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Westlake Girls
High School
Alumni News
May 2015

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From the Alumni Co-ordinator



Hi everyone!

I hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable extended summer if you are living in New Zealand. A large number of our alumni are based overseas and this year we are hoping to reach some of those living in Brisbane, Sydney and London. Growth in the network is really pleasing and it is particularly good to be receiving surprising emails and interesting news of Westlake's past and activities of our alumni.

For feedback on our network I am increasingly relying on email communication and will be contacting the email focus group more regularly for suggestions. Thanks to those in the committee/focus group network who help out with different aspects and are a key part of our expanding association.

Cathy Roughan, Alumni Co-ordinator

COMING EVENTS

International Alumni Gatherings in 2015

Last year we were pleased to host a group of alumni living in London. We hope to extend that this year to connect with some of our alumni living in Australia as well as London-based alumni. These gatherings will be hosted by the principal, Ms Roz Mexted. We will contact as many alumni as are known to us but hope that any London, Brisbane or Sydney-based alumni will get in touch to keep in the email loop as details for the gatherings firm up. (alumni@westlakegirls.school.nz).

Support your growing international alumni network and come along to the first gathering for former Westlake Girls students based in Australia.

**Westlake Girls Alumni gathering
Brisbane**



Friday 31st July 2015
5-8 pm (tbc), Venue (tba)



**Westlake Girls Alumni gathering
Sydney**
Monday 3rd August 2015
5-8 pm (tbc), Venue (tba)



**Westlake Girls Alumni gathering
London**
Monday 12th October 2015
5.30-8.00pm (tbc)

Venue tba (possibly Chelsea area)

Afternoon tea for former Westlake Girls staff

Thursday 23rd July, 2.45-4.15 pm

WGHS Staffroom

An opportunity for former staff to catch up with each other and some of the current staff. *Further details to come.*

Westlake Art Exhibition

The collaborative Westlake Art Exhibition will be held from Friday 9th October and will again feature artist alumni, educators and current students from both Westlake High Schools. It was a great success last year. *More details later in the year.*

[Email us with your suggestions and requests for future events.](#)

Class of 2004

There is a new [Facebook Group for the WGHS Class of 2004](#). We are surprised and delighted with the uptake in joining this group which went from 0 to 130 members in just 5 days. It would be great to share photos and memories.

Alumni Association Update

As well joining our LinkedIn group [Westlake Girls High School Alumni and Friends](#) and liking our [Alumni Facebook page](#), keep in touch by joining one or more of the other Alumni Facebook groups that are expanding steadily:

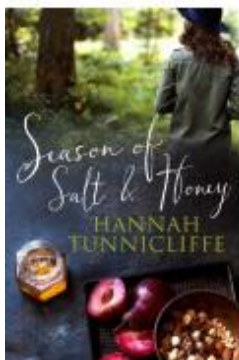
- [Class of 1987](#)
- [Class of 2008](#)
- [Class of 2009](#)
- [Class of 2010](#)
- [Class of 2012](#)

- [Class of 2013](#)
- [Class of 2014](#)
- [Key Cygnetures \(Choir\)](#)
- [Choralation Alumni](#)
- [Westlake Boys Alumni Page \(Westlakers\)](#)
- [Westlake Symphony Orchestra Alumni](#)

Alumna in the News

Recent Book Launch Hannah Tunnicliffe - Author

Hannah Tunnicliffe is the author of two novels - the second, *Season of Salt and Honey*, was released on April 1, 2015, and was published by Pan Macmillan Australia. Her first novel, *The Colour of Tea*, was not only published in English in NZ, Australia, Canada and the U.S. but also translated and published in Spain, Italy, Holland, Poland, Germany and Bulgaria. *The Colour of Tea* was a national bestseller in Canada, where Hannah was living at the time of its publication.



While attending Westlake Girls, Hannah was a prefect, water polo player, debater and winner of the Travis Coates Poetry prize. On leaving Westlake Girls Hannah attended Waikato University where she earned a Bachelor of Social Sciences and went on to work in the field of Human Resources for almost a decade. This work took her to Australia, England, China and Canada. Her last position, prior to becoming a writer, was as Human Resources Director for a 4,000 employee business in Macau, China.

When not writing fiction Hannah co-authors the blog "Fork and Fiction" (www.forkandfiction.com) which explores her twin loves - food and books - and is Mum to two young daughters. After many years travelling she has happily returned to New Zealand to live.

Visitors to Westlake

Kaiying Chin and **Amanda Clinton**, both **Class of 2004** visited Westlake recently.



Amanda Clinton - Women in Engineering Adviser, University of Auckland

Kaiying Chin spoke with a group of Prefects and Young Enterprise students. It was a valuable chance to ask questions and get suggestions from Kaiying, who is an entrepreneur based in Singapore.

An element of surprise for her was discovering that a former classmate, **Deborah Cachopa** (nee Booth) is now teaching at Westlake (see Alumna profile below).

ALUMNA PROFILE, Class of 2004

Deborah Cachopa (nee Booth) Alumna and Current WGHS Teacher

Deborah Cachopa, a Deputy Head Girl in her final year at Westlake, studied at AUT, completing her Bachelor of Health Science with a major in podiatry, in 2007.



Kaiying Chin and Deborah Cachopa

She then lived and worked in Adelaide for around 3 years before returning to New Zealand. At that point she decided to pursue an interest in teaching and enrolled for the Teaching Diploma Course at Waikato University.

She was 'reacquainted' with her old school in 2011 when she did a Teaching Practicum for several weeks. When a maternity leave position became available in 2012, Westlake was delighted to welcome her into the PE Department and from there to a Permanent Position in the Science/ Biology Department in 2013. She is now also a Dean for Akoranga House.

Deborah has a long-standing involvement in netball, and as well as coaching the school A Netball Team, she plays in the Westlake Club Team.

Another ex-student has also joined the staff recently – Kate Chilcott.

ALUMNA PROFILE, Class of 2008

Kate Chilcott

Professional Cyclist and WGHS Cycling Coach 2015

Kate Chilcott has been appointed as the Cycling Coach at Westlake Girls for the 2015 season. She is a former Westlake student who started her cycling career at the school. In her final year she was a joint winner of the Contribution to Cycling Trophy and was a member of the NZ U19 Cycling Team. Since then she has competed as a professional cyclist for the past three years and in road cycling for the past seven.

She raced for Vanderkitten Racing, a professional women's cycling team based in America which has taken her all over the world. Through her career she has been coached by some of New Zealand's most respected cycling coaches. Her own coaching experience includes teams at Westlake Boys High School as well as fellow team mates.

Kate has now retired from professional cycling and is focused on putting her considerable experience into coaching and developing the Westlake Girls' cycling programme. Alongside this part-time role she is studying towards an Engineering Degree at Massey, majoring in Product Design.

Kate has a real passion for Westlake Girls' sport and is looking forward to this new role working with the school's cyclists in the Sports Department.



ALUMNA PROFILE, Class of 1983

Sarah Thornton (nee Walton)

Director at Thornton Communications Ltd

Website: www.prcomms.com

Sarah Thornton loved her Westlake years and was particularly passionate about English, Geography and Art History. She names her favourite teacher as Ms Maryan Street (former MP, New Zealand Labour Party), who was her Fifth Form English teacher

and further kindled her passion for the subject with her creative and engaging teaching style. Sarah remembers with fondness scoring top marks in an English assignment and receiving tickets to see 'Waiting for Godot' and the Mercury Theatre; a treat Ms Street engineered.



Inevitably, Sarah went on to Major in English at the University of Auckland and, if it hadn't been for a move to the UK, would have either gone on to study for a Master's Degree at AU or Journalism at ATI. Her career pathway was propelling her towards publishing and journalism, and it was while living in London that she got a job at Penguin Books. Working in their publicity department as a Press Officer, she ultimately ended up working as a Publicist at Midas Public Relations, before returning to NZ in 2003.

On her return, Sarah worked for Random House NZ and enjoyed eight happy years there, latterly as their Publicity Manager, before leaving to establish Thornton Communications Ltd in 2010. Since then, Sarah has built a flourishing PR and communications business, representing people in NZ and Australia, and promoting books, events, services and awards.

Sarah is passionate about the arts and spends her spare time reading, playing tennis, cycling and doing Pilates. She belongs to two book groups, is a Trustee of the North Shore Libraries Foundation and volunteers at Lifeline Aotearoa.

ALUMNA PROFILE, Class of 2009

Gemma Lee

Pettman / DARE Scholar



Photographer: Grace Park

Gemma Lee was recently awarded the first Pettman/DARE Scholarship for Music Education. This has enabled her to travel to

the UK and work with Opera North and the University of Leeds in 2015.

Gemma moved to NZ from South Korea at the age of eight and attended Westlake Girls 2005-2009. She was fully involved in the musical life of the school from the outset and was a founding member of Westlake Choralation Choir in 2005. She received Music Leadership and Blues Awards during her senior years and after reaching the National Finals of the Secondary School Chamber Music Contest for two consecutive years, Gemma decided to pursue classical music performance at university.

While studying towards her Masters of Music (First Class Honours) she was the recipient of the Anne Bellam Scholarship. In 2012 she had a six-week concert tour around the United Kingdom as a result of winning the Pettman /ROSL Arts Chamber Music Competition. As part of the winning Quartet 'Estrella' with 4 pianists and 2 pianos, she performed at internationally renowned venues including St. Martin-in-the-fields, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

In 2013, she was a semi-finalist in the first Wallace National Piano Competition. In 2014, Gemma collaborated with the Scottish author, Janice Galloway, for the Auckland Writers' Festival in a sold-out show 'Young Clara'.

As a collaborative pianist, Gemma has built a strong connection with musical groups in Auckland and the North Shore, in particular. She accompanied the Auckland Girls' Choir, junior groups from Opera Factory and choral and musical theatre groups from Takapuna Grammar School. Gemma was also the accompanist of Choralation, Westlake's Platinum-award winning choir, and toured Europe with them in 2014.

Gemma will be carrying out her own music education project upon her return to New Zealand in October in association with NZ Opera and the University of Auckland and looks forward to continuing links with Westlake and music on the Shore.

ALUMNA PROFILE, WGHS 1961-1963

Carol Duske (nee Oyler) Double International sportsperson - Cricket and Hockey

Carol Duske (formerly Oyler) had the honour of representing her country in two sports – cricket and hockey. She was Westlake's first national representative in each sport.

She started at Westlake in 1961, its final year as a co-ed school and was in the cricket 1st X1 in her first year. In the same year, her brother Neil was in the Boys' Cricket X1. She excelled in both hockey and cricket through her school years and in 1963 she was in both the top Hockey and Cricket teams.

From school, she continued her cricket with the North Shore and

Takapuna Clubs and was selected for the 1966 NZ Team to tour England. She played in 5 tests 1966-1969, concluding her national career with the 1969 series vs England in NZ.

Her sporting focus switched to hockey at that point and she was selected for the NZ Women's Hockey Team in 1971. Her international hockey career continued until 1975. During that time she played in tournaments in NZ, Scotland, Canada and Germany.

Her interest in sport and the community continued after she concluded her playing career and she coached hockey at local primary and intermediate schools as well as Westlake Girls, alongside raising a family and running her own bridal business. Her daughter, Ayleen also attended Westlake.

Carol now lives in the Bay of Plenty and has an active semi-retirement enjoying her involvement with grandchildren and assisting the elderly with home care.

We are proud to recognise Carol as one of Westlake's outstanding sporting alumni.



GIRLS' CRICKET
Back Row (l. to r.): Carol Oylor, Susan James, Jennifer Milne, Teresa James, Carol Bayle, Valeria Haines, Catherine Thomas.
Front Row (l. to r.): Robyn Armstrong, Pauline Lark, Ashleigh Angus, Joy Parsons (captain), Claudia Hirston, Kathleen Russell, Margaret Weston.

1961 Girls' Cricket



BOYS' CRICKET
Back Row (l. to r.): S. Wall, C. Pakia, M. Crowell, A. Simms, J. Jappan, Mr. A. Black (coach).
Front Row (l. to r.): H. Oylor, W. Spear, E. Blood, M. Bennett (capt.), E. Halloway, A. Glagorak.

1961 Boys' Cricket



A HOCKEY TEAM
 Back Row: Marion Maginness, Nicola Farrell, Jennifer Flgge, Susan James, Prudence Hoggan, Heather Price.
 Front Row: Patricia Park, Susan Mansfield, Gale Hunter (captain), Lorraine Finer, Carol Oylet, Miss B. J. Price (coach).

1962 A Hockey

FORMER STAFF MEMBER

Miss Beverley Price

WGHS 1960 - March 1978

Long-serving staff member - 17 years

Lost in the Mt Erebus Disaster 1979

Beverley Price was a renowned mountaineer and outdoor enthusiast who spent 17 years as a highly respected staff member of Westlake Girls. She started teaching there in 1960 when it was the co-ed Westlake High School. She taught Latin and French, was Head of Languages, a Dean, and Senior Mistress in 1977, her final year at Westlake.



Sadly, she died in the Mt Erebus disaster the year after her retirement from teaching and Westlake. At Westlake she established the first Tramping Club in 1973 with 80 active members in its first year. With other staff in support, the group made 10 tramps in its first year.

Miss Beverley Price (also pictured as the 1962 hockey coach above)

In the community she was an advocate for the environment and helped establish numerous walkways around the city. The [Beverley Price Memorial Track](#) at Puhoehoe near Warkworth was established in her honour and there is a memorial plaque near Oakley Creek in recognition of her work.

In 1977, the Headmistress, Ms Helen Ryburn, wrote of her 'kindly discipline, sense of humour, and tremendous care and concern for the students' and said 'When she leaves, the school will lose an excellent administrator, the staff a friend, the students a great person who cares for them all.'



Beverly Price Memorial Track
(Photo credit: Roxanne Stillito)

Dayeon Lee and Penelope Peng Class of 2014

Two of our new alumnae from the Class of 2014 had an exciting start to the year before beginning their tertiary studies.

Dayeon Lee and Penelope Peng were selected for **The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN)** which is hosted annually in January at The Hague. Around 4,000 students from all over the world took part in the week-long Model UN with each delegation representing the views of another country while developing their debating skills, deepening their knowledge of UN systems and engaging with like-minded students from around the world.

MUNA is a well-established annual activity at Westlake with the first MUNA delegations in Auckland competitions in the early 90s. The Year 13 Teams from Westlake Girls won in 2013 as well as 2014.

Penny is now studying Commerce and Law at Auckland University and Dayeon is studying Biomedical Sciences. They hope to share their experiences with Westlake students preparing for MUNA in 2015.



Penelope Peng and Dayeon Lee

Thanks to everyone for their support of our Westlake alumni community and in particular to Hannah Dymond for her great help in producing this newsletter.

NOTE on PRIVACY and GATHERING of DATA

The information that you have already provided in signing up to the Alumni Association is collected by Westlake Girls High School's Alumni Association for the purpose of keeping in contact with you about the School, its former students and staff, and about the Alumni Association and its activities. Your personal information may be stored by the Alumni Association using a cloud storage facility such as Google. Your personal information will not be used for any other purpose, or shared with any other person or organisation, without your consent. You may, at any time, request access to, and correction of, your personal information by contacting the Alumni Association at alumni@westlakegirls.school.nz.

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The Alumni Association thanks WGHS alumna, Hannah Dymond for her time and expertise in producing this newsletter.

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