

# QUT Alumni Chapter

## Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers College

### Graduates & Friends



2011 marks one hundred years since the Brisbane Kindergarten Training College opened its doors to students. The **BKTC Graduates & Friends** is arranging commemorative events so that our members and others can celebrate the work that graduates of BKTC (have in the past and will continue to) contribute to the care and education of young children in Queensland.

The QUT Alumni is actively supporting these centenary celebrations. BKTC is one of the earliest predecessor institutions of QUT.

Editor Gail Halliwell

Look inside for more information about ..

### 2011 Centenary Celebrations

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June Centenary Dinner p. 2
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September Tenth Memorial Lecture p. 3
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October Celebratory Afternoon Tea p. 3

### From the Committee

p.11

### 2010 Event Reports

- Jean Ferguson OAM Memorial lecture p. 5
- October afternoon tea p.16
- Golden Graduates morning tea p.20

Write to us ,

BKTC G&F Alumni Chapter, C/- Alumni & Development Office, GPO Box 2434 Brisbane 4001

Email .. [Alumni@qut.edu.au](mailto:Alumni@qut.edu.au) (with BKTC in subject line)

Download this Newsletter at from our QUT web pages

<http://www.alumni.qut.edu.au/networking/chapters/bktc.jsp>

Our thanks to QUT Alumni staff who place this Newsletter on the web as well as printing and mailing a copy to you.



# 2011 CENTENARY EVENTS

The Brisbane Kindergarten Training College opened its doors to students in September 1911 with one staff member and five students (Byrne 1986 p.9). When the College closed its doors in December 1981 there were over 400 students and approximately 30 full time staff.

These 2011 events celebrate the graduates of seventy years when BKTC existed as an independent institution for early childhood teacher education.

## CENTENARY DINNER at OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Gardens Point campus QUT

### Welcome to Old Government House

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
2011 - 6.00 (*pre-dinner  
drinks*) for 6.30 pm.

Seating for 160 - *with  
tables for 8 or 10*

Final entertainment  
program to be advised.

Tickets available late  
March or early April.

Flyers and email  
advertising will  
commence in April.



**Members can send expressions of interest now  
and be assured of first preference for tickets and table bookings.**  
*(Some have already sent their expression of interest)*

Email or post to the address shown on page one, or, telephone

Gail Halliwell 07 3369 4834 or Margaret Moss 07 38902123

## **Tenth Annual**

### **Jean Ferguson OAM Memorial Lecture**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
6pm for 6.30 pm lecture

This event honours the work of Jean Ferguson, a 1933 graduate of BKTC who became a much loved, inspirational leader within the Australian field of early education.

Details of topic, venue and costs will be sent in the next of the 2011 NEWS series.

## **High Tea on Kelvin Grove campus**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011  
2-4 pm

This will be the final Centenary function.

We look forward to a fun-filled time together, reminiscing and brain-storming future directions for an Alumni Chapter that keeps the ethos of BKTC alive in the minds of graduates from courses that prepare them to work with young children and their families.

One tradition of these afternoon functions has been to encourage groups of graduates (this year it will be 1941, 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981 to join us for a somewhat irreverent acknowledgement of their lives since graduation.

# From THE COMMITTEE

## **Membership**

Some members have been asking if they are currently financial. If you receive this issue of the Newsletter you are one of the 112 financial members of the BKTC G&F Chapter. You are financial to December 2011. You will receive a notice later this year informing you of the need to renew your membership.

## **Newsletter & NEWS UPDATE**

Note from Editor: Issue 2 of the Newsletter will be posted late in 2011 (Editor: getting that oral history book finished is my primary focus until June). Over the coming months look forward to NEWS UPDATES about the Centenary events.

## **Changes for our post & email contact addresses**

During 2010 our BKTC hotmail account became corrupted. We are unable to access it to read and respond to emails sent since about June 2010 and have attempted to close the account. Unfortunately, we continue to have the problem that emails sent to the address do not bounce back to the sender. **SO DO NOT SEND ANY CORRESPONDENCE TO [bktcassoc@hotmail.com](mailto:bktcassoc@hotmail.com)**. Instead please **email to**

**<[alumni@qut.edu.au](mailto:alumni@qut.edu.au)> with BKTC at the beginning of your subject line.**

We have decided to close our business postbox (mail sent there over the next 12 months will be redirected). The new postal address as shown on page one of this Newsletter is:

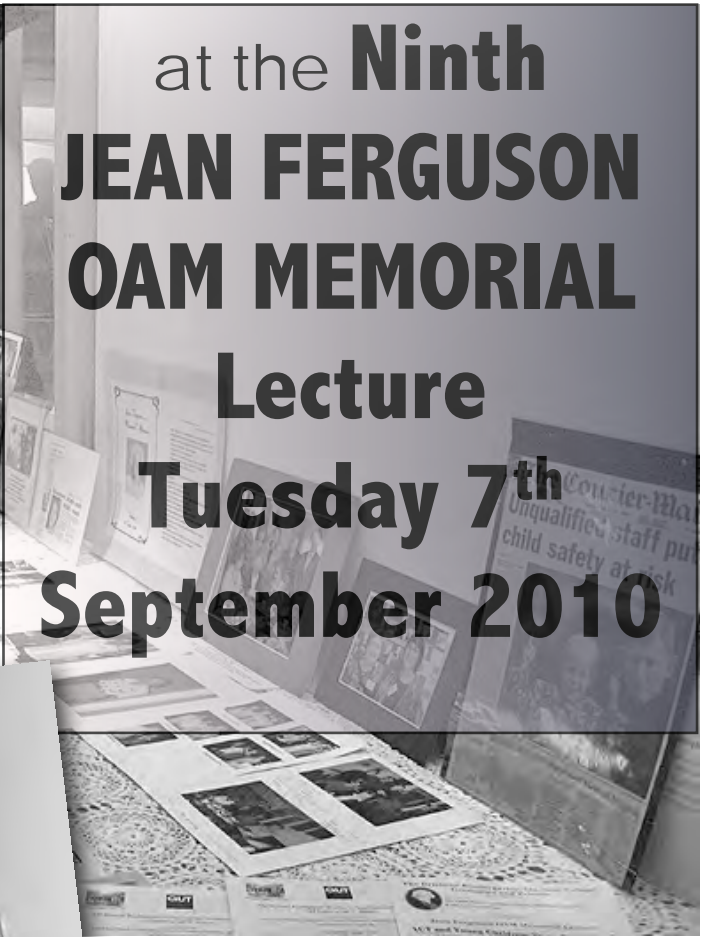
BKTC G&F Alumni Chapter  
C/- Alumni & Development Office  
GPO Box 2434 Brisbane 4001

## **Vale Marjorie Cunningham (Whyte) 1935 graduate**

Our *BKTC G&F Newsletter* September 2005 featured aspects of Marjorie's interesting years as a kindergarten teacher, wife and mother. She was actively involved in our October afternoon teas for a number of years and was a member of this Alumni Chapter and was an active member of earlier BKTC graduate associations. Her daughter recently rang me to say that Marjorie had passed away in January this year. I was sorry to hear this but pleased that we had been able to record something of her contributions to early education over many decades. Her story contributes to our oral history publication 2011.

Gail Halliwell

at the **Ninth**  
**JEAN FERGUSON**  
**OAM MEMORIAL**  
**Lecture**  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**September 2010**



Karen Jeffries & Kernice Osborn Kearney



May Kwan & Joan Macnaught



Ross Gwyther, Heather Stock, Sheryl Gwyther



Bron McGregor

One hundred guests, a capacity audience, mingled over food and drinks at this **ninth** annual function.

This was a time for catching up with colleagues and getting ready to listen and to comment on an issue currently exercising the minds and emotions of so many involved with promoting good practice in early childhood programs.



Jennette Lavis & her son John



Helen McAllister



Margaret Moss & Sue Kneippe

The **tenth** annual function will be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011



Bev Murphy, Kay Throssell, Rosalie Raciti, Jane



Once assembled for the panel discussion, guests were welcomed by Convenor Jennette Lavis. Then Acting Chancellor, Hugh Nalder, provided information about QUT's current priorities.



A tribute to Jean Ferguson OAM was delivered by Judith McDonnell. Professor Ann Farrell updated the audience on the activities of the QUT School of Early Childhood.



Dr Susan Irvine chaired the panel presentations and the lively question time that followed about the topic.-

Panel presenters:

- Fran Hind, Prep teacher at Ashgrove State School. [left of photo below]
- Anna Brazier, Director Teaching & Learning Branch EQ, who graciously accepted a very late invitation to speak when our third speaker was unfortunately unable to attend, [middle of photo] and
- Josephine Bottrell, Principal, Eagle Junction State School [right of photo below]





Pam Downey 1968 , Gail Halliwell 1974, Pam McGahey

## 2010 October AFTERNOON TEA



Bev Murphy 1974, Barb Macdiarmid 1975, Kim Osborne-Kearney, Jenny Glanville, Penny Palmer 1970  
Margaret Moss 1975, Judy McDonell 1965, Rosalie Raciti 1964, Denise Sherwood 1979



















These 1970 graduates travelled great distances to be at the function.  
Anne Wilson, Pam Quinn, Penny Palmer, Annabell Knowles, Rosemary Winterbotham, Anne Whittle.

### FROM THE RECORDING MADE at the October function

- I just remember the calibre of the lecturers we had. I remember Barbara Poulter organising us from the College to go out and help clean up after the '74 flood. Gloria Logan organised anyone who wanted to go to the Australian Education of the Arts Conference at the University of NSW. I went and Gough Whitlam was there as a guest speaker and we got to meet him.
- There were the music teachers like Mrs Lewis who taught Piano here and who got us playing and performing.
- The calibre of our lecturers like Anne Spooner our science teacher and her practical sense of inquiry and the confidence that they all gave us to encourage us to go out and do it.
- I remember doing the Christmas Pageant at the City Hall.
- Yes and I remember being the back of a horse.
- I was a lion one year.
- There was the time when they needed us to model in a fashion parade they had. I had to wear the 'scratchy' crimplene suit.
- I remember going to a building in Northey St and painting a huge backdrop with turrets and things. I think it must have been a city council building and it's still there even though it went under in the '74 floods. We also were in 'boxes' at the very front of the Warana festival. That was part of our community contribution I suppose.
- Does anyone know why BKTC girls were involved in these things?
- I would think it was the 'public face' of the college to promote itself.
- Organisations used to have floats in the Warana Parade and so I think C & K became involved and therefore the college. Like in the early 50's, when the C & K, to get funds, would promote the "Floral Carpet". Various Kindergartens had stalls at it in the City Hall. We students from the college were a captive audience and had to go in there every day for the whole day and help. I remember the coins we had to put around the edge, they were pennies and that helped to raise funds too. As students we had to place the petals onto a design drawn on

hessian and spread across the whole floor of the ballroom at city hall. It was a beautiful design and they had a fence around it. Rotary helped too. That was the 50's for you, the men took the money!

-  When we did things at college you'd think, what am I doing this for, but when you got out teaching you'd find yourself doing all sorts of things you'd never done before, not just teaching in the classroom. You'd just do it.
-  Remember those resources you had to make at college?
-  Oh, everything: Puppets, story books, felt boards, etc. We had to have a huge resource collection. I noticed as the years went by those students who came out for Prac had absolutely nothing. I started saying to them to watch Playschool because you might see something that you could make and use or a song you might learn.
-  Of course we were there from 9-5, five days a week. There was none of this going to college for only 2 days a week.
-  I think that's what contributed to the socialisation, because you were there with that same group all day, every day. I was a 1976 graduate and we were organised alphabetically,
-  Barb: Do you recall the common room? Yes. There were no facilities there, only a tap over a sink and tables and chairs and we'd all go in there 1st, 2nd and 3rd years. Sometimes we'd admire the 3rd years with their shoes and their scarves.
-  I remember coming from the country in our cotton shifts and sandals, walking into the college on the first day and seeing all these Brisbane girls in their linen frocks, made up to glory.
-  I remember my first year out, the Preschool adviser came and was checking everything and as she was about to leave she said, "I've forgotten something. I haven't measured your skirt. Now bend over. It probably was Ok or I would have noticed. Just make sure you are conscious of pulling it down."
-  When 'hot pants' came in we thought they were a really good idea.
-  Did anyone stop you from wearing them?
-  No we were unstoppable.
-  What do people remember of child studies?
-  I remember you had to find someone in your neighbourhood. I was from the country and didn't know anyone and so I knocked on a door and I must say the family were absolutely wonderful. I negotiated the times I would go and spend observing the child and writing it down, because at that time we didn't use recorders or take photos. You relied on your skill at getting it down and then try and tie it in with Prescott. I graduated in '76 and I remember it was a very long assignment. There were pages and pages of it and you looked at the developmental aspects and tried to tie these in with reference to study books.
-  I wish students still did that because most of them come in with very little idea of how to observe children and understanding of their development.
-  What's that about Prescott?
-  Well that was Miss Ferguson who brought that in. You had to rewrite the observation and have a line drawn down the middle of the page and then write which of Prescott's categories it came into. It took forever because every statement you made you had to relate to one of these stages. I was really very frightened of her (Miss Ferguson) actually. She ruled the roost.

- I did a child study of a little 4 year old boy called Craig in 1972 or 3 and when our eldest son was born we named him Craig.
- The problem is when you come to name your own children there are certain names you won't go near!
- You mentioned about how encouraging you were to this young male student and that's something I remember about college, we were encouraged. Judy won't remember that I was one of her students. I remember we had to write our own curriculum and I submitted it very late and I could have very easily been failed, but Judy passed me and I remember her actually sitting with me one-on-one, and thanking me for doing that work on the curriculum and just encouraging me. What a difference that makes to a student. I do believe that what we take out as Early Childhood teachers to the children is that encouragement.
- Well I had Jean Ferguson and we had so many weeks to work out this set of objectives in a varied number of areas, and you can use them today. That's the time I remember, she was my mentor. She had so many good ideas on so many things. I think she was a mentor for so many of the students she worked with. She was passionate.....
- I agree with them. So many of our lecturers were encouraging. Glenda Roache (who was so passionate about history and music, playing of music, and the other areas in music as well), I remember she helped us with a presentation at a girls' schools in front of Parents, students and the C & K Board and anyone else who came.
- I remember Olive McMahon at her kindergarten - going out to observe. This day she had a really bad headache and she had this wonderful rapport with the children, she brought them all together and she said, "I'm really sorry, but today I'm feeling terrible, I've got this bad headache, do you think you could be fairly quiet for me?" And they were! She thanked them.
- I started College in 1971 and left and then went back in 1977 and did the three years then. I really felt that year I did in 1971 was never a waste. I felt it really set me up for motherhood. It was such a rich experience and then to go to motherhood.
- We had a whole term on working with Parents; one whole lecture was on interviewing Parents. One-on-one interviews with Parents are almost done away with now. I found just recently the piece of paper I wrote on how to go about it. The students don't get taught that now.





Five of the nine BKTC students who graduated in 1960

## GOLDEN GRADUATES MORNING TEA 2010

Every year since 2000 QUT invites graduates of predecessor institutions to a morning tea that celebrates fifty and more years since graduation. In 2010 a group of BKTC 'class-of-1960' joined this large gathering. Class of 1960 graduates Dorothy \*\*, Kay Savage, Joan M, May Kwan and Betty became a lively addition to the table where BKTC 'golden graduates' met and reminisced.

The function photographers provided us with these visual memories of conversations around the table.



Joan, Betty & May tell tall tales?



Editor Gail tries to convince Betty to write stories about life at BKTC



Val Gill (Jones) 1950 graduate & Ann Farrell (\*) 1975 graduate share memories



Kay Webb (Savage), Dorothy French (Townsend), Joan Macnaught (Stocks), May Kwan (Ng), Betty Agnew (Shapoueloff)