St Hilda’s hosts Queensland’s first ‘Girls in Engineering Conference’

By Bridget Burton Year 12

The ‘Girls in Engineering Conference’ was an extremely enjoyable and informative day. It introduced me to the world of engineering and the career opportunities available to women, in a field that is usually very male-dominated.

As a Year 12 student in my final year at school, choosing what to study and pursue as my future career will be one of the most important decisions of my life. This conference and the inspirational women who spoke about their work in engineering, has given me the confidence and desire to pursue a career in engineering.

The highlight of the day was listening to the guest speakers who all spoke about their different jobs and roles in the engineering industry. This included an aviation engineer from the Australian Defence Force, civil engineers with varying roles and even a biomedical engineer who is helping to develop an artificial heart.

The keynote speaker, Sarah Don, a St Hilda’s Old Girl, was inspiring.

By Veronica McNevin Year 10

“If you have a dream, follow it!” said Sarah Don, Nuclear Science Engineer. This was just a small line from one of the many inspirational speeches given by the eight female engineers at the inaugural ‘Girls in Engineering Conference’.

Together with many other young women from Years 10 to 12 around Queensland, I was privileged to attend this spectacular event. As a Year 10 student studying Design and Technology at St Hilda’s School, it is my dream to become an engineer.

She was the only Australian out of 400 applicants, accepted to study at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was fascinating to hear about her career as a nuclear engineer.

St Hilda’s School hosted Queensland’s first ‘Girls in Engineering Conference’ in partnership with Griffith University Gold Coast on Wednesday 17 June this year. The one-day event, attracting senior students and staff from some 13 schools throughout Queensland, shone a spotlight on the varied career paths of St Hilda’s Old Girls.
St Hilda’s hosts first ‘Girls in Engineering Conference’

Continued

To hear each of the engineers’ pursuits to their goals was galvanizing. Their struggles and victories along the way, encouraged ambition and hope for us as young women.

We began to envision the opportunities at our fingertips as STEM females of the 21st century.

After lunch, we boarded the G:Light Rail to transfer to Griffith University Gold Coast. Being able to observe and use the cutting-edge technology and facilities was exciting.

Sarah Don (2008) Superintendent, MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory

It was fantastic to have the opportunity to share my experiences as a scientist and engineer with a room full of bright young budding scientists at the St Hilda’s ‘Girls in Engineering Conference’.

A strong science education opens so many doors for young people, and a well-rounded education helps scientists to invent new technologies and to be leaders.

To visit St Hilda’s again and see the positive transformation of the campus and its focus on science and continued emphasis on the arts was certainly great to see.

I can’t wait to read in future issues of the OGA Spirit about all the exciting and critical STEM-related careers and projects the girls pursue.

Anna Goto (2009) Water Resources Engineer

Approximately 100 girls from St Hilda’s and other Queensland schools attended to hear stories from women in the STEM field.

The STEM conference was a great opportunity to return to the school as a working water resources engineer and an advocate for women in engineering.

It was a pleasure to sit amongst the other accomplished women (many St Hilda’s Old Girls) to give the girls an insight into the industry.

The girls were so inquisitive and enthusiastic about their potential study options and careers.

There were girls interested in helicopters and planes, girls who wanted to help save the planet through environmental engineering, girls who wanted to see how mathematics can be applied in the real world.

Effie Thompson (2008) Structural Engineer

When asked if I would present at the STEM conference my mind went into overdrive. What aspects of engineering do I share?

It dawned on me that my steepest learning curve came from being on-site and seeing the theory of engineering in practice.

What I didn’t expect at the conference was to learn so much about a field I was there to talk about myself!

Each speaker blew me away with their experiences and stories because fundamentally, we were all St Hilda’s STEM graduates who had ended up in such different places.

During the Q&A panel session, I found myself in awe of the questions put forward and the discussions that followed from the students.

It showcased exactly what I love about STEM and engineering in particular – the endless possibilities.

OGA welcomes 2015 Graduates

School Captain of 2007 and Brisbane insolvency litigation lawyer Melanie Maguire returned to school to speak at the OGA Badge Presentation to Year 12 ceremony this term.

Mel, who starred as ‘Dorothy’ in the school’s first major musical, The Wizard of Oz, spoke to the Year 12 girls about the exciting times ahead as they contemplate leaving school and starting the next chapter of their individual stories.

Mel took a Gap Year after graduating from school and says she continues to pursue a balance of work and travel.

Catherine Gunther releases first EP

Since graduating in 2014, I have never been busier in building my music career.

On New Year’s Eve I was fortunate enough to play at Woodford Folk Festival’s Chalkboard series and then join Alt-Country artist Matt Henry on stage at Tamworth Country Music Festival in January this year.

In March I started my Bachelor of Popular Music at the Queensland Conservatorium which led to the recording of this CD, thanks to their facilities and great staff.

It took three months from initial conception to the final release and a great deal of support from my fellow musicians at university to make it possible.

Being an independent musician, I have to do everything a record label would do for me, such as promotion. This also involved visiting Nashville during their Country Music Festival in June to spread the word of the release and meet various industry professionals.

Since releasing the EP, I have played a number of shows on the Gold Coast, with two performances at this year’s Gold Coast Show; as well as a radio interview on Tamworth’s 88.9FM.

It’s been a really exciting year putting this EP together and performing regularly to promote it.

If you’d said to me in high school I’d be releasing my first CD within six months of graduating, I wouldn’t have believed you; but with hard work and great organisation learnt from my schooling days, I’ve been lucky enough to release my first EP, with a second CD slated for release next year.
Welcome to this edition of the *OGA Spirit*. I know you’ll enjoy reading the wonderful stories about what Old Girls are doing in our community and the latest events involving Old Girls held at St Hilda’s. We’d love to feature your stories on our website and newsletter, so email your details.

This will be my final *Spirit* President’s Message as I’ve decided to step down at the upcoming Annual General Meeting in November, after nine years at the helm.

We will hold the biennial AGM and Election of Office Bearers on Saturday 7 November 2015 during the OGA Weekend. The details of the OGA Weekend are included in this newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming new members to our committee who will continue the work and vision of the OGA and provide fresh insight for its future.

I’ve thoroughly enjoyed the many friendships forged within our Old Girl community and throughout St Hilda’s School.

I’ve not only been a past student, but have had the pleasure of sending two daughters to St Hilda’s as well. My time as President started just after Stephanie finished in 2006 and continued as our youngest, Lizzie, finished her senior years. I’ve seen firsthand the benefit of being involved with the OGA Committee as a parent and firmly believe that more Old Girl parents at St Hilda’s and local Old Girls are needed for our committee. They can easily maintain that connection which is an important principle of the OGA.

I continue to be proud of our Old Girl community and am thrilled to see your involvement back at school. The recent ‘Girls in Engineering Conference’ saw eight Old Girl speakers whilst TEDx St Hilda’s featured three past students.

Non Nobis Solum lives on in them all along with the women who join us for Speech Day and Senior Graduation.

There are so many Old Girls with wonderful stories and careers and we encourage you to join our list of mentors for future and past students of St Hilda’s.

Wishing you the very best for the rest of 2015 and I hope to see you at the OGA Weekend in November.

Debbie Buckley (Clarke 1978)
OGA President

Old Girls continue to be active in school events

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Debbie Buckley (Clarke 1978)
OGA President

Susie spurred to work for Special Olympics

Susie Bennett-Yeo (1977) has returned with the Australian team from a Special Olympics event in Los Angeles. Susie has been a volunteer with the Special Olympics for 28 years and works in the sports disability field.

Susie’s interest in the disability arena began in her senior years at St Hilda’s. A keen hockey player, she attended a ‘come and play’ day at The Southport School organised by Gold Coast sports legend Daphne Pirie. Special school kids joined them and at the end of the day, medals of achievement were awarded to the athletes. Then TSS Headmaster Mr John Day donated the medal he received and today there is a John Day Athletics Award for its future.

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Men of 2015

The party will be held in the new $9m Jennifer Reeves Building.
RSVP: Cheryl Reddy 07-5577 7297 by Monday 2 November or email oldgirls@sthildas.qld.edu.au.
Saturday 7 November 2015
9am – Morning Tea
9.30am – Tour of the School
11am – AGM and Elections
12pm – Light lunch served

2015 REUNIONS

We hope the following groups have a wonderful time at their reunions. MORE INFORMATION AT sthildas.qld.edu.au.
Seniors of 2010 21 November Lunch
Seniors of 2005 26 September
Gold Coast Turf Club
Seniors of 199514 November
Contact Katy Youngman
Seniors of 1965 7 November
Dinner at Hotel Grand Chancellor
Contact Prue Holmes

Reunion Coordinators 2016
If you are having a reunion in 2016, we’d love to hear from you as we need coordinators for the following graduate years: 2011, 2006, 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1981, 1976, 1971, 1966, 1961+ To lodge your interest please email oldgirls@sthildas.qld.edu.au. We will set up Facebook groups and provide Old Girl details and support where we can.

DIARY DATES

10 October 2015 – 12 noon to 7pm OGA Weekend including OGA Cocktail Party, AGM, Tour of the School and Reunions.

MORE INFORMATION DETAILED ON THE ST HILDA’S WEBSITE
Leanne Kenway (Fair 1987) captures a memorable moment at Cape of Good Hope, the most south-western point of the South African continent.

Mandi Stewart (2013) poses for the camera on a sunny day in New York City.

Steph McCarthy (2011) shares a Disney experience with a friend in Orlando, Florida.

Tyla Cleator (2009) gets up close to an elephant at the Shamwari game reserve in Eastern Cape, South Africa.


Caitlin Hawkes (2006) knows how to relax beside a pool in Bali.


Kate Hardy (2005) explores historic sites in Turkey.

Georgia Holmes (2012) takes in the street art of Berlin, Germany.

St Hilda’s hosted its third TEDxSt Hilda’s School event in July which saw, among others, three St Hilda’s Old Girls take to the stage.

Paula (Pog) Gerber (1980), a lawyer, Associate Professor at Monash University Law School and Deputy Director of Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, spoke about surrogacy from a human rights perspective.

She was thrilled to be invited back to St Hilda’s after being threatened with expulsion several times during her schooling!

Pog gave a thought-provoking talk from an informed, considered position with the human rights of the child being centric to all decisions around surrogacy.

The complicated details of high and low-profile cases were put forward. She says we need a better legal framework in Australia that allows compensated surrogacy in a regulated environment which screens perspective parents and surrogates alike.

Genevieve Windley (1993) spoke about carrots! Genevieve, a mother of two boys, a farmer’s wife, a senior manager with the Scenic Rim Regional Council and a director of the Kalbar and District Community Bank, lives at Kalbar and operates Kengoon Farming with husband Ed. They are focused on vegetable production and particularly, carrots.

As Genevieve researched how to give a great TED talk, she discovered storytelling was the answer and indeed, told us a wonderful story about carrot production in her area, so that we could appreciate where our food came from and better connect with the food we eat.

Genevieve said that her region was leading the way with technology and food production, they use GPS to steer tractors, mobile phones to operate the irrigation and unmanned aerial vehicles to undertake infra-red mapping to assess plant health.

These farmers have more than cheeky smiles and grubby King Gees!

When she noticed that her city friends only ever wanted to talk to Ed about farming, she saw an opportunity to educate others about the food community in which she lived, ‘Eat Local Week’ was born, an annual foodie celebration in the Scenic Rim area.

Laura Daquino (2010) is a journalist for Business News Australia.

She specialises in writing about startup businesses, entrepreneurship and big ideas.

She is passionate about female and youth entrepreneurship, applying this passion to help organise and host the annual Gold Coast and Brisbane Young Entrepreneur Awards.

Laura asked the audience who they wanted to be when they grew up and provided an alternative to the standard ‘job’ answer.

She asked us to consider being a ‘sponge’, people who absorbed new ideas, information and knowledge, who hung out with smart, positive people and who left their mark wherever they went.

She says she has been inspired by people she has interviewed and each time, believes she walks away a slightly better person.

Laura is an inspiring young woman who is soaking up the knowledge gained by her experiences and leaving her mark along the way.
Where are they now…

Karrie Nicholas (2013)
Graduating from St Hilda’s in 2013 after 13 years at the incredible school taught me so much.
If anything, St Hilda’s taught me a great deal of independence and determination, which has brought me to where I am today.
At the beginning of 2014, I left home on modelling contracts to travel to South Korea and Singapore; and returned knowing the fashion industry was tough and competitive.
My business plan was a social media management company that manages businesses and individual accounts, creates marketing campaigns and builds brand online reputation, as social media is so imperative today.
I named my business, Send Me Social – Send Me Live… Send Me Wide… Send Me Social. Social media is such an important part of business growth. I love to ask my clients, “If your customers are online, why aren’t you?”
I see social media as the most efficient and cost-effective marketing tool available.
I created my own website, designed business cards, brochures, sourced legal contracts, did mail drops and started a database for newsletters.
In less than six months, I had accumulated eight loyal clients and have been recognised across America and Europe.
I believe that St Hilda’s gave me the opportunity and skills to start my own successful business. Any St Hilda’s girl is capable of following her dream if she prepares herself correctly. The mix of education, determination and motivation is the key to success!

Peta Warby (1997)
I am the Director of Austplan General Insurance. I grew up on our large family property between Roma, Charleville and Glenmorgan in Western Queensland before attending St Hilda’s as a Boarder.
I have always taken pride exemplifying our school’s motto – Non Nobis Solum (Not For Ourselves Alone) and this is why I love being an insurance broker, actively supporting my local and rural communities and have hosted international students from more than 32 countries over the past 15 years – I love helping others!

Candace James (2002)

MARRIAGES

Belinda Sowter (1999)
I lost my late husband in 2012, and together we had two young boys.
Fast-forward a few years, I met an amazing man, Daniel, who I married in May this year and we have just had a baby (see page 8).

ENGAGEMENTS

On 12 June 2015, Emma Woods became engaged to Cameron Beere at Battersea Park in London. Emma is working as an Associate at the Financial Conduct Authority, and Cameron is a senior systems administrator at Rackspace. They plan to marry in May 2016 on the Gold Coast.

Lara Irons (2012) and Hannah Rigby (2012) surprised Lizzie Buckley (2012, centre) when they arrived in Mackay to see Lizzie’s last performance in Central Queensland University’s musical City of Angels. Lizzie is in her third year studying musical theatre at the Conservatorium.

St Hilda’s supports Weengallon Pink Ladies Day

St Hilda’s School was delighted to support the amazing work of women living in the bush who each August band together to stage the inspiring Weengallon Pink Ladies Day.
The event raises funds for breast cancer nurses for regional Queensland and supports the National Breast Cancer Foundation.
A day of festivities, market stalls and guest speakers, the event also offers the chance to connect with St Hilda’s Old Girls who travel from far flung parts of Queensland and New South Wales to enjoy this celebration, held under marquee on the red dust ridges of Weengallon. A member of the organising committee is St Hilda’s Old Girl and Head Boarder Kellie Mitchell (Bridle 1993); while hard at work in the kitchen each year is current parent Janine Finlay.
St Hilda’s visit, sponsored generously by the Audi Centre Gold Coast, saw staff and current and past parents sharing laughs over a ‘picnic’ lunch - part of the contingent of 600 women who converged on Weengallon – population 2!
OGA ‘Away’ gatherings popular

Nanette Lilley cherishes connections to Laurel Ave

Brisbane real estate agent and Old Girl Nanette Lilley (Stephens 1952), has written a book, Welcome to Laurel Avenue, a street voted the best in Brisbane in 1999.

Laurel Avenue is in Chelmer and known for its beautiful old trees and stately homes; but it also has a more interesting social history which intrigued Nanette.

Nanette has owned real estate agency, Nanette Lilley Property, for 32 years and lived in the area for 40 years. Nanette challenged the status quo of the real estate market back in 1982, as a woman opening her own agency.

With extensive knowledge and her personal approach, Nanette is well-placed to write such a book on this beautiful street.

Nanette was raised on a cattle property at Darlington near Beaudesert. She remembers riding her horse to the one-teacher primary school before heading to board at The Glennie School in Toowoomba and then St Hilda’s School.

After marrying Angus Lilley and spending their early married life in north-west New South Wales, the family moved to Brisbane, and Nanette’s connections with Chelmer began.

Nanette always has been fascinated by the appeal and charm of Laurel Avenue. She has watched as the demographic of the people buying in the area has changed from an older clientele to a mix of younger professionals and business people.

In 2003, when she was preparing to sell a home with significant history, she produced a booklet to do the house justice.

Following the house sale, the obvious question was asked, ‘Why not expand the booklet and incorporate the background of more homes in the street?’

The seed was planted. Nanette and associate John Woods set about interviewing long-term residents and researching the history of the area.

The final draft of the book was completed in late 2013 and expanded for publication in 2014 with the assistance of editor, Gerard Benjamin from Newstead.

OGA President Debbie Buckley met Nanette at the recent OGA Lunch at St Lucia Golf Club. Nanette’s book launch was held at the golf club last November where more than 100 guests, including current and former residents, relished the opportunity to support Nanette and renew acquaintances.

Nanette was presented with a striking arrangement of orchids set within a display of camphor laurel leaves... and says the book has been in high demand from those with connections to Laurel Avenue.

Toowoomba and Brisbane Away lunches

The OGA Committee travelled to Toowoomba in May and Brisbane in August for our popular Away Lunches.

Old Girls love to catch up and thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with friends.

Committee member Marian Michael (Perdriau 1957) does a great job of staying in touch with Old Girls which assures the wonderful feel of these events.

A mini reunion of the 1978 group was held in in Brisbane where girls picked up where they left off last year! Look out for these events in 2016.
St Hilda’s OGA Committee offers condolences to the families of the following OGA Members:

Hope Mackay (Smith 1957) passed away on 25 April 2015 aged 76. Hope was a boarder at St Hilda’s in 1951.

Pam Madsen (Evans 1974) passed away after a long battle with cancer. Her daughter Skye Madsen (2003) also was an Old Girl.

The first Prefect Badge

At the recent funeral of Old Girl, Pam Madsen (Evans 1974), I had the opportunity to speak with relatives of another Old Girl, Arlie Moore (1915), who was at St Hilda’s in 1912, the school’s founding year.

Her grandson and wife had found some memorabilia from her school days and were keen to share it with us. Christine knew that these memories were special and had kept them safe for many years.

Arlie received her Prefect badge in the form of an old coin and pin with her name engraved on it. This would have been among the first Prefect badge designs for St Hilda’s. She also shared a group photo of Arlie’s class and her 16-year-old self.

We were delighted to send back a photo of the Centenary Wall with Arlie Moore’s name in the 1915 cohort.

Prize trophy

Katherine Evans (1936-1942) wrote to us, sending a prize she won for coming second place in the sack race at the School Sports Day in 1940, a pretty shell-shaped dish with the St Hilda’s crest.

When we turned the dish over, we discovered that it had been made in England expressly for V.R. Birkbeck Southport, Qld.

The Birkbecks are now a fourth generation family of St Hilda’s School.

VALE

Allison Goloby (1941) passed away on 31 July 2015 aged 91.

Pam Madsen (Evans 1974) passed away after a long battle with cancer. Her daughter Skye Madsen (2003) also was an Old Girl.

CONTENTS

We would love to hear your news to include in the next issue of the OGA Spirit. Please tell us about your studies, career and life adventures via email at oldgirls@sthildas.qld.edu.au

President Mrs Debbie Buckley Mobile: 0412 173 033

For general enquiries Contact OGA officer Cheryl Reddy at St Hilda’s School on 07 5532 4922

For change of address and database details: oldgirls@sthildas.qld.edu.au

HISTORY SNIPPETS

The first Prefect Badge

Arlie Moore’s Prefect badge.

Prize trophy

Arlie Moore, aged 16 years.

BIRTHS

Belinda Sowter (1999)
A baby girl, Milla Louise Bozykowski, born 13 July 2015 at 9.58pm weighing 3.2kg.

Anita Emerson (Terhorst 2003)
Declan Connor Emerson, born on 20 February 2015.

Patrice Scott (Robertson 2002)
James Macpherson Scott, born 18 February 2015.

Rebecca Batchelor (Whyatt 2000)
I gave birth to our daughter Penelope Jane on 28 May this year.

Jane Black (1993)
I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Billie Caroline, on 17 July 2015, weighing 8 pounds. My best friend Nicole Walters (1993) was my support through the labour.

Megan Ray (1996)
Our daughter Amelia was born 18 June 2015, at 4.05kg. Her big sister Adalaida is very excited to have a sister.

Rachael Walker’s (2004)
baby was born on 6 August 2015, weighing 7lbs 9oz, and measuring 52.5cm long.

Bianca Trathen (1998)
My identical twin boys Alfie and Hugo were born on 19 August 2015. They are absolutely identical too - we can’t even tell them apart!

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