At an All-Girls School this day is always an undeniable opportunity to showcase the power held by a community of women.

As part of the school’s Amnesty International Group – one of the many physical manifestations of the St Hilda’s motto – it was clear to us that the 8th of March was the perfect platform for reinforcing women’s potential to make the world a better place through actions both big and small.

With this in mind, the group coordinated a panel of local, inspiring women to share their wisdom. We were lucky to be joined by Roselle Tenefrancia, human rights lawyer, and co-founder of the local Amnesty Vision Action Group; Dr Peta-Ann Zimmerman, Program Advisor for Griffith’s Infection Prevention and Control Program; and Reverend Mary-Anne Rulfs, parish priest in Robina and Palm Beach.

Interviewed by members of our Amnesty group during School Assembly, they provided pearls of wisdom that certainly resounded with those in the audience. Here I share some lessons they provided on being a woman of the world and making a difference:



1. Female leadership empowers everyone

It was clear listening to the guest speakers that the notion of leadership takes on a whole new meaning through the female lens. Whether an authority on faith, science or society, female leaders are able to express a refreshingly humanitarian insight that has historically been overlooked in favour of male-dominated power.

2. On finding your own purpose in a world of confusion

Perhaps the most resonant message taken out of the assembly was the power of an individual’s purpose in this world. It is easy to be overwhelmed by the enormity of the future, but these inspiring women offered stirring advice. Your true purpose lies in the thing that both brings you the most joy and is missing in the world. Privileged experience should inspire action to help those less fortunate. Passions that spark joy should be harnessed to do good in the world. It must never be forgotten that our existence on this earth is both irreplicable and invaluable. Use it.

3. Fighting for your voice to break down barriers

No change can come about through shying away from difficulty. Indeed, all of the women readily exposed confronting experiences of others refusing to accept their leadership or blatantly demeaning their intellectual prowess on the basis of being a woman. But if the speakers made one thing clear, it was to never settle for less than you deserve. There is always a space in the room for your voice to be heard and steadying the course, despite challenges, a path towards empowerment is sturdily paved.



Teacher Feature

Mrs Lisa Cleverly

Director of Pre-Preparatory and Head of Athena

Q How long have you worked at St Hilda's School?

I began working at St Hilda's School in 1995. I moved to Southport from Melbourne after accepting the offer at St Hilda's School from Principal, Mrs James.

I was employed to work teaching PE to Year 1-10 and coaching in the gymnastics program. In my second year I moved to teach in the classroom in Year 6 and PE which was the perfect balance of classroom and specialist teaching.

Q You have had various roles at St Hilda's - how do you like the changes between the roles?

I have held many roles at St Hilda's and have enjoyed each of them. I have taught PE to Prep - Year 10, been a classroom teacher from Year 3-6, specialist Mathematics, Religious Education and Physical Education Teacher, Sports Co-Ordinator, Deputy Head of Junior School, and Head of Junior School and now Director of Pre-Preparatory and Head of Athena. My various roles have allowed me to grow as a professional and work with many staff, students and families across the school.

Q What inspired you to become a teacher?

I have always wanted to be a teacher from an early age. Originally, I wanted to be a Kindergarten Teacher, but that ambition soon developed into working as a Primary Teacher after doing work experience at a Pre-School and Primary School. I enjoy working with children and watching them grow. One of the most special things about working in the school for such a long time is seeing the girls grow up and go on to do amazing things, then, bring their daughters back into St Hilda's in Pre-Prep.

Q What do you love most about your job?

As the Director of Pre-Prep, I have the privilege of welcoming our youngest students to the school, helping them and their families settle in and love their time at school. The girls are so eager to learn and are interested in everything.

I also work with a wonderful team in the Pre-Prep/OSHC area of dedicated teachers and educators who also want to give their best for every girl to succeed.

During my time here I have been able to develop the Athena Program and enjoy supporting our elite athletes and performers to balance their training loads with academic demands to achieve their best in both areas.

Q What are your hobbies and interests outside of teaching?

My husband and I have a terribly busy family life and support three young athletes. So much of our time outside of School is spent supporting them in their endeavors which include AFL, cricket, gymnastics, and tennis. I spend much time travelling around Queensland and Australia watching them compete. I was once a surf ski paddler at Southport Surf Lifesaving Club and competed at the World Titles in 2000.

I enjoy going to the beach and paddling and would like to be able to spend more time doing this again in the future. I also enjoy cooking, crafts and more recently, gardening.



Q What inspires and motivates you day-to-day?

The fact that I love my job and derive great enjoyment from working with our children, teachers, educators, and families motivates me every day.

Q Tell us about your role in the Athena Program?

The Athena Program began back in 2015 when the Junior School developed High Performance Sporting Programs with Delta Gymnastics and Pure Tennis with initially three girls accepting the invitation to participate. The program supported these talented girls to train at a high level in preparation for elite sport. Once these girls moved into Senior School the program slowly expanded to include students in the Senior School and in other sports and has grown to about 40 students each year in a wide range of sports and creative pursuits from Artistic Swimming to Hockey to Ballet and Musical Instrument Performers. We have even seen one student compete at the Olympics and many Australian and Queensland Champions.

As the mother of an elite athlete who has managed the challenge of balancing a huge training demand with school, I can share some of the tips which have made a difference in this big balancing act. We have also developed partnerships with a sports nutritionist and Sports Psychologist who work with the students throughout the year. The students also find the visiting athletes a great experience as they share their sporting journey.

Q What is your vision/goal for the future of St Hilda's Pre-Prep?

Pre-Prep recently underwent our Assessment and Rating with the Department of Education. This involves an Assessor from the Department inspecting many documents, planning and procedures, interviewing educators, and observing practice in our Service over days. I am immensely proud to share that in each of the elements across the 7 Quality Areas we were rated as Exceeding the National Standards. This was a great achievement for our Team and Service. My goal is to continue to build upon this achievement and continue to provide our youngest students with the best first class beginning to an exception education at St Hilda's School. Each year we reflect as a team, and with feedback sought from our families, to develop an action plan to continue to build upon our quality program.

Term 1 Highlights



Andrews Cup Swimming



Junior School Swimming Carnival



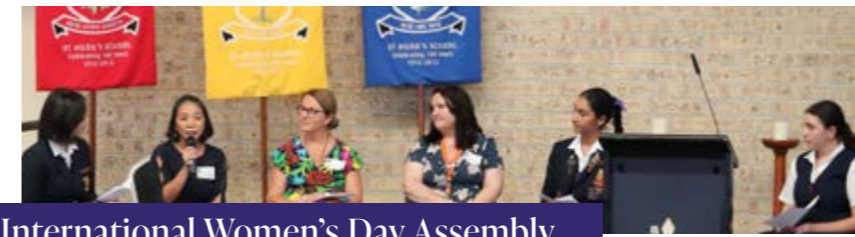
QGSSA Swimming



Years 3-6 Leadership Induction



International Women's Day Croissants and Conversations



International Women's Day Assembly



So You Think You can Sing and Dance



Teacher *Feature*

Ms Simone Sebban
Head of Faculty – Languages

Q How long have you worked at St Hilda's School?

I started working at St Hilda's School in 1998 but had a 12-year break from 2007-2019. In total I have worked at St Hilda's 13 years.

Q You have had various roles at St Hilda's – how do you like the changes between the roles?

Before leaving I had various roles; French teacher of course, IBMYP Coordinator, Middle School Head of Year and Assistant to the Head of Middle School. I enjoyed all these roles because I was able to work with the students outside the classroom and also develop curriculum. I like the variety of opportunities that teaching, and education can offer.

Q What inspired you to become a teacher?

After university, I was not sure if teaching was going to be a long-term career. However as soon as I went to my first school (a small country town school in Central Queensland) I knew that this was what I wanted to do. Teaching has allowed me to live and work overseas, work with so many wonderful colleagues and see students develop into amazing young adults.

Q What do you love most about your job?

I love being in the classroom and teaching. There is nothing better than getting to know students and hopefully inspiring them to learn French and to love the French culture. Last year, we had a trip to New Caledonia, and I have to say that it was one of the best school trips I have ever been on. I also love the school spirit at House events. They are so much fun.

Q What are your hobbies and interests outside of teaching?

Although I do not have much time for hobbies, I have been able to cross some items off my 'bucket list' over the years, such as a black belt in martial arts and a scuba diving license. I love to travel and hope to discover more interesting places in the future. On weekends, I enjoy cooking, catching up with friends and going to the movies.

Q Tell us about your role as Head of Languages.

As Head of Languages, I aim to provide support for the French and Japanese teachers and promote the study of languages at St Hilda's School. While learning a language can be difficult, the benefits of speaking and understanding another language is so rewarding. Languages open doors to new cultures, experiences and much more. I hope that in my role, I can inspire students to pursue their love of languages.

Q What is your vision/goal for the future ?

My goal is to continue to transmit the love of learning French, enjoy each lesson and each day. I am looking forward to the school trip to France next year.

“There is nothing better than getting to know students and hopefully inspiring them to learn French and to love the French culture.”



The Asia Pacific Summit for Girls' Education

The Asia Pacific Summit for Girls Education brought together educators, researchers, and thought and business leaders such as Prof Pasi Sahlberg, Nicole Dyson, Dr Judith Locke, Danielle Miller, Dr Zali Yager, Taryn Brumfitt, Megan Murphy, Ashleigh De Silva, and Prof Donna Cross to delve into pressing issues in education. As a delegate in this transformative event, I had the privilege of gaining valuable insights from influential presentations during the three-day summit, where there were more than 50 presentations to choose from.

Professor Sahlberg's keynote address set the scope of the Summit and provided a comprehensive overview of the global education landscape, shedding light on the critical trends and challenges. He highlighted the hump-shaped trend in academic performance across OECD countries. He questioned the audience about the gap between the decline in educational outcomes and the increase in education expenditure, as well as emphasised the need for renewed efforts to reverse the decline in students achievements. Additionally, Sahlberg underscored the importance of addressing disparities in education outcomes, those present among different socioeconomic groups, including Indigenous students, echoing concerns about the persistent learning gaps observed not only in Australia but beyond.

Furthermore, Sahlberg discussed uncertainties surrounding Teaching and Learning, highlighting the evidenced impact of "out-of-school factors" on students' well-being and outcomes. He urged a shift from an industrial model of schooling to a human-centered approach, advocating for holistic schooling that promotes not only students' excellence but also invests in equity, meaningful relationships, and community engagement as they are the core of what the youth need.

Coincidentally, my presentation aligned with Sahlberg's call! Building on the themes raised by the professor, I shared my insights on the crucial role of building relationships through building trust to improve educational outcomes.

Drawing on my extensive experience and expertise as an educator specialising in girls' education, I emphasised the relational nature of the teaching-learning process, highlighting the significance of trust between teachers, students, parents, and schools.

As a dedicated full-time classroom teacher, I am at the heart of the action every day, witnessing the profound importance of building trust in our professional practice. Trust is not just a nice-to-have; it is an absolute must-have in our classrooms.



As a result of almost three decades of teaching, I have come to understand that the stacking of small moments of trust with our girls is the key to unlocking their ability to freely express their thoughts and make their thinking visible, allowing learning to occur. It is within these moments that true magic happens, creating an environment where strong relationships flourish among students and educators.

Reflecting on the summit experience, it is clear that collaboration and innovation are essential drivers of educational change. By harnessing collective expertise and leveraging research-backed strategies, we can address the complex challenges facing education today and pave the way for a brighter future for all learners.

I am deeply thankful for the support of the school leadership in presenting the opportunity to participate in the summit as it enabled me to share insights with the wider educational community—a value I hold dear. Lastly, I am also humbled by the impact my presentation had on the attendees and the knowledge that it will ripple through their classrooms, positively influencing the lives of their students.

Teaching, to me, is a collaborative endeavour, and contributing to such a significant dialogue in education was truly an honour. With immense gratitude for this opportunity, I am eager to continue my journey of making a positive difference in the lives of young learners. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jayne Schinckel, a promising emerging leader in the teaching profession, for being my partner in this venture. Your dedication and commitment are invaluable.

Majda Benzenati
National Lead Teacher

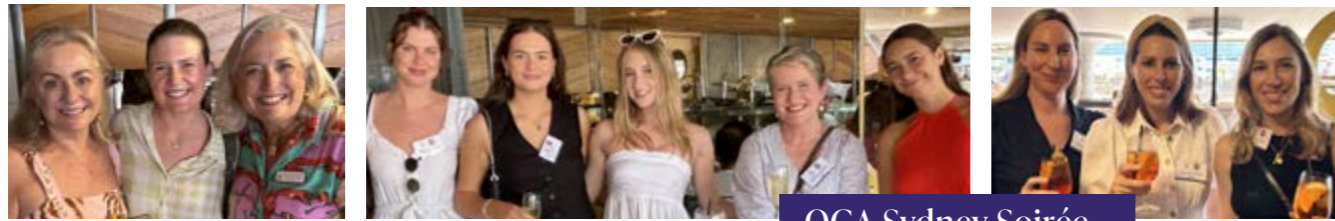


2023 Scholars Assembly

OGA Reunions and Events



2023 Graduates Afternoon Tea



OGA Sydney Soirée



OGA Toowoomba Cocktail Luncheon and Kokedama Workshop



2024 OGA Reunions and Events

Saturday 11th May
Join us for the next
OGA Meeting
9.30am James
Administration Building

Friday 19th July
St Hilda's Day
Walking Tour and Morning Tea
St Hilda's School

Friday 9th August
Save the Date
2024 Ladies Luncheon
Brisbane

Friday 1st November
Annual OGA Reunion Weekend
5.30pm Principal's and OGA
Christmas Cocktail Party

Saturday 2nd November
9.00am OGA AGM Meeting
10.15am Chapel
10.45am Tour of Campus
11.30am Brunch on the Green

Congratulations to all our Reunions!

- 60 years: 1964 - 2024
- 50 years: 1974 - 2024
- 40 years: 1984 - 2024
- 30 years: 1994 - 2024
- 20 years: 2004 - 2024
- 10 years: 2014 - 2024

For further information, please email
oldgirls@sthildas.qld.edu.au



Community Events



2024 Community Events

Save the Dates!

- Bush to Beach
Friday, 24 May
- Mother Daughter Luncheon
(Senior School)
Saturday, 25 May
- High Tea
(Junior School)
Thursday, 30 May
- St Hilda's Day
Friday, 19 July
- Music Gala Concert
Friday, 12 July
- Festival of the Arts
Cocktail Party
Friday, 2 August
- School Fete
Saturday, 3 August
- Fathers' Club
Golf Day
Friday, 6 September
- Foundation Business Lunch
Friday, 25 October
- Principal's Christmas
Cocktail Party
Friday, 1 November
- Brunch on the Green
Saturday 2 November
- Junior School
Christmas Carols
Friday, 15 November



St Hilda's OGA Cookbook

Prepare to uncover beloved recipes from our extraordinary Old Girls as they fondly recall their days at St Hilda's School. These recipes harmoniously blend tradition and innovation, paying homage to our rich history and diverse community.

Purchase via the St Hilda's Uniform shop
(07) 5577 7374

\$55



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Stay Connected!

We'd love to stay in touch and see what you have been up to. To stay up to date with reunion events and to update your details, email oldgirls@sthildas.qld.edu.au or phone (07) 5532 4922.



@sthildasoldgirlsassociation



@sthildasoga

