

FOCUS

2022



FAIRHOLME COLLEGE
Beyond the Tartan

Ryley

JEWELLERY CREATIONS



YOUR VISION
our artistry

Driven by a zealous passion for the craft, the team at Ryley Jewellery Creations designs beautiful, timeless, one-of-a-kind jewellery pieces which are manufactured to the highest quality standards that will be loved and enjoyed by generations to come.

Visit our stunning flagship showroom and manufacturing studio in the magnificent Kwong Sang Walk in the heart of the Toowoomba CBD to experience the Ryley difference today!

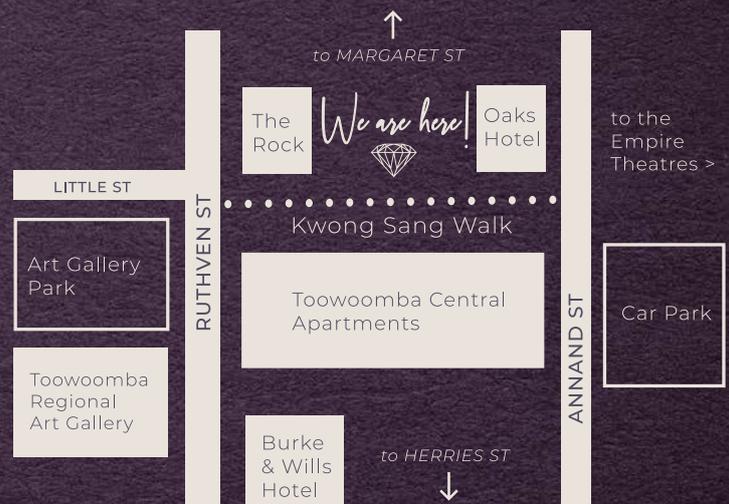
www.ryleyjc.com.au

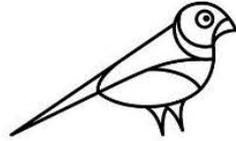
07 4639 3930

Shop 4 via Kwong Sang Walk
520 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba QLD

  @ryleycreations

NEW STUDIO IN KWONG SANG WALK





THE FINCH

www.thefinch.com.au



Finch Range

2 Margaret Street
Phone 4632 4738

Open Breakfast and lunch 7 days, plus
dinner Thurs to Sun

Finch City

469 Ruthven Street
Phone 4613 0159

Open for Breakfast and lunch 7 days



All kinds of strength.

Discover our strongest range of SUVs.

Introducing the Mercedes-Benz SUV range. From the dynamic, sporty GLA to the luxuriously spacious GLS, the Mercedes-Benz SUV range is stronger than ever before. With a wide range of models to choose from, there's one for every family, every adventure and every style. Whether you're inspired by the strength of versatility, the strength of intelligence or the strength of confidence, your perfect SUV is available now.

Discover the range at West-Star Motors Mercedes-Benz.

mbtoowoomba.com.au





COVER:
Sarah-Jane MacDonald, FOG 2009

Published by Fairholme College
Editors/Writers: Kathryn Doyle and Helen Lange
Layout and Design: Sandra Buckley
Advertising Enquiries Communication Office T 4688 2341

Fairholme College Toowoomba
Proudly a College of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland
Wirra Wirra Street PO Box 688
Toowoomba Q 4350
T 07 4688 4688
info@fairholme.qld.edu.au
www.fairholme.qld.edu.au
www.facebook.com/fairholmecollege

ABN: 16 917 099 053
Registered Provider (Queensland):
Fairholme College Toowoomba
CRICOS Provider Code: 03726D



Contents

From the Principal	02
Old Girl President	04
A World of Opportunities	09
Sky's The Limit	13
10 Minutes with...	15
Fathers' Dinner	16
Formal 2022	19
The Ties That Bind	23
Fairholme Patronesses	25
Mothers' Long Lunch	28
Fairholme Friendships: A Tribute To Jacqui Selby	33
Old Girls in the News	36

02

Dr Linda Evans

04

Old Girl President

15

10 Minutes with...

19

Formal

26

FACETS

39

Reunions



In Community...

Dr Linda Evans | Principal of Fairholme College

What its children become, that will the community become.

Suzanne La Follette

In snatched moments in the past fortnight, I have been reading the selected essays of the late Australian author, Charmian Clift. Known by some as the wife of author George Johnston (of *My Brother Jack* fame), she was also a highly regarded Australian writer. In the 1960s as a weekly columnist for both the *Melbourne Herald* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, she captured the social milieu of the time. Her essays are described by her biographer, Nadia Wheatley as ‘sneaky little revolutions.’ Through her lens as a skilled social commentator and her craft as a wordsmith, Clift provides snapshots

of Australia reimagining itself just a decade and a bit after the conclusion of World War II.

Clift, Johnston, and their children returned to Australia in 1964 after many years of living abroad – between what she describes as the quaint conservatism of rural England through to the cosmopolitan freedom of life amongst artists on the Greek Island of Hydra. Their arrival back in Australia gave Clift a window of perspective and time to see Australia from the unique research position of insider/outsider. A richness lies in this unique point of view where she describes the communities in existence in Australia in this particular time period – not surprisingly, many of the nuances of that time are still apparent in 2022.

I was particularly taken by her essay entitled ‘Coming Home’ (no ‘L’ in sight) where she talks about the shock of moving from Hydra, where life was lived at ‘donkey-amble’ pace, to the comparative speed of a Sydney urban lifestyle. Her description of the paradox, ‘I have returned to my native land, here but not here,’ captures that feeling we all have when we return from the joy of holidays to a new school term. There are adjustments to be made as we swap one pattern of living for another. There are goals to be set for the term ahead and a reabsorption into the community that is Fairholme. And it is a community of its own unique dynamic: both flawed and fabulous and everything in between.

That is why, on a regular basis, we undertake a new iteration of strategic planning, because that process calls us to reflect on a point in time and also to project into the future. A robust methodology demands that we move from any safe complacency to the unsettledness of reimagining. It is, by nature an exciting, challenging, and at times confronting process. Underpinning strategy is the importance of understanding Fairholme's just cause – our *raison d'être*. Staff have been engaged in a few sessions already this year, working with facilitator, Dr Neil Carrington, and guided, to an extent, by the writings of Simon Sinek, author of *The Infinite Game*. He writes about the infinite game, as opposed to the finite game, stressing the need for

‘A Just Cause is not the same as our WHY. A WHY comes from the past. It is an origin story. A Just Cause is about the future. It defines where we are going. It describes the world we live in and will commit to help build.’ (Sinek, 2020, p. 33)

businesses (in our case the business of a school) to ‘stop thinking about who wins or who's the best and start thinking about how to build organisations that

are strong enough and healthy enough to stay in the game for many generations to come’ (Sinek, 2020, p. 7).

According to him, in an infinite game, the game lives on and the players' time runs out. Similarly, at Fairholme, we want the school to live on – beyond us, the finite players ...

Perhaps this connection appears to be a stretch from the words of Clift – I think not. Clift wrote in her essay about an Australia on 6 November 1964 that her friends described as ‘having changed quite a bit since you saw it last’. It makes me wonder

what the view of a past student or parent would be if they wandered into Fairholme 15 or more years later. Would they see evidence of an infinite game where our purpose, ‘to educate young women who approach their futures with hope, and the agency to lead positively within their communities’, is tangible. ‘Do these qualities in fact exist?’ posed Clift when pondering Australia's view of itself.

Such is the challenge of a school – always – that the things that matter are to be valued infinitely and the things that require change or reimagining are to be embraced, so that Fairholme lives on – beyond us, the finite players. As we walk through this process of reimagining Fairholme into the future, with a clear sense of our ‘just cause’ ... may I invite you to earmark 4 October (6.30pm) for a Town Meeting where we will collectively dream forward, and appropriately do so, in community.

REFERENCES

- Sinek, S. (2020). *The Infinite Game*. Penguin Random House.
Wheatley, N. (2022). *Sneaky Little Revolutions: Selected essays of Charmian Clift*. Newsouth Publishing.



Old Girl President

Sarah-Jane MacDonald

Sarah-Jane MacDonald | 2009 | Powell House | Day Girl

Fairholme Old Girl, Sarah-Jane Macdonald, says there is one thing in her life she never takes for granted: genuine connection. 'People say it is harder to make friends later in life, and that is probably true,' Sarah-Jane reflects. 'But real, open and unaffected connection is something that has been a lasting lesson, growing up as a Fairholme girl.'

'Later in life, we tend not to see the same broad group of people every single day to build those connections and value those relationships. And it seems silly to me to forget or disconnect from those connections we have growing up.'

This sentiment is one which she holds tightly as she takes over the reigns as President of the Fairholme Old Girls' Association in 2022. 'I want to be able to foster a community to continue this engagement, and I think that is what modern-day alumnae are all about,' Sarah-Jane says.

'Men do it well - just look at boys' schools. But we can do it better, like most things women do!'

Since walking out the gates of Fairholme for the last time in 2009, Sarah-Jane has had a firm idea of what she wanted to do in her career. But it wasn't always that way.

'If you ask almost anybody (teachers or parents or peers) what they thought I would end up doing with my life when I was in high school, they would have said, "something in fashion",' she remembers.

'I have always loved fashion, and at Fairholme I spent a lot of my spare time designing and making fashion

pieces to enter in design competitions. It was something I really was passionate about. I loved being involved in the creative side of it.'

In Year 11, Sarah-Jane did a summer internship at the renowned Whitehouse Institute of Design in Melbourne. However, during that time she realised while she loved fashion, this wasn't her destiny. 'I didn't want to make it a work thing and ruin that sparkle that I had for it. When I started Year 12, I had pretty much decided that I was going to try for entry into a Bachelor of Law degree.'

When Sarah-Jane told her father, himself a lawyer and owner of

'I like working with amazing people and helping clients through some of the toughest times of their lives – and I get to do that every day. I guess you could say I am a helper, and that's what I love to do. It's challenging – but so rewarding. I don't think I would be a good lawyer if I didn't genuinely love what I do.'

MacDonald Law, he wasn't keen on the idea. 'He never really wanted me to do law. He told me to look at everything else. Now though, I have been fortunate to spend much of my career working with one of my biggest influences – my dad. He's my biggest supporter.'

Sarah-Jane and her brother, Jag, also a lawyer, cut their teeth in the family's law practice eventually taking over the firm almost six years ago.

'I like working with amazing people and helping clients through some of the toughest times of their lives – and I get to do that every day. I guess you could say I am a helper, and that's what I love to do. It's challenging – but so rewarding. I don't think I would be a

good lawyer if I didn't genuinely love what I do.'

As for Sarah-Jane's first love, fashion, she still dabbles in it but says she sates her creative side in other ways nowadays.

Taking the path less travelled has been worth it for Sarah-Jane – and yet she admits it has been a long, hard road. 'Law school is hard. Being a lawyer is hard. Being a business owner is hard. But I think most people would say that about anything in life. As the saying goes, "If it was easy, anyone would do it", and I definitely agree.'

'My strongest advice to girls about to graduate is to follow your passions down those rabbit holes and figure out what it is that truly

makes you happy. Then build a life, a career, a family incorporating those things.'

Sarah-Jane credits her grit and sheer determination for getting her through – traits she learnt at Fairholme.

'The most important skill I needed to make it through law (I worked full time and studied full time) was grit. I wouldn't be a lawyer right now if I hadn't had the resilience to keep going even in the face of adversity (such as failing subjects, having difficult days, and imposter syndrome). When I speak with new graduates, law students or people considering law as a career, my number one recommendation is for them to develop 'grit.'



When asked to recall favourite memory, or time at Fairholme, Sarah Jane is thoughtful. ‘Oh gosh, that’s tough. Narrowing down 12 years to one memory is impossible.’ And yet, there’s a connection that she still feels to this day.

‘I still remember the support and kindness of my teachers. Maybe not specific acts, but certainly how they made me feel. A few stand out: my Year 4 teacher, Ms Lane, Mrs Heilbronn (who I saw just recently at a FOGA meeting!) and the Head of the Junior School, Mrs Merry.’

But it was Ms Scudamore in Middle and Senior School who Sarah-Jane really valued and who influenced the way she interacts with her peers to this day.

‘It was the way that she talked to me, valued my opinion and my contributions activities in Year 11 and 12 that had the biggest impact. She was my Ancient History teacher and I remember she implemented a collaborative way of teaching. I respected her wholeheartedly, and I could sense that she respected me, too. Looking back now, I realise this was a profoundly important moment in my life. A lot of her skills I try to implement today in teaching junior lawyers or engaging with younger staff.’

‘Schooling is one of the most integral parts of anyone’s formative years. I was lucky enough to be fairly okay academically and Fairholme nurtured that. One of the things I regularly think about now is how Fairholme’s attitude to everything centred around being involved. There were so many opportunities to really try, and sometimes fail, and try something else, and succeed, all in a safe environment. That is what I think schooling should be. And that’s why I feel so comfortable and excited at the prospect of leading the Old Girls’ Association. I want to impart that enthusiasm for being involved and giving back.’

‘I think it probably comes from just giving everything a bit of a go throughout my life... and that started at Fairholme.’

Sarah-Jane’s connection with Fairholme hasn’t waned over the years; in fact, she says her ties are strengthening – and now it’s time for her to give back to the school that gave her so much.

‘Through life, I believe we are defined by our connections and experiences. FOGA represents the connection that every person who went to Fairholme has. The appearance of Fairholme may have changed over the years, but its heart hasn’t. Every Old Girl I speak to shares different memories,

but they all have the same core: inclusivity, opportunity, values. I want FOGA to be where we can bring those connections together, build on them and remain engaged in a more holistic and direct way.’

Sarah-Jane has already started working with the new FOGA executive about the Association’s purpose, direction and goals for the next year. In a nutshell, they are:

1. To increase engagement across the network of Fairholme Old Girls (FOGs) to facilitate both social and business relationships;
2. To create connection and engagement between FOGs and current students;
3. To increase financial support for FOGA so that the Association can provide opportunities, including in the form of bursaries to current or applying students;
4. To plan future engagement with Fairholme Old Girls as they graduate and establish that connection early.

‘I am excited to see where Fairholme is taking this generation of girls. It is an exciting time to be a Fairholme girl – maybe it always has been. After all, once a Fairholme girl, always a Fairholme girl.’



As part of this year's NAIDOC Week celebrations, Fairholme unveiled three new flagpoles consisting of the Australian, Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Islanders flags. Head of Senior School, Mr Tom McCormick, said the installation of the flagpoles had been the work of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) working group.

'A RAP outlines a whole-school approach to driving reconciliation by building relationships, respect and opportunities in the classroom, around the school and within the community,' Mr McComick said. 'The installation of the flagpoles is part of the RAP's Symbols, Spaces and Signs focus. These signs and symbols are about education for all, yet they also provide comfort to our Aboriginal students and lets them know that Fairholme College is a safe space. We acknowledge that these signs and symbols also provide a means of cultural expression and are a vehicle for the transmission of culture.'

Furthermore, they chronicle the communication of knowledge of the land, events and beliefs of the Aboriginal peoples. 'For these reasons, we have started to ensure more of these signs are present around Fairholme, whether this is in our gardens, classrooms or other spaces. Examples around the college include pieces of art from local Indigenous artists connected to Fairholme, murals, yarning circles, gardens and totems.'



A World Of Opportunities

Alissa Woods

Alissa Woods | 2019 | Powell House | Day Girl

'I've been really privileged to grow up in an environment conducive to academic success, including a strong education at Fairholme..'

– Alissa Woods

Alissa Woods is a smart, hard-working and ambitious young woman with a genuine passion for law.

She was a multiple academic award recipient at Fairholme, she represented Australia in Endurance Riding, and by the time she was in her mid-teens she was already studying a university degree.

In her final year of school, Alissa was just one of 12 students to be selected nationally for the Bond University Vice-Chancellor's Elite Scholarship, which recognises not only academic excellence, but also proven leadership ability and personal character.

'I've been really privileged to grow up in an environment conducive to academic success, including a strong education at Fairholme, supportive family, equally hard-working friends and excellent mentors.'

With a passion for debating and dedicated to service, Ms Wood was drawn to study a dual degree: Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of International Relations.

At Bond she continued to excel scholastically as she immersed herself in university life.

Recently Ms Wood secured a New Colombo Plan Scholarship, worth

\$70,000, which she says will enable her to study abroad.

About 120 Australian undergraduate students receive the New Colombo Plan scholarship every year.

Ms Wood says the program aims to deepen Australia's relationship in the Indo-Pacific region.

'I have always been interested in South Korea. In working and studying there, I'm hoping to get a first-hand insight into South Korea's relationship with Australia, as well as its culture and legal system. I'm hoping to carry this knowledge into my career and immerse myself in a different culture again!'

The journey to these accomplishments hasn't always been smooth sailing, with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing Ms Wood to study online – which she says meant some adjusting.

'I spent my first semester living on campus at Bond, then moved back to Toowoomba to study remotely during the initial COVID-19 lockdown in 2020.

'While I am now back on the Gold Coast, I am still choosing to study online. It's what I am used to at this point, as I have completed the entirety of my degree online so far.

Ms Wood is just eight months shy of completing her Honours degree, and already she has secured a clerkship for January 2023 at a corporate law firm in Brisbane.

'I am looking forward to the opportunities that may arise from there. With my love for advocacy, I'm hoping to eventually sit the bar exams and become a barrister.

'Having studied international law and criminal law, I'm also interested in areas of international law, such as genocide and war crimes.'

And with such a busy schedule, how does Alissa spend her spare time?

'I love going to Brisbane and visiting my Fairholme friends living there. Our semesters don't often align due to my trimester system, but we always manage!'

While the years have flown by since she donned the tartan, Alissa says her greatest memory of Fairholme is the teachers.

'They always made the time and space to chat with me, whether it was about school, work or life, which had a profound impact on my Fairholme journey.

'I still miss them now!'



AVENGER GOLD COAST FISHING CHARTERS



EXPERIENCE GOLD COAST DEEP SEA
FISHING IN COMFORT ONBOARD OUR
STABLE & QUICK 10MTR/32FT COUGAR CAT
WITH PRIVATE TOILET, RUNNING FRESH
WATER, UNDERCOVER SEATING &
STANDING ROOM

DEPARTING: 95 MARINE PARADE, SOUTHPORT
PHONE: 0400 77 55 11

WWW.AVENGERFISHING.COM.AU

FOOD

by spicers

Crafted from our own gardens or sourced from the best local suppliers, the food created by our chefs is our passion.

Modern Australian, like you can experience at The Peak, is just one of the cooking styles that lend their influence and inspiration to the mouth-watering dishes created by our award-winning chefs.

Carefully matched wines, outstanding attention to detail and knowledgeable service complete the experience. This is Food, by Spicers.



Maple roasted fig, fig jam ice cream, Anzac biscuit, Milawa blue cheese custard, yuzu poached apple and old man saltbush

1 Wilkinson Road, Maryvale Queensland
13 77 42 • spicersretreats.com/spicers-peak-lodge



SPICERS PEAK LODGE



Sky's The Limit

Tink Morgan

Tahlia (Tink) Morgan | 2020 | Powell House | Boarder

In November 2020, Tink walked out of the gates of Fairholme College armed with a Diploma of Business, a Certificate III in Aviation, and a vision.

'I grew up in the country and have always known since I was a little kid that I was destined to return to the land.'

'Initially I was using the drone licence as a stepping stone to obtain my helicopter licence, but I really enjoyed flying drones and saw great potential in the future.'

Her passion for aviation, combined with her love of the land, quickly grew into a business venture and Rural Ariel Marketing – ahem – 'took off'.

'I grew up in the country and have always known since I was a little kid that I was destined to return to the land. I love the freedom and space, and now I'm lucky enough to capture the beautiful scenery too.'

Tink not only turned a passion into a business but she is now discovering the amazing and sometimes bizarre ways that drones can be used.

She admits a favourite game to play is hide-and-seek, but with a twist.

'On the holidays we would go out into the middle of a paddock with long grass. I would get blindfolded while everyone ran out into the

paddock and hid. Then I'd send up the drone and find them before they could get back to the ute.'

Despite the drone losing battery power, and hitting a tree ... over water, Tink says the secret to getting the perfect shot is all in the

angle of light – but it's the powerful imagery of her home property that propels her passion.

'Our lagoon is incredibly picturesque; I've caught some magnificent shots of pelicans gliding along the water and other shots of afternoon waterskiing on glassy water. It's my favourite place on earth.'

It was the Fairholme encouragement to just 'give it a go' that Tink says helped her to succeed.

'I don't think I can thank everyone at Fairholme enough for pushing me and allowing me to do something like completing my drone licence at school.'

These days Tink is studying a dual degree of Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Agriculture at the University of New England in Armidale.

When she's not studying, she's lacing up the boots, training and playing rugby.



'I have big dreams of making Rural Ariel Marketing a useful and practical business for property owners but right now I am focusing on finishing my university degree and enjoying my rugby.'



10 Minutes with...

Nicola Wardley

Nicola Wardley | 1986 | Stephens House | Boarder

Nicola Wardley (1982-1986) published her first poem in the Fairholme Magazine in 1986. Thirty-five years later, Nicola is back in print, having completed her second book written under her pen name, Stella Quinn.

Tell us about your time as a Boarder at Fairholme.

I arrived at Fairholme as an 11-year-old from Papua New Guinea. I didn't know what jeans were, I didn't own Ugg boots, and I had no concept of cold weather. Of course, the weather in late January 1982 was no problem; however, the same cannot be said for the sleeping arrangements that year, as a renovation of Black Dorm was underway! So, the 48 Year 8 Boarders were corralled into the common room, sleeping in rickety metal bunkbeds. Miss Lawson patrolled the corridors nightly; however, being the innovative group we were, we still found plenty of ways to run amok!

Was English your favourite subject at school?

Yes! I had some wonderful English teachers at Fairholme. Mrs Schmidt, who was a larger-than-life figure, was fabulous. She wore floaty gauzy dresses and lashings of blue eyeshadow and she had one of those voices that should have been on the silver screen in the golden years of Hollywood. Mr Leach was another fabulous teacher. In Year 10, he encouraged any of us who had writerly aspirations to try our hand at long-form writing. A handful of us threw ourselves into novel projects and he waded through the results with great tact and patience!

Did you have a mentor at Fairholme? Or an inspiring teacher you remember?

Besides Mrs Schmidt and Mr Leach, the inspiring teacher during my time at Fairholme (1982 to 1986) was Mr Teys. He taught me General Science in Years 9 and 10, and Physics, Maths I and Maths II in Years 11 and 12. Our era at school was the beginning of a cultural shift where girls with an education didn't need to think nursing and teaching and being a housewife were our only aspirations. I clearly recall him (and have recalled it many times over the years) leaning across the large wooden teacher desk in the science labs and saying to us, with glowing eyes and unbridled optimism, 'Girls, you can be anything! You can be statisticians!' I'm pretty sure none of us actually wanted to be statisticians, but the fact that we could be, if we wanted to be, or anything else that we chose, mattered.

What prompted you to start writing again?

I did a few creative writing classes at university when I was studying commerce, but received terrible, scathing comments from the crusty old lecturers, and it extinguished my confidence in my writing skills. Fast forward 20 years, four kids, work, mortgage and life, and the urge to write started up again. I did a few workshops and entered a few competitions, and the feedback this time was positive. It gave me the confidence to think that if I worked at it, I might achieve something.

How difficult or easy was it getting back into writing?

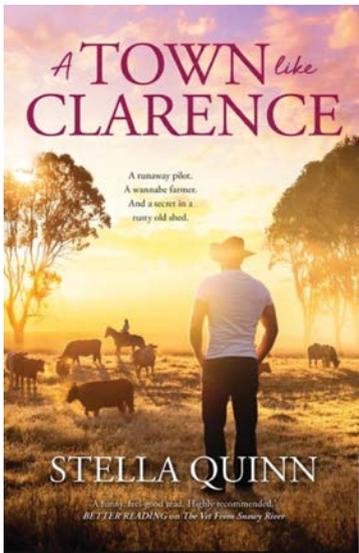
Easy to start the writing – word by word – but getting the words into a printed book? Difficult! Australia is a small market in publishing terms, so getting a contract with a large publisher is as much about luck and timing as it is about hard work and discipline.

Tell us about your latest book.

A Town Like Clarence comes out on July 6. It's a small-town drama revolving around an annual Bush Poetry Muster and there are subplots of romance and antique plane restoration and a farmstay project. It is set in the macadamia district of Northern New South Wales and has a large cast of characters and furry friends. My writing style has been described as *Virgin River* crossed with *Sea Change*, to give you an idea. I write under the pen name Stella Quinn.

Plans for another?

A Town Like Clarence is my second book for Harper Collins. The first one, *The Vet from Snowy River*, came out in 2021, and its sequel will be my next novel, due for release for Mother's Day, 2023. The first draft is with the publisher now and I am awaiting her feedback with equal parts excitement and trepidation. I am



contracted for another novel after that (for 2024); however, so far that story is just a twinkle in my eye.

Any advice for young writers coming through Fairholme?

Competitions are your friend. Be prepared for feedback that you don't like. Be open to feedback, but also know that reading is subjective, and occasionally feedback is more about the reader wanting to seem accomplished than about helping the writer. Have a Plan B regarding your career, as the bulk of successful Australian fiction writers need to supplement their income with a day job.

Fathers' Dinner and Drinks 2022

The annual Fathers' Long Lunch was moved to an evening event for the first time – and it was another huge success.

Dads from all over came together to raise money for Fairholme families in need.

A record number of dads enjoyed the night out, listening to guest speaker, Greg Ritchie.

Through several auction items and donated raffle prizes, over \$13,000 was raised.



Toowoomba Orthodontists®



smiles are our speciality

**Specialist
Orthodontic Care**



**Latest Digital
Technology**



- ✓ Specialist Orthodontists
- ✓ Toowoomba's leading clear aligner providers
- ✓ Australia's expert Insignia providers - Customised digital braces
- ✓ Latest low dose iCat 3D imaging technology
- ✓ Interest free payment plans
- ✓ Trust the experts with your smile

Spark aligners are a medical device.
Always read and follow instructions of your treating orthodontist.



Contact us today to book an initial consultation

Toowoomba | Warwick

Dr. Ashley Smith Dr Chris Turnock Dr Emily Close



www.ToowoombaOrthodontists.com.au

☎ 1300 123 301



SPENCER

FINANCIAL GROUP

OUR FINANCIAL ADVICE EMBRACES YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.

- Financial advisory for cash funds, property & investment portfolios
- Making the most of your Superannuation
- Protecting you and your Family (Life insurance, Income protection, Trauma & TPD)
 - Estate and succession planning
- Budgeting and managing your money
 - Centrelink support

TOOWOOMBA | GOONDIWINDI
WWW.SPENCERFINANCIALGROUP.COM.AU

making
local
work

RUNNING A LOCAL BUSINESS IS CHALLENGING. WE KNOW BECAUSE WE ARE ONE TOO.

Your local
Education Solutions Specialists



office
choice™

Consider it sorted.
Browns Office Choice

The Bernoth Centre
663 - 667 Ruthven Street Toowoomba
browns.officechoice.com.au

FIND THE RIGHT OFFICE FURNITURE

Consider it sorted with our
furniture specialists



Working from home?
We're here to help ...

officechoice
Consider it sorted.



Business Essentials



Order Online



Free Delivery**

** Minimum order applies see local Delivery & Shipping information



Zero Contact



The show must go on

In another COVID-19 year, it is quite a feat to host an event such as a Senior Formal. Add rain to an outdoor event, and it may seem an impossibility. Not so! Fairholme's 2022 Senior cohort were well celebrated on Thursday evening. There was an exceptionally long red carpet, glamour and crowds of eager onlookers as our Seniors and partners made their way up Palm Drive. Yes, the skies inconveniently opened just in time for the walk-in, but the rain did not drench spirits. Arrivals included a horse-drawn carriage and a bevy of assorted cars – even scooters made an appearance.

The formal part of the evening was celebrated at the College where a delicious three-course meal was shared, along with more photographs, and dancing – so much dancing. These students have had limited opportunity to dance in the past few years. Under the shadow of COVID, so many things that typically occur in the life of a school student, things that we take for granted, have been interrupted. For these reasons, the celebration of the impressive 2022 Senior cohort was even sweeter. The Fairholme community was proud and grateful to be part of this special social milestone.

Fairholme Formal 2022







The Ties That Bind

Mackenzi Schefe and Karen Schefe

Mackenzi Schefe | Year 9 | Stephens House | Day Girl

Karen Schefe | 1981 | Stephens House | Day Girl

The fabric of Fairholme is interwoven with stories from generations of strong, independent females. None more so than Year 9 student Mackenzi Schefe and her family, where three generations of trail-blazing women have preceded her at Fairholme and who, because of their sporting, academic and cultural excellence, will forever be a significant strand in the MacLaren tartan.

Among Mackenzi's ancestors are College Duxes, Fairholme Prefects, a House Captain, athletics champions and, significantly, the first woman on College Council (also the first FOGA Representative) – true pioneers of the early women's movement.

'I often think about how our ancestors have run on the same oval and walked the same school grounds,' Mackenzi's mum, Karen, reflects. 'It makes me proud that our family had such a significant impact and made a strong contribution to the College. Hopefully, this will continue in future generations.'

The Schefe family's connections date back to the 1920s when Aenid and Beris Rosbrook started their Fairholme journey as students and their father, Mackenzi's great-great grandfather, James William Rosbrook, was a College Council member.

'I grew up listening to stories from my Aunties about their days at Fairholme. I remember my Auntie Julanne coming home from Melbourne for the Christmas holidays and taking us swimming in the outdoor Fairholme pool, all the while recounting stories about her swimming carnivals there and how sometimes she and her friends would have to fish funnel-web spiders out of the pool before they swam!'

Karen goes on to say that Julanne was a very confident young woman when she left Fairholme – and her own family home – at the age of 17 to study at NIDA in Sydney; a bold move for a young woman in those days. 'Julanne did all her schooling at Fairholme which is where she became the lady she was: strong and independent and confident. I know for sure that Fairholme gave her the love of the theatre, where she ended up having a great career.'

'Visiting Great-Aunt Beris – who was the most beautiful and kind lady – it was clear that Fairholme had fostered in her a never-ending love of learning. Between Auntie Beris and Auntie Julanne, I saw first-hand how Fairholme instilled the power to become anything you put your mind to. And I still see it today with Mackenzi's journey,' Karen says. Fourteen-year-old Mackenzi, already a powerhouse in athletics, says her love of running began in Kindy where all she wanted to do was run! 'My favourite sports event at Fairholme is Cross Country, and I enjoy the Athletics carnivals every year. But my sporting highlight would have to be when I was in Year 2 and I won the Cross Country trophy.'

Aside from her sporting achievements and accolades, Mackenzi feels lucky to have already had teachers and peers at Fairholme who have championed her in life. 'I have been so lucky with the teachers I have had; my Year 2 teacher left a special mark in my heart. She gave me so much support and confidence, not just with my sports but with my schoolwork too. She has had a lot to do with who I have become and am becoming.'

'There was a Senior girl, who left last year, who was my buddy for my Year 2 Cross Country. She was in Year 6 at

the time and I remember training with her and thinking how cool it was that an older girl was taking the time to encourage and support me, and I was only in Year 2!'

While Mackenzi takes after her mum when it comes to sport – Karen has won many a road race, Triathlon, and is a Queensland Duathlon Champion – Karen says it's her daughter's determined mindset that is the strongest. 'Mackenzi's sporting strengths are probably her motivation and how dedicated she is to her training. It helps that she has a great group of like-minded athletes that she trains with. Her Fairholme coaches and teachers are very supportive and eager for her to do well.'

It seems the ties that have bound the four generations of Schefe and Rosbrook females to Fairholme have been threaded with respect, empowerment, and supporting each other.

'Fairholme gave me so many memories and lessons that I have taken with me throughout my life, and which I try to pass onto my daughter every day: respect, a good work ethic, a feeling of belonging and a strong sense of self,' Karen says.

'Right from the mid-1920s, when Great-Aunt Aenid and Great-Aunt Beris walked the new paths of Fairholme, to today where Mackenzi walks those same, but now well-worn paths, it's been the same – a place where barriers are broken, where females are championed to inspire and be innovative, and where they are encouraged and nurtured and uplifted to be the best version of themselves.'

'There is no limit to what Fairholme women can accomplish.'

LICENCED PROWLER PROOF DEALERS



PLATINUM

GLASS & SECURITY

24 HOURS EMERGENCY GLASS REPAIRS

ABOUT US

Local Toowoomba Business with over 25 years experience, you can be sure that you will be provided with fast, friendly and professional service and a quality product.

OUR SERVICES

- GLASS REPAIR
- SECURITY SCREENS
- NEW INSTALS - WINDOW , DOORS & SHOWER SCREENS

www.platinumgs.com.au

Fairholme Patronesses

Jocelyn Mercer and Marie Cameron

Jocelyn Mercer | 1949 | Black House | Day Girl

Marie Cameron | 1961 | Cameron House | Day Girl

Fairholme Old Girl, Jocelyn Mercer (1949), has witnessed the changing face of Fairholme for over 70 years, yet she says the one thing that has not changed is its excellence in girls' education. 'Fairholme has always championed girls, lifted them up to be the best they can be, and I think that is really powerful,' Jocelyn adds. 'I still see that today.'

Giving back and service to the community are the other hallmarks of the College that Jocelyn says have continued through the generations.

She remembers sending food parcels to England, where people were still experiencing severe rationing after World War II ended. 'These parcels were packed into a box which was then wrapped in calico and sewn to the box. The calico was used by the recipients to make shirts for children. 'Giving back has always been an important part of Fairholme life.'

Jocelyn has been giving back to Fairholme in her own way ever since finishing school in 1949. As soon as she left school, Jocelyn joined the Fairholme Old Girls Association and has been attending meetings regularly for almost 73 years. She became a Life Member back when girls had to pay a membership fee to join and has been Treasurer twice. In 1998 she became Patroness of FOGA, a position she has held for almost 25 years, and one which she has only just relinquished.

Jocelyn attended Fairholme from 1947 to 1949, after completing Scholarship (Year 7) at Toowoomba East State School. Jocelyn says, however, that she did attend Fairholme Kindy for a term in 1937 when her brother was born.



Her years at Fairholme were happy ones, with the Principals at the time, Miss Tassie and the Rev. Joughin, creating a school that was both warm and inclusive. Jocelyn remembers studying under the hedge in front of the Homestead, learning to play tennis, and helping with pie drives to raise money for the school.

Earlier this year, Jocelyn passed the FOGA Patroness baton to Marie Cameron (1961), who also has strong ties to Fairholme. Marie is the great-great-granddaughter of Margaret Anne Cameron, the original owner of 'Fairholme'. 'As a girl, I was proud to be going to Fairholme as I knew that my great-great-grandmother had sold her house to the Presbyterian Church to become a school for girls,' Marie recalls. 'And, of course, I was in Cameron House!'

In early 1917, Margaret Anne Cameron heard that the Presbyterian Girls' College, Toowoomba, at 'Spreydon' in Newtown was looking for a new home, having outgrown its original building, so she offered to sell her home, 'Fairholme', to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

for £5000, on the condition that it be used as a girls' school. Margaret Anne Cameron was particularly concerned that the school would cater for children from the outback who sought an education. The Presbyterian Church gratefully accepted Mrs Cameron's offer, and the sale of 'Fairholme' was finalised in April 1917. The first three junior students from the Presbyterian Girls' College, arrived at 'Fairholme' to begin classes on Tuesday 17 July 1917.

In handing over her Patroness role to Marie, Jocelyn thanked past and present FOGA office bearers for accepting the challenge of their roles. 'FOGA has survived through many ups and downs because of the work of these ladies, and their important contributions will not be forgotten,' Jocelyn said.

With Jocelyn and Marie as Patronesses, FOGA has been, and will continue to be, in very good hands. These ladies and their exemplary leadership, achievements and pride in the Maclaren tartan set a wonderful example for current and future Old Girls to follow.

FACETS 2022



5th Annual Art Exhibition a major success

With record-breaking crowds and art sales, Facets: An Art Exhibition at Fairholme 2022 was a resounding success. Thank you to our artists, curators Sandy Pottinger and Sue Lostroh, Head of the Arts Karen Hayward and our wonderful community of parents and friends for creating another beautiful, boutique exhibition.

Across the weekend, Facets had it all: a Sponsors Evening, Opening Night, Artists in Conversation breakfast, a live portrait of Mayor Paul Antonio, a SOFA Cafe and a Curators' Walk and Talk.

Thank you to our very generous sponsors Murdoch Lawyers, Hutchinsons Builders, Mort & Co, Spencer Financial Group, West Star Motors, Snow Real Estate, M3 Architects, University of Southern Queensland, Fairholme P&F, FOGA and SOFA, Rowes Furniture and Home Staging by Gil Chesterfield.



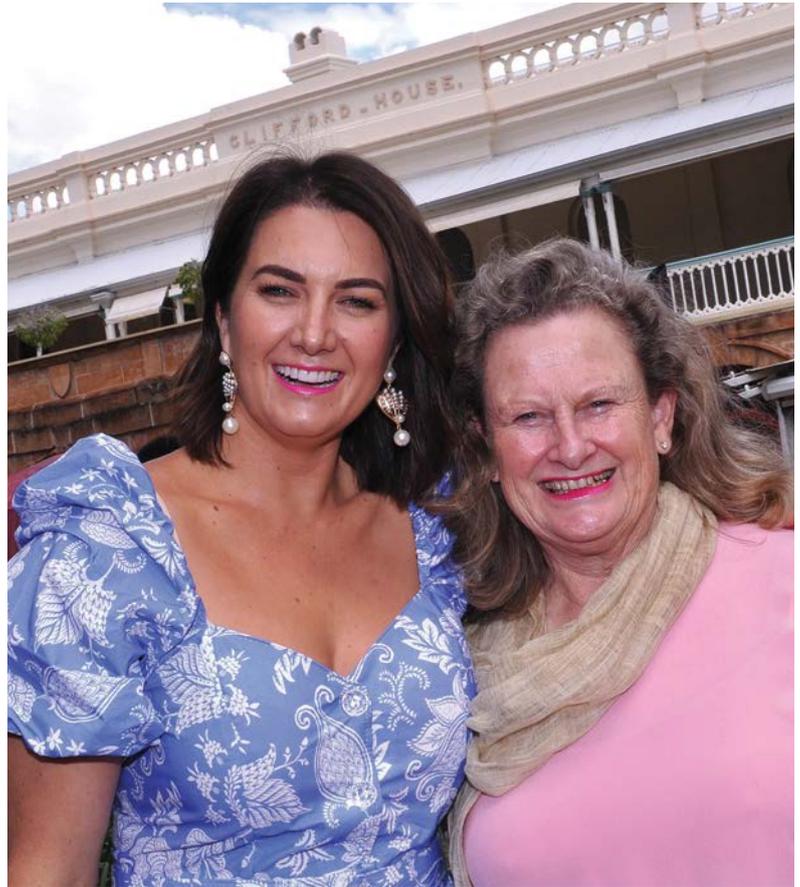
Mothers' Long Lunch 2021

Queen of the dust

Fairholme Old Girl, Edwina Robertson (2003) was one of the first Fairholme Seniors to shave her head to raise money for charity, and it is clear her determination and passion continues 18 years on. Over 100 mums came together for the annual Mothers' Long Lunch at Gips Restaurant and were lucky enough to hear from Eddy as she opened up about her life beyond the lens.

After failing miserably to find quality timeless dresses that fitted her correctly, Eddy said it was time she put her Fashion Design studies to use, recently launching her own dress collection: Field The Label.

'Field wasn't created with preconceived ideas about how an apparel brand should be; it's constructed and based around the need for a huge overhaul within the industry, not only for the consumer, but for the planet.'



Mothers' Long Lunch 2021



Spring Fair 2021

Spring Fair Success in 2021
Fairy floss, inflatables, the Boarders' Cent Sale, and a photo booth were just some of the attractions at this year's Fairholme College P&F Spring Fair.

The weather was picture perfect, which brought visitors from afar. There was a wonderful sense of community spirit as families and friends gathered to enjoy the many exciting activities.

The annual event raised a record \$65,000 which will go towards a range of new equipment for the girls.

This type of event doesn't come without a lot of hard work and energy from a large number of people, but it just goes to show what we can achieve when we all band together.







Fairholme Friendships: A Tribute To Jacqui Selby

Hannah Brodie and Jacqui Selby

Hannah Brodie | 2007 | Cameron House | Boarder

Jacqui Selby | 2007 | Powell House | Boarder

‘Friendships at Boarding school are everything. Your friends become your family. My life was so much happier at school because of the friends I made.’

But there was one friendship that was especially important and particularly poignant for Fairholme Old Girl, Hannah Brodie (2007).

Her friendship with fellow Boarder, Jacqui Selby (2007), was one that was founded in the Boarding House and later grounded by some of life’s toughest moments.

‘Jacqui was so much fun to be around and my closest friend at Fairholme. She brightened my life immeasurably,’ Hannah says.

Jacqui passed away last year after a long and painful battle with anorexia. But Hannah wants her friend to be remembered in life for her quiet strength, her bravery, her incredible artistic talent, her capacity for kindness and her ability to make Hannah smile even during her darkest days.

‘Jacqui would have to be the strongest person I have ever known,’ Hannah reflects. ‘She began to suffer from anorexia in the latter stages of school and her struggles only became worse with age. She and her family tried everything – everything – to get better. She fought her hardest and survived her crippling mental illness far longer than most could handle.’

Hannah says that when Jacqui became ill in 2006, there wasn’t

much help available. However, today, with all the research and services available, recovery is possible with early intervention and professional support.

‘Even while struggling with the disease, to her friends she was still the Jacqui we knew from school – always kind and selfless.’

While the two girls met in Year 8, it wasn’t until Year 10 that the friends became close. ‘Jacqui took me out on leave with her family to attend friend Paige Featherstone’s 16th birthday party and we became really close after that. We had a great time in each other’s company, which is the best foundation for all great friendships. We were really comfortable with each other right from the start. Like all high-school friends, we hung out, chatted about all the trivial high-school things and just had the best time with each other. We laughed a lot!’ Hannah remembers.

But, she says, witnessing her friend suffer, especially toward the end, was beyond anything she could ever have imagined, and it pains Hannah to think about how much Jacqui could have achieved in life and how wonderful her life could have been if it hadn’t been for this terrible disease.

‘Jacqui was an incredible artist. Whatever she put her hand to she excelled at, especially drawing and calligraphy.’

Jacqui illustrated *Dangar Island: Birds Barrows, A Ferry and Me* and which

is full of her whimsical, soft and insightful illustrations. It may have been her first foray into children’s book illustrations, but Jacqui’s artistic talent was immediately noticed. Her illustrations impressed the judges for the American Book Festival’s 2017 International Book Awards. Although the book didn’t win first prize, just being a finalist means it is entitled to carry the gold stickers of endorsement on its front cover, in recognition of its status as a competition finalist.

Hannah continues, ‘Jacqui was a total perfectionist, which meant that her work was flawless, but unfortunately, that also meant that she never saw how amazing it was. To her, the disease convinced her that her work was never good enough. But to me it was perfect.’

‘I cannot imagine how hard it must have been for Jacqui to watch her friends go on to lead normal lives whilst physically she couldn’t, but she was never ever anything but happy for all of us. She would do anything for anyone and would never say a bad thing about anyone, all whilst going through her own struggles and putting her own needs on the back burner. She loved her family and friends so much and would do anything for them.’

Hannah wants her friend Jacqui to be remembered as the girl from high school who was artistic, and bright, and smart and funny. The girl with the big smile and an even bigger heart.

GET JUICY REWARDS WITH VIBE.

TOOWOOMBA
BOOST



WITH VIBE RECEIVE:

- Free Boost on your birthday
- Earn points with every purchase
- Get a free Boost with every 10 points
- Exclusive discounts and offers
- Contactless ordering via the Boost App



Fairholme Old Girls' Association

Robyn Blakeley

Robyn Blakeley (Reardon) | 1977 | FOGA President |
Stephens House | Boarder

So far this year we have enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea with the three Head Girls for 2022 – Monika Bruggemann (Head Girl), Charlotte Patterson (Head Boarder) and Erin Hoffensetz (Head Day Girl).

The Old Girls shared some memories of how things were at Fairholme in their schooldays, and we all enjoyed the company and conversation. This year's Fairholme girls are very fortunate to have such inspiring girls as their leaders.

We supported the Facets Art Exhibition again this year, with a prize awarded by FOGA to an artist who is a Fairholme Old Girl. Our prize went to Hannah Currie (2018), with her clever piece of art named, 'Do You See What I See'. Congratulations, Hannah, and best wishes for your future art career.

We have just recently had our Annual General Meeting, delayed somewhat due to COVID-19 restrictions. The newly elected FOGA office bearers are President Sarah-Jane MacDonald (2009), Vice-Presidents Rebecca Vonhoff (2000) and Naomi Aird (1983), Secretary Georgia Stafford (2008), Treasurer Naomi Aird and Patroness Marie Cameron (1961). Congratulations to the new executive, and we wish you all the best going forward.

FOGA has valued and appreciated Jocelyn Mercer's loyal, dedicated, and wise leadership as our Patroness for the last 24 years. We thank you for this wonderful contribution and your friendship. As Jocelyn steps down, it is very pleasing to report that Marie Cameron (1961) is taking up this role as our new Patroness. We look forward to our continued friendship with Jocelyn.

As a great-great-granddaughter of Mrs Margaret Anne Cameron, Fairholme's Founder, this legacy and Marie's strong attachment and interest in the College will carry FOGA forward into the future.

Thank you to my executive team for your support this past year: Marie Cameron as Vice-President, Judy Edwards as Secretary and Lyn Brandon as Treasurer. Your efforts have been much appreciated. It has been a privilege and honour to be President of FOGA for the last seven years (2015-2021).

Robyn Blakeley | Outgoing FOGA President



We are excited to introduce our newly-elected Fairholme Old Girl Association (FOGA) Committee for 2022.

We welcome President Sarah Jane Macdonald, Vice President Rebecca Vonhoff, Secretary Georgia Soutar, Treasurer Naomi Aird and Patroness Marie Cameron. Sarah Jane (FOG 2010), a lawyer with Macdonald Law, already has great plans for FOGA including networking events, mentorship programs and Old Girl Reunions.

'It's about connecting our past with the present and engaging old girls and new in a vibrant space. We are so grateful to the outgoing committee for their work, commitment and dedication in safeguarding the history and relevance of FOGA. I am looking forward to continuing to strengthen the bonds of Fairholme Old Girls. Once a Fairholme girl, always a Fairholme girl.'

Interested in organising a reunion?
Stay connected with the Alumni and Old
Girls' Association. Update your details on
the Fairholme Website or contact Helen
Lange Alumni Officer
Helen.Lange@fairholme.qld.edu.au
T 4688 4614

Old Girls in the News

Jessie Harper | 2013 | Cameron House | Day Girl

A University Medal, the 2021 University of Queensland Graduate of the Year, First Class Honours, Valedictorian of the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, and the Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence in every



Picture supplied by the University of Queensland

semester of study... It's been an impressive few years for Fairholme Old Girl, **Jessie Harper (2013)**. And if that wasn't enough, along with her remarkable academic achievements Jessie is an elite athlete in track and field who has represented Australia at the World University Games (2019) and the Oceania Games (2017 and 2019) in Long Jump.

Jessie's accolades follow on from her time at Fairholme where she was a Day Girl, an inspiring Cameron House athlete and the winner of the Ray Powell Cup and a General Merit Prize in 2013.

Jessie completed her Bachelor of Agricultural Science (First Class Honours) last year and is currently undertaking her Ph D at UQ, holding a prestigious Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship awarded in 2021.

Her focus is on global food production and food security in

developing countries – a subject she became passionate about while on a study tour in Indonesia as an undergraduate.

'This prompted a realisation of the importance of sustainable agriculture globally,' Jessie said. 'I believe helping improve agriculture in developing countries leads to positive social change through building the capacity of farmers and scientists.'

Jessie said seeing the small scale of Indonesian farms and the generosity of those farmers ignited in her a desire to help them improve productivity and, in doing so, their livelihoods. 'On that trip, we saw firsthand the challenges of food security facing the world and it really highlighted to me the importance of agriculture in alleviating poverty.'

Georgina Hopson | 2007 | Powell House | Day Girl

Fairholme Old Girl **Georgina (Georgie) Hopson (2007)** has landed the role of a lifetime. Earlier this year, Georgie won the lead of Christine Daae in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Opera Australia's Handa Opera on the Harbour production for 2022. Georgie says this production is one that has never been seen before. 'Under the stars, on a floating stage with the Sydney Opera House, Harbour Bridge and the city skyline

glittering in the background, I'm excited for this role and this extraordinary experience,' Georgie said.

Having played for 25 years on London's West End and 34 years on Broadway, *The Phantom of the Opera* holds a special place in Georgie's heart. 'This inspired interpretation of Gaston Leroux's novel is one of my favourite musicals.'

Georgie has always been active in the Arts at Fairholme, having played the lead role of Aunt Eller in the Fairholme & TGS co-production of *Oklahoma!* in 2007. A Prefect and Powell House Captain, she was also awarded the College Music Trophy (gift of Mrs Patrea O'Shea) in 2007. Her Fairholme singing teacher, Mrs Gwentyth Chappell, remembers Georgie fondly. 'Georgina always had such an engaging personality and was a standout of the Fairholme singing studio. She has an astonishing gift.' Georgina is best known for her performance as Mother in *Ragtime*, for which she won a 2020 Green Room Award for Best Performer in a Lead Role. In 2021, Georgina played Gussie in *Merrily We Roll Along* (Hayes/Luckiest Productions) and was nominated for a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Performance in a Supporting Role. Georgie has also been the recipient of the prestigious 2017 Rob Guest Endowment Award and the 2015 Matilda Award for Best Emerging Artist.



Stephanie Hancock | 1999 | Stephens House | Boarder

Steph Hancock (1999) has started her season with the Gold Coast Titans. A pioneer for women's rugby league, Steph joined the Titans after stints with the Brisbane Broncos and St George-Illawarra Dragons. The former Jillaroos Captain made her international debut in 2003, winning multiple World Cups in the green and gold as well as appearing 16 times for Queensland – in her last, winning the 2020 Women's State of Origin.



In other football news, USQ Saints player and Fairholme Old Girl, Brianna Dascombe (2017), was named in the Queensland Reds extended squad ahead of the 2022 Super W season. Over the past 27 years, 238 women have worn the Queensland Reds jersey – and Brianna became the 239th when she featured in the second half in her side's 50-5 thrashing of the Melbourne Rebels earlier this year.

Margot McKinney | 1976 | Powell House | Day Girl

Margot McKinney (1976) Earlier this year, Fairholme Old Girl and creative giant, Margot McKinney

(1976), featured in the exclusive Museum of Brisbane's exhibition, World of Wonder. The MoB identity series celebrated creative greats who call Brisbane home.



While Brisbane may be her home these days, the McKinney family name has long been associated with Toowoomba and Fairholme College. In fact, the McKinney family's tartan ties began in the early 1920s with Margot's grandmother, FOG Eileen Connell (1919-1920) and continued with Margot's aunts, cousins and her sisters, Sally (1978) and Jane (1983), all attending the College.

Margot has been called one of the world's boldest creative talents, and her pieces are an extraordinary celebration of the world's rarest gems. But while the McKinney family name has been synonymous with luxury jewels for four generations, it is Margot herself who has elevated that name to soaring new heights through her own jewellery brand, a flagship store in Brisbane, and stockists including the prestigious Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman in the USA. With a practice that is rooted deeply in nurturing long-term relationships with suppliers, Margot has worked with leading pearl farmers, opal experts and gem cutters across the globe to secure the rare and precious materials that have been the centrepiece of her designs – many of which were featured in the MoB exhibition.

'Fairholme gave me incredible self-confidence. It was a very solid start in life. We had to be very disciplined. If you didn't fulfil your commitments and do what you were going to do, then you didn't succeed.'

Weddings and Babies

Georgia Soutar (Stafford, 2008) and her husband Callum welcomed a daughter, Elizabeth Rose, on 19 May 2022. Elizabeth weighed 7lbs 7oz and was safely delivered at the Mater Mother's Hospital in Brisbane. Georgia, a lawyer, is continuing her connection with Fairholme, having recently being elected as Secretary of the Fairholme Old Girls' Association.



Gill Elphinston (2002) gave birth to daughter Poppy on 11 August 2021.



Old Girls in the News

Emily Blackley (Speed, 2006) added to her family last year when she gave birth to her third daughter, Hanna. Emily and husband Tom have two other girls Tess and Pippa. Since finishing school in 2006, Emily has studied Business and Agribusiness and she currently lives in Taroom, working the family's cattle property operation. In the last few years, Tom and Emily have also taken over their own cattle property, 'Bridge Creek'.



Annabelle Hudson (Amos, 2010) and husband, Tom, welcomed baby Evelyn (Evie) to their world on 1 November last year. Evelyn was born at Dubbo Base Hospital and is the first child for Annabelle and Tom.



Little Henry Downing was born on 31 January this year. He is the son of Matthew and **Demi Downing (Ladbrook, 2008)**. Demi, who was a Fairholme Boarder from 'Bulah'

Yuleba, married her husband at Rosslyn Bay, Yeppoon in 2020. Demi is a Deputy Principal in the Rockhampton area.



Grace Hamblin (2014) married her partner of five years, Joshua Ryan, at Highfields last year. Grace says it was 'the most perfect day', shared with Fairholme friends and her sister, Ailish (2015), who was her Maid of Honour. 'We were lucky that at the time we married there were few COVID restrictions. We Zoomed the ceremony to some relatives in New Zealand, but thankfully, most of our friends and family were able to join in our special day.' Grace has worked in and around Toowoomba since leaving Fairholme in 2014, and currently she is the Payment Manager with Hutchinson Builders.



Fairholme Boarder, **Jess Huntley (2008)**, married Andrew Wilson (Toowoomba Grammar School 2006) at her parents' property in October last year.

'We had a marquee wedding on my parents' property in Roma,' Jess said. 'Unfortunately, the borders were still closed which meant a lot of our family and friends interstate couldn't make it.' Amongst those who couldn't make Jess's wedding were a few Fairholme friends who were trapped south of the border.



When Jess finished school, she studied events and tourism at the University of Queensland and continued to work in corporate events before moving into community engagement and fundraising with a national charity.

Paige Karez (2011) married Corey Orchard at Jimbour House in Spring last year. Paige and Corey have a daughter together, Peyton.



Reunions



and a tour of the school led by the College's Archivist, Jenny Noble. A fitting conclusion to a most enjoyable reunion!

Marie said another reunion was on the cards for later this year. 'Elizabeth McKay (Dunn), our Senior Prefect, was extremely sorry that she was unable to come due to the COVID border restrictions. We hope that Elizabeth and the other Old Girls from 1961 might make it to Toowoomba later this year for a mini reunion.'

Class of 1961 - 60 Year Reunion

On October 23, 2021, a warm and sunny Saturday, a group of 22 Fairholme Old Girls from the Class of 1961, along with 10 brave husbands, gathered for lunch at the Blue Mountain Hotel to celebrate their shared and long-ago memories of their time at the College.

Shirley Frickman and Marie Cameron had been hard at work finding their classmates and contacting the girls, and were delighted with the significant number who were able to come. Marie was delighted with the turnout and said the Old Girls enjoyed catching up with new friends and old and remembering their time in the Maclaren tartan.

'The tables were decorated in the Fairholme colours of blue, gold and black and we all did our best to recognise each other as we arrived with some - though not universal - success!', Marie said. 'Once we were reacquainted with each other, chatter and laughter flowed freely, reminiscing was aplenty, and many photographs were taken.'

Marie said the reunion wouldn't have been complete without a rigorous rendition of the Fairholme war cry! 'I'm not sure what the other diners thought, but there were no protests! It was like no time had passed.' On the morning after the reunion, a small group of the ladies revisited the College for a reflection chapel service in the Homestead, followed by morning tea on the verandah

Class of 1978 - Annual Reunion

The Fairholme Old Girls from 1978 have been catching up every 10 years, however, over the past few years, their catch ups have become an annual event. 'Life is too precious not to gather with the girls,' reunion organiser Julie Gee (1978) says. 'We all value the strong bonds forged all those years ago with a lot of laughter and so many stories which we still repeat over and over! We all truly value our Fairholme years and these great, special friendships are the perfect by-product of those years.'



Reunions

Sad Passings

- Pamela (Pam) Ainsworth (Downes) 1952-53**
in April 2022
- Norma Briggs (Skerman) 1956-57**
in February 2022
- Norma Butler (Kelly) 1940-41**
in April 2022
- Betty Byrne (Falconer) 1946-48**
in 2018
- Margaret (Peg) Byrnes (Napier) 1946-49**
in January 2020
- Dorothy Currey (McLean) 1944-45**
in May 2020
- Barbara Cuttler (Robertson) 1946**
in February 2022
- Audrey Fulcher (Cusack) 1944-45**
in April 2022
- Dorothy Gault (Haimes) 1936-37**
in July 2017
- Betty Green (Hinz) 1951-54**
in June 2020
- Ethel Gundry (Walker) 1937-40**
in July 2021
- Barbara Hawken 1938-40**
in February 2022
- Margaret Fay (Fay) Hertle (Weppner) 1948-49**
in December 2021
- Alicia Long (Hubbard) 1946-47**
in December 2014
- Doreen Margetts (Dickman) 1950**
- Daphne Murton (Hills) 1942-44**
in November 2021
- Sheila Royal (Cowie) 1944-46**
in February 2022
- Evelyn (Pearl) Saal (Neale) 1943-44**
in January 2022
- Gloria Smith (Hair) 1943-44**
in March 2017
- Adie Hazel (Hazel) Southwell (Reid) 1942-43**
in August 2021
- Mary Stuart (Dillon) 1960-61**
in February 2022
- Norma Tyson (Morgenstern) 1953-54**
in June 2016
- Dulcie Young (Morice) 1951-52**
in January 2022

STAFF

- Alethea Hubley (Mayes) 1970-71**
in August 2021
- Beverley-Anne Schmidt 1957-96**
in February 2022



Class of 1971 – 50 Year Reunion

Fairholme Old Girl Reunions are a celebration of friendships formed at the College, a way to reconnect with lost friends and reminisce on school years up Palm Drive. Organiser of the Class of 1971 reunion, Gayle Hall, knows more than most the importance of keeping contact details up to date in the Old Girl database. 'I found 34 Old Girl contact details, however, out of a cohort of around 70, it was only half of our class,' Gayle said.

Despite this, Gayle said the 50 Year Reunion was a wonderful success with the girls reconnecting and reminiscing over dinner. 'We had 25 girls attend which was extraordinary considering borders were closed. One of the great outcomes, is that now all the girls have contact details for each other so going forward we can all keep in touch,' Gayle said.

'The congeniality, the laughter and shared stories of everyone's life so far

was one I will always remember and am so glad to have had the privilege to organise.'

Class of 1989 – Annual Reunion

With the girls from the Class of 1989 turning 50 this year, the cohort decided it was time for a catch up. Organiser Lisa Webster, said the Fairholme connection between the girls was as strong as ever. 'This is testament to the wonderful schooling opportunity we had at Fairholme over 30 years ago.'

Lisa said the night was filled with plenty of laughs, memories, stories and the gratitude they each had for their time at Fairholme. 'We laughed at how some girls would turn up to every sporting event keen to earn extra house points, while others avoided the events at all cost! We remember singing and dancing together and the wonderful, lasting impact these small opportunities had on us as girls and as friends.'

