TIMARU GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI & COMMUNITY

TIMARU HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS'

2026 EDITION

Beyond *the* Gates

THE TGHS ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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Creating a Test Archive Display

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Calling for Registrations of Interest

Friends reunite after 40 years
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From Corsets to Calisthenics
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Celebrating Success at Timaru Girls' High Senior Prizegiving

Dear Old Girls, alumni and friends.
As we come to the end of another school year, I wanted to share some of what we've been celebrating at TGHS and thank you for the interest and support you continue to give our school.

Senior Prizegiving is an evening I look forward to each year. Academic achievement is at the heart of what we do at TGHS, and Prizegiving is an opportunity to recognise our students' hard work and excellent results.

Sport, the Arts and contributions to our community have given us plenty to celebrate too. Our choir's 2026 Big Sing performance was a reminder that success doesn't always come with a trophy. Having the confidence to give something a go and learning along the way is part of the strong Learning Culture that we foster, Whai Hua, Whai Ako, Whai Mātauranga.

Many of you will remember the cups laid out in the school hall at Prizegiving and hearing the donors' names read aloud. I enjoy that part of the evening. Some awards have been presented for generations, including the Cain Writing Prize, which dates to the early 1880s. Every new winner adds her name to our history. These awards are a wonderful reminder of the generosity of those who have supported our school over the years.

Congratulations to all our prize winners and to every student who reached a personal goal or made progress this year. Special congratulations to our 2026 Dux, Caitlin Hinton; Proxime Accessit, Emma Campbell; and Tessa Macdonald, recipient of the Miss B Watt Award for Consistent Academic Excellence.

Thank you to our 2026 Year 13 leaders: Head of School Maddison Longman, Deputy Head of School Shermaiah Fiaui, Head of 'the House' Libi Sowman and Deputy Head of 'the House' Emmerson Ward, and all our Year 13 leaders who brought the value of Mana Wāhine alive in our school this year. Congratulations also to our incoming 2027 school leaders, Alison Harbutt and Emmerson Ward.



I'm sure many of you remember competing for the Inter-House Shield, whether through sporting events, choir competitions or other House challenges. Congratulations to Rātā, winners of the 2026 Inter-House Shield, a school tradition reaching back to 1929!

As we all know, our school motto is 'Knowledge Is Power'. What matters is how we use the knowledge we gain. I want our girls to leave with confidence and self-belief, and to treat others with kindness and respect.

Thank you to our teachers, hostel and support staff, Board, PTA, families, whānau, Old Girls, donors and volunteers. A strong school community doesn't happen by chance. It comes from looking out for one another, showing kindness and taking responsibility. These everyday actions help make TGHS a place where everyone feels empowered and has a sense of belonging.

To our 2026 leavers, farewell and congratulations on becoming new 'Old Girls'. Thank you to Old Girls' Association President Pam Gibson for presenting awards.

School is an important chapter, but only one.
As our school song reminds us, 'Memories will bind us to school days left behind us.' As we prepare for our school's 150th anniversary in 2030, we'd love to hear your stories and memories. You are all part of the school's history, and we look forward to welcoming you back.

Thank you again for your support. I wish you a wonderful festive season and all the very best for the new year.

Deb Hales
Principal, Timaru Girls' High School



On 8 June 2026, TGHS choir Te Reo o Ngā Kōhine, led by music teacher Meghan McNally, returned to The Big Sing at Dunedin Town Hall after several years away. Their powerful performance of Paris Paloma's Labour earned two standing ovations. A TikTok video attracted millions of views and international recognition when British singer-songwriter Paris Paloma commented on and reposted it. The experience gave students confidence, strengthened friendships and demonstrated the power of their collective voice,



CAITLIN HINTON
2026 DUX



EMMA CAMPBELL
2026 Proxime Accessit



TESSA MACDONALD
2026 MISS B WATT MEMORIAL AWARD
For Consistent Academic Excellence



ALISON HARBUTT
2027 Head of School



EMMERSON WARD
2027 Deputy Head of School



Congratulations to the following Year 13 students who have been awarded tertiary scholarships to support their next steps in education. ✨ **Rinata Ioka – University of Otago Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for International Students** ✨ **Shermaiah Fiaui – University of Canterbury Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship** ✨ **Vika Falepapalangi – University of Otago Pacific Peoples' Scholarship** ✨ **Charlotte Tarrant – Milford Community Charitable Trust Scholarship** ✨ **Irene Zachariah – University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship** ✨ **Hannah Kidd – University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship and University of Canterbury Business School First Year Scholarship for Excellence** ✨ **Paige Harper – University of Otago Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship** ✨ **Marielle Valeriano – University of Otago Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for International Students** ✨ **Caitlin Hinton – University of Otago Academic Excellence Scholarship**



TGHS students celebrated their annual school ball on 7 August 2026, with a Tangled fairy-tale theme in the Nora Dickie Hall. Glowing lanterns, elegant gowns and impressive vehicles made for a memorable evening. The awards presentation recognized some of the standout efforts of the night. Award winners included Ruby Nicholas (Best Dressed Year 12), Charli McKenzie (Best Dressed Year 13) and Brooke Harford and her partner (King and Queen). Congratulations to the Ball Committee, staff and volunteers for making the evening possible.



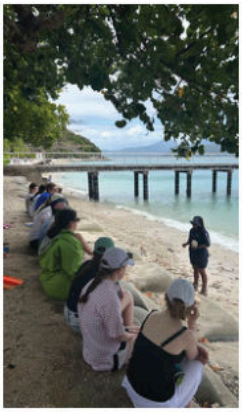
At the 2026 Aoraki Secondary School Sports Awards, held at Caroline Bay Hall, TGHS celebrated four category winners: Hannah Kidd (hockey), Addison Campbell (swimming), Leah Crawford (kickboxing – NZ Honours) and Ella Inch (Rugby Referee of the Year). Leah was also a finalist in motocross, alongside Gemma Stewart (basketball refereeing). The awards recognise sporting excellence across Mid Canterbury, South Canterbury and North Otago.



TGHS Year 13 students considering health careers visited Timaru Hospital and Talbot Park to explore radiology, midwifery, critical care, emergency medicine, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Students met healthcare professionals and gained practical insights into career pathways. Thanks to Anneke Dossett and Tasha Archibald for making the visit possible.



TGHS rowers opened their 2026–27 season at the Aoraki 1km Regatta at Lake Ruataniwha. Despite challenging conditions, crews reached seven B finals and five A finals. Hayley Tairua, Zara Rawcliffe, Xanthe Nelson, Maddison Berry-Rankin and Madison Hull won the women's open four.



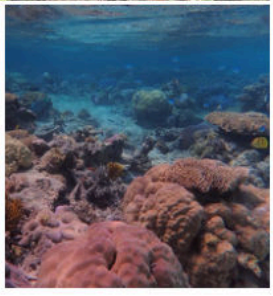






TGHS students spent eight days exploring the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest in Far North Queensland, Australia. Highlights included snorkelling, visiting a turtle rehabilitation centre, learning from Aboriginal Elders and Rangers, and exploring Mossman Gorge and Kuranda. Students also helped with beach clean-ups and rainforest restoration, gaining hands-on experience in conservation, culture, tourism and environmental science.







International Women's Day: Give to Gain

ABOVE: Roselyn Fauth, 2026 Deputy Head Girl Shermaiah Fiaui, Pam Gibson and 2026 Head Girl Maddison Longman.

In March, TGHS marked International Women's Day with a special assembly themed Give to Gain, celebrating women's leadership, service and the importance of telling stories that might otherwise be forgotten. Roselyn Fauth spoke about sharing women's history, while Pam Gibson was recognised for her dedication and service to the school. A long-time member and president of the Timaru High School Old Girls' Association, Pam has spent many years caring for the archives and supporting research enquiries, helping ensure the stories of generations of students and staff are recorded and remembered.

Volunteer Award



Congratulations to Irene Zachariah, Timaru Girls' High School's 2026 Top Volunteer Award recipient! Irene has clocked an incredible 521 hours of volunteering over the past year, supporting the Pink Ribbon Appeal, Daffodil Day Appeal, Big Sister Programme, Food Bank Drive, beach clean-ups, and her church, school and wider community.

A special thank you to Marielle Valeriano and Caitlin Hinton, our SVA Ambassadors for the past two years, for their leadership and commitment to encouraging volunteering at TGHS. Congratulations to all our student volunteers for making such a positive difference in our community!

Students Give Back at Timaru Cemetery

The Give to Gain message continued beyond the assembly when members of the TGHS Student Volunteer Army spent a Sunday helping the Friends of the Cemetery care for historic graves, supported by Alumni and Community Coordinator Roselyn Fauth. With Council approval and guidance from experienced cemetery volunteers, including TGHS Old Girls, students learnt how to give historic headstones a light, respectful clean. Along the way, they discovered connections to the school's earliest years, including Peter Pezet, who helped build the original school in 1879; Robert Irwin, its first janitor; and Dr Duncan McLean, father of our first Lady Principal. We hope to continue this partnership and invite Old Girls to help identify more graves connected to TGHS, share their stories and help contact families for permission to undertake future cleaning.

If you can help, please email community@timarugirls.school.nz.
Thank you to the students, Timaru District Council, and Friends of the Cemetery for helping care for these connections to our school's past.



The grave of Peter Pezet at the Timaru cemetery. He was a Dunedin plasterer who travelled to Timaru with his teenage son to help build the original Timaru High School. Peter was injured when a cornice collapsed during construction in 1879, he died in hospital and a grave was erected by his friends.










At Old Girls after work drinks. Meeting Alice Evatt in Nelson. Meeting Sange Malama for Alumni interview. Relaxing after a wahine panel session to support students with their careers. Hearing caretaker Clinton Davies story about the school boiler. Librarian Pip Black talks me through the library history as she reaches her 30 year milestone.

Alumni & Community Coordinator Update

Dear Old Girls, alumni and friends, take a look at the photograph on our cover. Today our principal Deb Hales pushes open the historic school 'Gates of Learning' an Old Girls gift marking the 1880-1930 anniversary.

It's a lovely example of what I've enjoyed most about returning to Timaru Girls' as the alumni and community coordinator. Learning about our history and meeting our past students, staff and supporters.

I've met Old Girls from different generations, heard wonderful stories and helped former students reconnect through gatherings, school visits and conversations. So many of us have experienced TGHS differently, and each has contributed something to the school we know today.

It has been a busy year learning the ropes of my role. Thank you for your warm welcome, and help particularly TGHS Staff, and the Old Girls community, including, Pam Gibson, Beryl Maglis, Carol Boulton, Robyn Cassidy, Adrienne Wood, Judith Neilson, Lyn Geary, Susan Schuster, Lorraine Leonard, Alice Evatt, Joanne Macgregor, and former TBHS rector Kevin O'Sullivan.

I established an Archive Club with students and Old Girls, and we have been recording stories, such as caretaker Clinton Davies who retired this year, and Pip Black who has been the schools librarian for 30 years.

I am continually amazed by the generosity of our Old Girls' Association, alumni and friends.



Whether sharing stories, volunteering or donating, every contribution matters. Inspired by the Old Girls' gift of the Gates of Learning on Hassall Street, I hope *Beyond the Gates* newsletters and magazines will celebrate this generosity, share our stories and strengthen connections across generations.

We're also looking ahead to 2030, when we will celebrate 150 years since Timaru High School first opened in 1880. I'd love you to be part of the preparations. Perhaps you have photographs tucked away, stories to share or news of former classmates, or would like to provide your alumni profile.

If you haven't already, please join our alumni database to hear about reunions, gatherings, school news and our 150th celebrations. You don't need to belong to the Old Girls' Association to register.

Thank you to the school community, for your warm welcome. I look forwarding to catching up again soon.

Roselyn Fauth
(née Cloake) TGHS Old Girl 1995–2000
TGHS ALUMNI & COMMUNITY COORDINATOR
community@timarugirls.school.nz



Old Girls' Association 2026 Report

It has been an enjoyable year for our Association, with opportunities to catch up with friends, welcome new members and share memories of our school.

A highlight was welcoming Mr Bob Auty and his daughter Eleanor to our Term 1 gathering. Bob shared memories of his family's association with the school. His father Charles was caretaker from 1948 to 1962, followed by his brother Ron (1962–1966), and Bob himself (1966–1995). The school was his home for years. It was a lovely to welcome him back.

Our Home Association continues to meet once a term for morning tea at The House. We thank the school, particularly Katrina Black and her kitchen staff, for their wonderful hospitality. We have enjoyed welcoming new members and friends from Waimate, along with hearing from senior staff about school activities, achievements and developments.

In April, the 1966 boarders returned for their 60-year reunion. Organiser Linda Bray (née Stowell) remarkably traced all 52 girls from their third-form intake, with 22 attending. They stayed at The House for two nights and enjoyed the archives display, comparing their memories with school life today. In appreciation of the archival work, our committee received a generous $400 contribution towards display cabinets and other requirements for the developing Archives Museum.

We also received a generous gift from the estate of the late Dorothy Pearce (née Hardcastle). Dorothy's twin sister Barbara and their mother Eileen (née Cook) also attended the school. Mrs Hardcastle taught music to House girls from 1961 to 1976.

The school archives have had a busy year. Roselyn Fauth Cloake) has undertaken an extraordinary amount of work establishing the museum display area in the Library. My thanks go to volunteers Lyn Geary (Baird), Bev Davidson (Holden) and Susan Schuster, together with Roselyn's Archives Club students, for their work recording and caring for our collection. It is wonderful to see today's students discovering our school's history.

We were saddened by the death of Mrs Deborah Bayliss, who retired as Director of Boarding in 2025. Deborah was always caring and willing to help with our gatherings, and we remember her fondly.

Our Temuka morning teas continue thanks to Rosanne Walls (Elliot). This year we welcomed ladies from Ashburton, Timaru and Waimate, enjoying the friendships these gatherings bring. To our committee members, Beryl Maglis (Westoby), Carol Boulton (Ormiston), Adrienne Wood (McGeorge) and Robyn Cassidy (Still), my sincere thanks for your dedication.

As we look towards the school's 150th anniversary in 2030, I hope more Old Girls (students and staff) will join us, share their memories and help preserve our school's stories. Whether you left recently or many years ago, you are always welcome.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Association throughout 2026.



Pam Gibson
(née Selbie) TGHS Old Girl 1958–1961
TIMARU HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS' PRESIDENT
TGHS Archivist and Volunteer
pgibson@timarugirls.school.nz



From a Pinboard to a Living Archive

Early in 2026, the re-established TGHS Archive Club had five students, a pinboard, a space in the library, and nearly 150 years of school history to work through.

The collection includes photos, school magazines, uniforms, programmes, rolls, awards, clothing, documents. It has been cared for over the years by volunteers, including Joy Slade and Pam Gibson.

Every generation inherits a school shaped by those who came before them. Knowing this history helps us understand what has changed, what has stayed the same, and what we might want to carry forward.

The Club have been learning how to research and interview. Who is the person in the photo? Who donated our school awards? Where were the original 1880 buildings? Which trees are significant? Who wrote the school song? Why are there old tools under the hall? Sometimes the answer is easy to find in a Chronicle or school record. Other stories take more digging. It has been wonderful bringing current students, Old Girls and friends of the school together to research, solve mysteries and share what we find.

Students have also been transcribing the names engraved on the school's cups and checking them against the school's records. We are developing a database for easier access.

Before we invest in more permanent displays, print, and digital media, we decided to start small so we could test ideas, listen and learn.

We began with a three-metre-wide timeline placing TGHS milestones alongside events in Timaru, New Zealand and the wider world. This helped bring the school's history to life by showing how it connected with events beyond the gates.



The library walls became a place to experiment with stories and displays, discover what captured people's interest and identify whose stories were missing.

The Old Girls' Association generously donated two large display cabinets, giving us more opportunities to share our collection while we learn what works, raise funds and plan for permanent displays.





We have established Beyond the Gates, a growing series of alumni stories designed to record the many different paths people take after TGHS.

The focus is on sharing the many different paths, experiences and stories to inspire that show there is no single way to build a fulfilling and meaningful life. We hope these stories will encourage current and future students to see the possibilities beyond the school gates and feel inspired by the lives of those who have gone before them.

We are beginning the series by invitation, drawing on archive research, interviews and the knowledge of Old Girls, families and friends of the school. We hope to open it up so more people can share their stories and inspire others beyond TGHS. You are most welcome write and submit your alumni profile.

We have set up a space for students and volunteers to scan photos and documents, and have begun transcribing the school's awards, cups and roles. Digitisation can reduce how often fragile originals need to be handled. This work will help us prepare for our 150th celebrations and make the archive easier to use, and ready for another generation to build on.

This is closely connected to Mana Tuku Iho.

"Mana Tuku Iho is about learning from what came before, adding our own story, and passing it on."

History is not just something that happened a long time ago. It is something we all add to each day. This work is being built by many hands, across many generations.



There have been a few side quests along the way, including researching and recording the history of the school library with librarian Pip Black, who celebrated 30 years at TGHS this year.



Tools found under the hall led us back to the school's first janitor, Robert Irwin, and what students were learning at the time. A secretarial desk that had been in storage became a display about commercial subjects and the career pathways opening to women before the digital age. Cemetery research also helped us identify graves connected with former TGHS students, staff and families. Some needed care and were cleaned by student volunteers.

Thank you to to everyone who has helped. Around 17 students took part in Archive Club activities over the year. We are very grateful to the volunteers who have cared for the archive over many years, to our Old Girls and wider community, and to everyone who has supported the TGHS Archive Fund. What began with a pinboard is now becoming something much bigger.

- Roselyn Fauth



‘The House’ Year of ’66 Reunion 60 Years On

12–14 April 2026

Twenty-two former boarders were listed for ‘The House’ Year of ’66 reunion, held at Timaru Girls’ High School in April 2026.

The three-day gathering offered an opportunity to renew friendships, share memories and discover how school and boarding life have changed over six decades.

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In 1966, TGHS had a roll of 743 girls, including around 180 boarders. It was a year of significant change. Principal Miss Nora Dickie retired in May after nearly 19 years, and Miss Gwen Avery succeeded her. The hostel also welcomed a new matron, Mrs D. V. Sergel, supported by assistant matrons and domestic staff. Life at ‘The House’ revolved around lessons, friendships, sport, music and shared routines. A television in the Senior Common Room was still something of a novelty, while dances with the boys from Thomas House, hostel concerts, piano competitions and Inter-House rivalries offered plenty of entertainment.

The reunion began on Sunday 12 April with an informal gathering in the school's East Wing. On Monday, Linda Bray welcomed the group before Director of Boarding Susan King spoke about boarding life today. Principal Debra Hales took the group on a tour of the school, revisiting familiar buildings and discovering what had changed.

Volunteer archivist Pamela Gibson had prepared a wonderful display from the school archives, giving the former boarders an opportunity to explore photographs, records and memories from their school days.

The group gathered for reunion photographs beside the Friends Forever sculpture and at the main gates to ‘The House’, with photographer Leysa Matity. They then travelled to Harlau House Café in Fairview for lunch, where an anniversary cake helped mark the occasion. Mary Gillespie and Sharyn Millar shared cutting of the reunion cakes.

Back at school, there was more time to share memories, look through the archives and enjoy one another's company. Some took the opportunity for a walk along Caroline Bay, while those staying over enjoyed tea and a relaxed evening together.



As the sun set on another day in Timaru, the reunion drew to a close with stories shared and friendships renewed. The group departed on Tuesday 14 April. Sixty years on, 'The House' continues to connect women whose friendships began within its walls.

Thank you to Pam Gibson for archive support and research. Special thank you to Linda Bray (nee Stowell) who found everyone, championed the event, and gave a generous gift to the archives.

Kaye Halkett baked two cakes for the reunion, with Mary Gillespie, Head of House in 1970, and Sharyn Millar, who travelled the furthest from Perth, invited to cut them. Women decorated the cakes together. Of the 22 women expected, 21 attended in person. Rosalie Brooks (née McLaughlin) was unable to make it after her flight from Auckland was cancelled amid the fuel crisis. Not wanting anyone to miss out, the group arranged a Zoom call so Rosalie and Erin Anson (née Wylie) could join remotely.



Studying a 1940s diagram showing the school's original buildings.



Pam Gibson and Linda Bray (née Stowell) in the archives.







2026 Reunion attendees with the "Friends Forever" sculpture: **BACK**: Ruth Polson (Cowie); Jeanette Maclaine (Franks); Alyson Ulrich (Chapman); Margaret Meyer (Thompson); Paula Abbott (Morrison); Mary Gillespie; Sharyn Millar (Watson); Helen France; Jill Denton (Mackay); Rachel Wilkinson (Jamieson); Marguerite Carter (Blair); Barbara Tate (Cormack); Carolyn Rhodes (Drake); Pamela Morrison; Rosemary Hanley (Dale). **FRONT**: Kaye Halkett (McConnell); Jill Hart (Cameron); Ann Scott; Linda Bray (Stowell); Joycelyn Smith; Colleen Dowie (Bearman). ABSENT: Rosalie Brooks (née McLaughlin)



TGHS friends reunite after 40 years

Back beyond the gates

An American exchange student returns to Timaru with her sister, joining former classmates for a visit filled with familiar faces, school traditions and a few unexpected discoveries.

What do you remember most about your school days? The teachers, the friendships, the inter-house rivalries, or perhaps the unmistakable smell of a Bunsen burner? For a group of women whose years at Timaru Girls' High School spanned 1981–1985, there was plenty to talk about when they reunited in Timaru in October 2026.



The group included Catherine Manning (née Robertson), Kim Vercoe, Cate Broderick (née Streeten), Kaye Stirling (née Robertson), Katherine Pierce (née Stubbs), and Barbara Edmiston (née Rieff), affectionately known as Boo. (Diane Garside (née Mussen), Deidre Mussen joined the group later.

Their principal was Mrs Beatrice Rae Wilson, who led TGHS from 1977 to 1985. Among their fondest recollections were the evenings Mrs Wilson invited small groups of senior students to her Beverley Hill home for dinner.

They spoke warmly of her hospitality and the personal interest she took in her students, something they still appreciated all these years later.



Mrs Beatrice Rae Wilson (1923–2017) served as principal from 1977 to 1985. Formerly an English teacher at Timaru Boys' High School and Head of English at Geraldine High School, she led TGHS through major changes, including the demolition of the original 1880 building in 1982 and the development of modern teaching facilities. She was particularly committed to student welfare, the hostel and opportunities beyond the classroom.

After retiring from TGHS in 1985, she and her husband Leslie moved to a rural property at Woodbury, near Geraldine. Her community work continued, earning her a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) in 1998 for services to education and the community. Her funeral order of service and CNZM medal are treasured items in the school archives, alongside the memories of the girls she taught and guided.

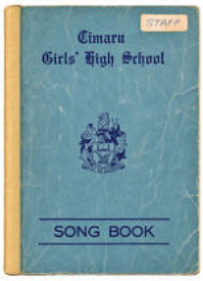
It was a period of considerable change at TGHS. The school had recently celebrated its centennial, and in 1982 the original school building was demolished as the campus underwent redevelopment.

The friends had international connections even then. Deidre travelled to Thailand on an AFS exchange in early 1985, followed by Diane to Switzerland later that year. In July 1985, 'Boo' arrived from Arkansas, USA, joining the Seventh Form and continuing her exchange into 1986. This October, she made the journey back from America with her sister Leslie Fitzgerald for the reunion and a visit to her former school.

As a fellow Old Girl, I had the pleasure of showing six of the women around TGHS on 16 October. Although our school years were over a decade apart, we soon found plenty in common, particularly our recollections of teachers, inter-house competitions, music and school traditions.



I learned from our guests that while much had changed, there were some welcome surprises, including a set of familiar wooden lockers still standing after all these years. A visit to the school archive, with its old uniforms, photographs and memorabilia, prompted further stories and a fair bit of laughter.







1981 Staff From magazine



After the final school bell had rung, we ventured into a science laboratory for a nostalgic sniff of a Bunsen burner, before gathering around the grand piano to sing the school song together. We finished the tour with a group photograph beside the familiar concrete TGHS sign, another feature the women remembered from their teenage years. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing their stories and seeing how much pleasure they took in being back. Despite the decade between our school years, it struck me how much we shared.



And after an afternoon of catching up, the words we had sung together seemed particularly fitting:

"Memories will bind us to school days left behind us."



Kaye Robertson was the Head Girl 1985

- Roselyn Fauth, with support from Kim Vercoe



Friends share a meal together at The Oxford Restaurant



Looking to the TGHS 150th in 2030

Did you know we're just a few years away from celebrating our 150th in 2030?

Timaru High School opened on 29 January 1880 with 36 girls and 29 boys. In 1898, it was divided into Timaru Girls' and Timaru Boys' establishing two schools with a shared history.

Early planning is under way for our 150th Jubilee and Reunion in 2030, with the possibility of celebrations over a long weekend towards the end of Term One. We hope to bring generations of Old Girls together to catch up with friends and revisit familiar places.

We're exploring dates, venues, activities and opportunities to work alongside Timaru Boys' to celebrate our shared beginnings. We'll share updates as plans develop.

In the meantime we invite you to reconnect with our TGHS community. One of our first priorities is reaching former students, staff and our wider school community, wherever they may be. If you haven't already, please complete our TGHS Alumni Google Form to join our database and receive school news, reunion updates and invitations to future events.

Help us spread the word! Encourage former classmates, teachers and other TGHS connections to join too. We'd love to reach every generation of Old Girls. Joining is free and doesn't commit you to attending the reunion. **Please scan the QR code to join our TGHS alumni database.**

ABOVE: Pam Gibson, Deb Hales, Dave Thorp and Roselyn Fauth at a a 150th TGHS & TBHS meeting.
BELOW: 2030 marks 150 years since Timaru High School opened in 1880, this is the first girls class.





Old Girls present an electric organ for the centenary.

Join the TGHS Alumni & Friends School Database

timarugirls.school.nz/about/old-girls-association

Thank you from the 2026 boarders

Dear Old Girls' Association and Rose,
Thank you so much for supporting The House throughout 2026 and helping us improve East Wing. We very much appreciate it.

With Love ,
Boarders and staff xx

thank you

The House Update

Awards Dinner



Deborah Bayliss Memorial Cup Awarded to Alison Harbutt



Head and Deputy Head of House for 2027



Maisy Judd (Fairlie)



Brian Emmett (Rangitata)

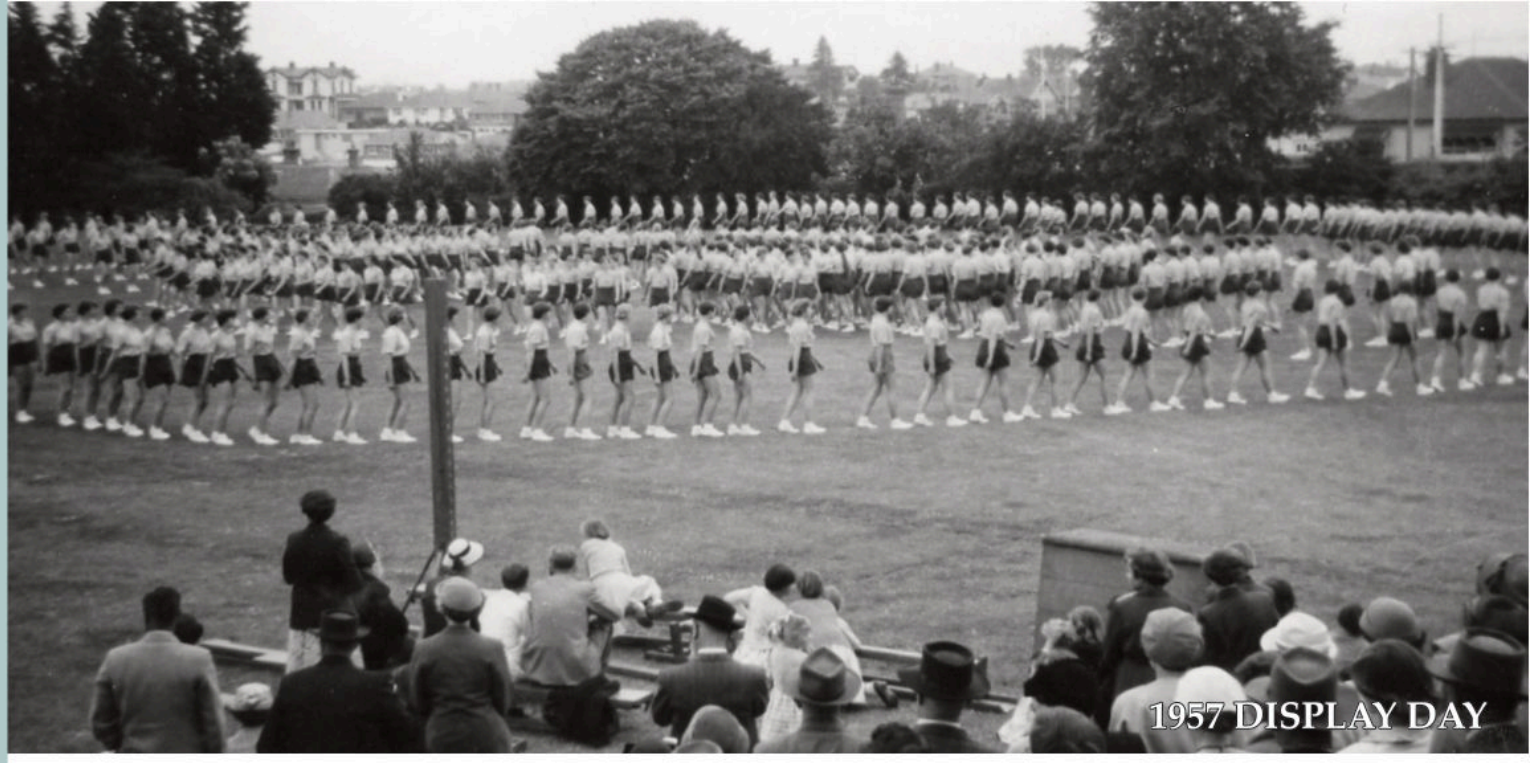
Mary Ainsworth is our new Director of Boarding - she has been working at The House for the past seven years.

Head and Deputy Head Girl of School for 2027 are both boarders!!



We are hoping to upgrade our trampoline!!

64 Boarders confirmed for 2027.
New boarders are from Duntroon, Kurow, Geraldine. Christchurch, Hinds, Ashburton and Catham Islands.


1957 DISPLAY DAY

From Corsets to Calisthenics

Imagine taking part in physical education wearing a long skirt and corset. When Timaru High School opened in 1880, girls' clothing restricted their movement, and expectations about how young women should behave were very different from today. Gymnastics was even considered 'immodest' by some.

Yet attitudes were changing. Over the following decades, physical education would become an increasingly important part of school life, and girls would have more opportunities to exercise, compete and represent their school.

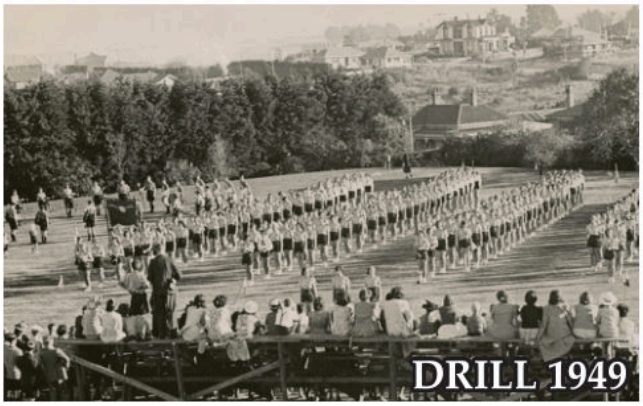
Following the devastating school fire of 1897, classes were temporarily relocated to the Drill Hall, where girls also attended gymnastics lessons.

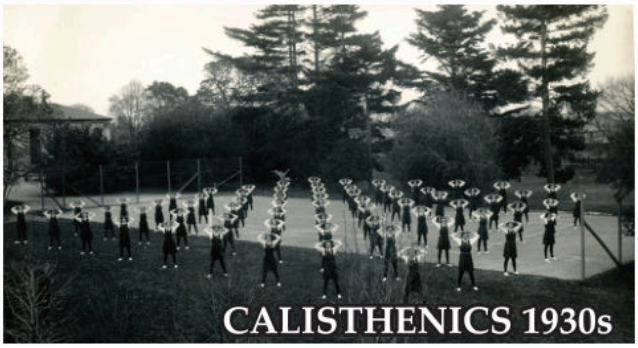
TGHS adopted Swedish drill, an international system of structured exercises intended to improve health, posture, fitness and discipline. From 1912–13, physical training became more organised in New Zealand schools.


2026

Early photographs show large groups of girls performing calisthenics and drill exercises together. Their movements were carefully coordinated, often with entire classes participating at once. These exercises may seem formal compared with today's physical education lessons, but they represented an important change in attitudes towards girls' health and physical activity.

Principal Janet Rhoda Barr wanted girls at TGHS to have broader educational opportunities, including specialist instruction in physical education. She invited Miss Lee to join the staff in 1926.


DRILL 1949


CALISTHENICS 1930s

The woman who got TGHS moving

Appointed by Principal Janet Rhoda Barr in 1926, Eve Hastings Lee was TGHS's first sports mistress. Previously a teacher at Iona College and St Hilda's, she introduced new opportunities for girls through calisthenics, drill, sport and spectacular displays involving hundreds of students. She also coached Old Girls, directed drama and helped shape school traditions. Remembered as one of New Zealand's outstanding calisthenics teachers, she taught for 26 years finishing in 1949.

Miss Lee introduced inter-form competitions, giving girls opportunities to represent their classes and compete together. She also donated her photo album to the school archive and inside is a photo from the 1930s showing herself and Miss Barr with handwritten note *"training the trees as well as the girls!"*

By 1929, school sport had become a more formal occasion. Girls marched behind their form captains carrying their colours, accompanied by the Timaru Boys' High School Band.

Photographs of calisthenics in the 1930s and drill in 1949 show how these organised exercises continued to feature in school life. Over time, physical education moved beyond coordinated exercises to include more organised games and sporting competitions.

Today's TGHS students can participate in a wide range of activities, from athletics and swimming to rowing, rugby, archery and equestrian events. The clothing, equipment and opportunities have changed since 1880, yet the photographs of those early physical education classes remind us that generations of girls have been learning, practising and participating together.



Ai Optimised

Miss Lee in her last year at School.
From the TGHS 1880-1980 Lively Retrospect Book



Ai Optimised

Her contribution lives on through the Miss E. H. Lee Memorial Cup, recognising commitment to physical education.



Miss Barr and Miss Lee trains the trees as well as the girls



Miss Lee at The House' 15th Jubilee



Researched By Roselyn Fauth with the TGHS Archive Club.



Sange Malama
Beyond *the* Gates

Community Advocate | Education and Whānau Support | Pasifika Community Leader

At Timaru Girls' High School, Sange was one of only a handful of Tongan students. She loved singing in the choir, but didn't always see people like herself in positions of influence. Years later, she would help co-found Aoraki Pasifika, champion her community and put her name forward for public office.

Long before Sange found herself speaking up for her community, she was finding her confidence through music at TGHS. She loved being part of the school choir, which brought together girls from different year levels, interests and personalities. One of her favourite memories was learning a South African song Jantjie Kom Huis Toe, with her music teacher, Mrs Strating, and travelling around the country to competitions with the school chorale. Music was also a place where Sange found confidence. During her time at TGHS, she won a singing cup with a Tracy Chapman song accompanied by Roselyn Fauth on the piano.

Sange remembers her teachers as encouraging, especially Mr Gin, Mrs Fleming and Mrs Crawford. She also remembers being one of a small number of Tongan students at TGHS at the time.

Looking back, she says she did not always visualise her own potential, partly because there were not many people like her in the spaces she might have looked to for inspiration.

As the eldest of six siblings, Sange carried responsibility at home as well as at school. She describes herself as feeling like “mum number two”, helping support her family while navigating her own teenage years. Her parents’ values stayed with her: work hard, look after the wellbeing of the family and the collective, and make the most of every opportunity.

After leaving school, Sange worked in factory and processing roles, including at Sanford seafood company, Alliance, Smithfield and Pareora Silver Fern Farms. She also worked on a fishing trawler for 7 years. Those early working years taught her practical skills, confidence and resilience. She says she learnt “to make the most of opportunities that came her way”.

Over time, Sange grew into community advocacy, education support and whānau-centred work. She has worked alongside schools, families and community organisations, helping people feel connected, confident and able to take part.

She is passionate about school spaces because she knows how much it matters for young people to see their culture, families and stories recognised.

Sange helped co-found Aoraki Pasifika and has supported the growth of the Aoraki Moana Festival, a celebration of Pasifika culture, performance, food, family and community in South Canterbury.
For Sange, celebrating culture is not only about performance. It is about belonging.

She hopes young Pasifika girls in Timaru feel proud that their families chose to make Timaru home. When Sange was at school, Pasifika heritage was not often visibly celebrated. The Pasifika population was small, and people could feel shy about standing out. That is one reason she now encourages cultural celebration at home, at school and across the wider community.

Sange has also stepped into civic leadership, putting her hand up to stand for Timaru District Council and later being selected as a parliamentary candidate for Rangitata. For her, standing was about being at the decision-making table as someone who understood what was happening on the ground and could bring a community voice into those spaces.

"If we don't go into the spaces we don't see ourselves in, then when will we?" she says.

When asked what advice she would give her younger self, Sange says she would tell herself to try harder, apply herself and give things a go even when they feel scary. She has also learnt not to be limited by fear of judgement: "Other people's opinions are none of our business."

Sange's story is one of courage, service and belonging. From TGHS choir rooms and non-uniform days to community festivals, school support work and public leadership, she has carried with her a belief that everyone deserves to feel seen, valued and able to contribute.

Alumni Profile by Roselyn Fauth

Full name:	Sange Malama-Tuisaula *(also known as Sange Malama)*
TGHS attendance:	1994–1999
Earlier schools:	Timaru Main and Watlington School
Children:	Mother of two
Parents:	Father of Tongan heritage Mother of Tokelauan heritage
Siblings:	Eldest of six children; her younger sister Elizabeth also attended TGHS





Sange, Ella Star and Annette Moore at the Women in Trades event at Caroline Bay Hall, where Sange was working as Ara's Timaru Business Development Representative.



Sange guest speaking at a womens event about for Multicultural Aoraki.



Sange (second from left) with Mele'ana Peti, Eseta Filipo, former Prime Minister Helen Clark and Olivia Malama at a community event in Timaru, 21 August 2026. Photo: Brad Reeve / Otago Daily Times, 27 August 2026.



Returning to timaru Girls for alumni interview with Roselyn Fauth and attending Alumni after work drinks 2026.



Sarah Davy
Beyond *the* Gates

Curator of the exhibition 'Rita Angus: He Haereka ki Cass | A Trip to Cass' at Te Ara Ātea, Rolleston.

A former student of Timaru Girls' High School (1979–1983) and now Local History Librarian at Selwyn Libraries.

Sarah Davy attended TGHS from 1979 – 1983 where her three favourite things were studying history, hanging out in the 'old gym' (a TGHS historic building) and watching old films of TGHS school life that Mrs Clulee would screen on a 16mm projector for Social Studies.

Sarah completed her BA in History and Film at Victoria University Te Herenga Waka in 1990, going on to the University of East Anglia in 1991 on a scholarship to learn film archiving, resulting in an MA.

She worked at the British Film Institute National Archive for 6 years, and at the audiovisual archive of Aotearoa, Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision for 15. She is now the Local History Librarian at Selwyn Libraries, where she works with communities to preserve and share their stories of life in the Selwyn District, through exhibitions, oral history and online collections. She has made a life in history thanks to inspiration from TGHS.



'Rita Angus: He Haereka ki Cass | A Trip to Cass'
05 March until 27 November 2026
at Te Ara Ātea, 56 Tennyson St, Rolleston.



ABOVE: Exhibition curator Sarah Davy leading a tour of Rita Angus: He Haereka ki Cass | A Trip to Cass. Davy has included Julia Scarvell in her latest exhibition.
LEFT: Julia was a New Zealand artist. She taught at TGHS for 12 years. She also developed and expanded the school's art collection. *Miss L. J. B. Scarvell, DIP. FINE ARTS. Aged 21. c1925 Courtesy of Canterbury Museum. PIC80/38.*



Started at TGHS in 1967?
This reunion is for you...

60th ANNIVERSARY REUNION
OF THE 1967 INTAKE **3 April 2027**

CONTACT: **lyncrossan53@gmail.com**

A–D Affleck, Helen J.; Allison, Yvyette D.; Arnold, Mary F.; Bailey, Rosemary P.; Baker, Cathrine M.; Barrell, Patricia L.; Barwick, Karen L. M.; Bennett, Anne H.; Bennett, Elaine J.; Bentley, Sandra M.; Beynon, Barbara B.; Birch, Sharon A.; Blaikie, Amanda; Blain, Sandra E.; Bourke, Lynette A.; Brady, Daphne H.; Briggs, Lynette Y.; Brookes, Janette G.; Burrows, Joy E. A.; Burt, Lynette J.; Callanan, Patricia M.; Cameron, Penelope J.; Campbell, Alison M.; Castle, Pamela J.; Cawood, Sandra B.; Chant, Elaine F.; Clarkson, Julia A.; Cochrane, Judith M.; Cocks, Delys G.; Collings, Jill F.; Cooper, Rosanne M.; Cormack, Dianne B.; Cowles, Carol J.; Crampton, Lyndall J.; Crawford, Barbara M.; Crombie, Margaret L.; Cronin, Gay F.; Cross, Marilyn J.; Cunningham, Judith A.; Currie, Anne B.; Dallimore, Kathryn A.; Davison, Deirdre B.; Davison, Wendy S.; Dawson, Heather G.; Dennison, Irene S.; Diack, Elizabeth J.; Dixon, Rosemary J.; Doig, Helen E.; Donehue, J. Lesley; Duyster, Hanneke C.

E–L East, Elizabeth A.; Elder, Roberta J.; Elwood, Sandra; Ensor, Judith A.; Esler, Sandra M.; Evans, D. Jan; Feather, Shirley A.; Fitzgerald, Lynda J.; Foote, Lynda C.; French, Pamela; Gallagher, Karen E.; George, Philippa H.; Gibb, Helen J.; Gibson, Shirley D.; Gilbert, Heather A.; Glass, Elizabeth A.; Glass, Lorraine M.; Goodman, Alwynne R.; Gould, Valerie I.; Grant, Rayleen C.; Greenall, Heather J.; Greenwood, Judith M.; Gregory, Janet L.; Grieve, Alix M.; Grieve, Sandra J.; Hamilton, Dianne F.; Hammond, Lorraine; Hawkins, Ruth; Hawkins, Vanessa R.; Haywood, Jill M.; Henderson, Clare P.; Henskes, Suzanne M.; Hermiston, Nyema J.; Hines, Glenys D.; Hirst, Edith C.; Hoff, Jennifer C.; Hogg, Maralyn P.; Hull, Elizabeth; Inkster, Carole M.; Irving, Judith E.; Ivey, Susanne M.; James, A. Donette; Johnson, Deborah; Johnson, Robyn L.; Johnston, Donna L.; Johnston, Elaine R.; Johnston, Helen J.; Jones, Robyn A. S.; Jordon, Sandra G.; Kalma, Yvonne C.; Keast, Sandra J.; Keeley, Elizabeth J.; Keen, Janice M.; Kerr, Jan A.; Key, Dorothy M.; Kidd, Sandra M.; King, Raewyn J.; King, Susan M.; Koudys, Wilhelmina; Lake, Margaret A.; Lawson, Jane F.; Leatham, Carol M.; Lee, Gillian A.; Lester, Jennifer M.; Lillico, Jennifer M.; Locke, Christine A.; Lowe, Belinda S.

M–R Macdonald, Karen L.; Marett, Judith A.; Marshall, Susan R.; Matthews, Sally; Maze, Lorraine H.; McAdam, Jann M.; McAlwee, Raelyn H.; McBride, Julie M.; McDonald, Sheryl M.; McGovern, Joan C.; McIntyre, Suzanne; McKellar, Denise J.; McKeown, Susan M.; McKerchar, Alison M.; Meikle, Lois E.; Meldrum, Sandra J.; Melhopt, Denise K.; Millar, Barbara; Mills, Janice R.; Mitchell, Bridget A.; Moore, Julienne J.; Moore, Pamela E.; Morrison, Rosemary D.; Munro, Fiona J.; Murphy, Pamela J.; Murray, Jennifer M.; Nelmes, Raewyn J.; Newall, Lynette J.; Newman, Elizabeth E.; Newman, Gaynor N.; Norton, Lynette J.; Oddie, Lynne M.; Olorenshaw, Diane P.; Oram, Kay B.; Palmer, Joy E.; Parker, M. Jane; Parker, Vickie G.; Parkin, Anne C.; Peebles, Wendy A.; Pelvin, Noeline E.; Perkins, Judy D.; Perry, Kay I. L.; Petrie, Jennifer A.; Pitt, Christine E.; Pope, Shirley M.; Rasmussen, Beverley E.; Rayner, Pauline C.; Ritchie, C. Jennifer; Roberts, Judith A.; Rodgers, Marion C.; Rolfe, Rosemary A.; Rose, Helen M.; Ross-Smith, Jennifer H.; Rouse, Heather M.; Ruffell, Janice R.

S–Y Sanders, Suzette F.; Sawers, Margaret A.; Scott, Elizabeth I.; Scott, Pamela E.; Shaw, Donna E.; Shuker, Janie M.; Sides, Kaye F.; Sim, Janet M.; Sim, Judith L.; Smith, Christine C.; Smith, H. May; Smith, Sandra M.; Stockwell, Wendy; Syme, Eleanor J.; Taggart, A. Ruth; Taula, Paoga; Thomson, Barbara J.; Tooth, Suzanne M.; Traves, Brenda P.; Trevathan, V. Dawn; Turnbull, Mary J.; Vallance, Rosanne L.; Vincent, Janice C.; Vinnell, Avalene G.; Walker, Katherine L.; Ward, Valerie J.; Warwick, Fiona; Waters, Lorraine C. E.; Watson, Pauline M.; Welch, Janet F.; Whitefield, Yvonne F.; Wilkin, Sheryl M.; Williams, Elizabeth M.; Williams, Helen P.; Williamson, Clare E.; Wooffindin, Ruth E.; Young, Donette M.; Young, Vicki S.

Do you recognise any of these names? Perhaps you've kept in touch with someone from your class, or have old photographs and memories to share. Please let your former classmates know about the reunion to help us reconnect.

Congratulations also to Rātā, winners of the 2026 Inter-House Shield, a school tradition reaching back to 1929!

In 1947, Principal Miss Townsend introduced four Houses so girls from different year levels could compete together. They started out as just colours and later became Rātā, Kōwhai, Ngaio and Kōnini, and the Aitken and Waters competitions became part of House sport. Today, Aitken and Waters Cup Day continues nearly a century of TGHS tradition, bringing together House pride, teamwork, participation and friendly competition.



























TIMARU GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

TIMARU HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS'

CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA

OLD GIRLS, PAST & PRESENT STAFF & FRIENDS

10am Tues 10 Nov 2026
at the TGHS 'The House' Dining Room $15

Please bring a small gift item under $5.00
to go into a Christmas Hamper raffle. $2.00 Ticket

RSVP: Thurs 5 Nov Pam Gibson
ap.gibson@slingshot.co.nz or 0272109736

TIMARU GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

TIMARU HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS'

ALUMNI & FRIENDS AFTER WORK DRINKS

The Oxford Restaurant TIMARU
5:30PM Fri, 20 Nov 2026

PLEASE RSVP: Roselyn Fauth
community@timarugirls.school.nz

TIMARU GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

NELSON & MARLBOROUGH OLD GIRLS COFFEE CATCH-UP

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026
10.30 AM

Honest Lawyer Café & Bar
1 Point Road, Monaco

EX-PUPILS AND FRIENDS WELCOME
For more information: Lorraine Leonard
027 348 3876

TIMARU GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

TIMARU HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS'

MORNING TEA

10 AM
MON
30 NOV

TEA POT INN
TEMUKA

RSVP by 26 November
Rosanne Walls (née Elliott)
roseann.walls@xtra.co.nz

CHRISTCHURCH

TIMARU GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

POP FIZZ CLINK

TGHS OLD GIRLS' & ALUMNI CATCH UP
WITH BUBBLES & LIVE MUSICIANS - DETAILS TO FOLLOW

4pm-6pm Sunday 14th March 2027
Piano House. 283 Riccarton Rd, Christchurch

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST:

Roselyn Fauth
community@timarugirls.school.nz



TIMARU GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

TIMARU HIGH SCHOOL OLD GIRLS'

For nearly 150 years, our school has been part of Aotearoa New Zealand's story of wāhine girls' education, belonging, success, and contribution.

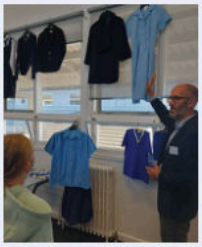
Our archive is where our story lives

It holds the photographs, magazines, uniforms, awards, records and objects that show where we have come from, and how generations of TGHS girls, staff, whānau, and volunteers have shaped each other, our school and wider community.

Knowledge empowers us to understand where we come from, who we are, and where we are going. It reinforces belonging, and inspires and reminds us that our own stories, choices and contributions matter. When we care for our archive and share stories and traditions, we can help shape our future.







DONATE TO THE HERITAGE FUND

While the archive has been very well cared for, there is so much more we can do to:

- **Preserve** fragile photographs, records and objects
- **Digitise material** to improve access
- **Share alumnae stories,** via archive displays, resources, signage, and a new archive website
- **Support reunions** and researchers
- **Help us establish** an archive display
- **Enable us to prepare for TGHS & TBHS 150th jubilee in 2030**

Your donation can help us preserve the knowledge that connects our past, strengthens our present, and empowers our future.

DONATE

You are welcome to donate via Internet Banking

Timaru Girls' High School
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Code: **Archive**
Reference: **Heritage**

Thank you. Please email us with your contact details so we can acknowledge your gift and arrange a receipt.

Roselyn Fauth
Alumni and Community Coordinator
68 Cain Street, Parkside, Timaru 7910
community@timarugirls.school.nz

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