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Vale Margaret Ellis, 1932-2014



It's AGM time. Your voice counts.

Graduate Women WA is changing its way of operating. The committee is working with Shona Zulsdorf to produce both a strategic plan and a business plan.

AND it is the end of three important years for Felicity Farrelly. 2015 will see us with a new President. Be part of the change. Join us next month at the re-vamped St Cat's.

Save the Date!

Film night

2nd Tuesday every month

Watch e-news for film announcement

AGM

TUE 28TH OCT

Please support Graduate Women

Committee Night

2nd Wednesday every month

Observers welcome

Sundowner Birthday Event....

Not the usual annual dinner



The inscription on the plate reads

SUDASHANA PRE SCHOOL.

'EVERY ACT OF KINDNESS BECOMES A
TREASURED MEMORY'.

OUR GRATITUDE TO THE MEMBERS OF
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF
GRADUATE WOMEN WESTERN
AUSTRALIA FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

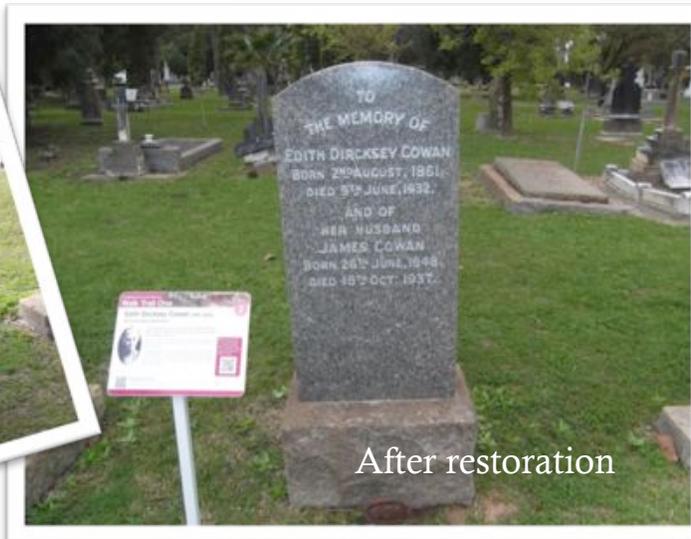
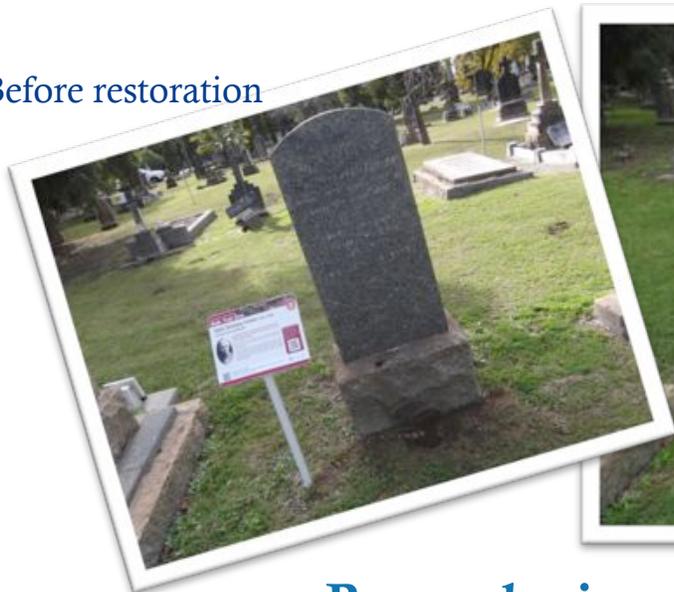
It was wonderful too, to again make use of our pergola area. This area is still under development. Wendy is continuing to explore quotes for paving and then there will be some more garden planning. If you have any ideas or expertise in this area, please contact the office or Wendy.

*And come along to the
next pergola party.*

Instead of an event that lasted well into the evening and which would have required many hours of planning and preparation, Graduate Women WA this year held an informal gathering at Park Rd. Well catered for by Wendy McCallum, with drinks organized by Jenny Jones, the evening was a convivial success. Many members brought additional goodies, not least of all their friendship, happy company, and interesting conversation. It was an excellent opportunity to talk to a broad cross-section of our community of wise women.



Before restoration



Remembering our Heritage

Edith Dircksey Cowan OBE, JP. Honoured in later life by the naming of Edith Cowan University. Brought honour in her own time to herself especially, and to women in general. Our member, and former President, Hilary Silbert, is a great fan of Edith Cowan. (Aren't we all?) Here she gives us the story of the refurbishment (for the second time) of the headstone on Edith's grave at Karrakatta Cemetery.

Edith Dircksey Cowan OBE., JP and Karrakatta Cemetery

Imagine my delight when I was approached by Margaret Giles to obtain quotes for restoring the headstone of Edith Cowan in the Anglican Section of Karrakatta Cemetery! Graduate Women WA and Edith Cowan University were to fund this renovation. I asked for photos to be taken before and after the work and even that it last longer than when I did this same exercise in the 1990s whilst Corporate Events Manager at ECU. Back then I even visited Edith's grandson Peter to get his approval. This time I asked if the number marking the grave could be uncovered from being buried in sand.

If you would like to see the result, why not visit the Karrakatta Cemetery and even get a copy of the heritage trail booklet that highlights prominent West Australians such as Edith. You can then visit the graves of these individuals and maybe learn more of their stories.

You can find the restored headstone at the Anglican Section, not far in from the Karrakatta Train Station, at BA0458.

A Tour of Sri Lanka

Wendy McCallum
September 2014

I was very fortunate to visit Sri Lanka in July on a trip organised by Lalani Weddickara and her husband Ranjith. The whole trip was magnificent. There were 17 passengers and we all marvelled at the superb accommodation that was provided in every city as well as the great choice of delicious food for every meal. The scenery is at times breathtaking and the history, architecture and monuments very fascinating. I learnt such a lot.

The Sri Lankans themselves were so welcoming and friendly and we were spoilt with entertainment from both Lalani and Ranjith's family and also from our guide who took us to his home and provided a great afternoon tea.



The highlight of the trip was a visit to Sudharshana Pre School. This is where we have been doing some fund raising for the past 10 years since the catastrophic tsunami caused such damage and heartache. The Head teacher Asanka met us. Some of the members may recall Asanka's visit to Perth which we sponsored and where she attended a course on pre-school teaching. Young students greeted us with leaves and were very proud to show us the classrooms and all the work that was displayed.

On display and prominently acknowledged were all the books that had been bought by the money raised during our 90th celebrations. Hilary Silbert had promoted this venture at every meeting and we were able to donate well over \$1000 for books. There were certainly a lot of books and a wide variety.



The consecration of the school then took place with a Sri Lankan minister and the minister from St Michael's. After the formalities the guests were treated to a heart-warming concert where each class put on an item. The colourful costumes, the beautiful children with their wide brown eyes and happy smiling faces kept us all enthralled. We enjoyed wonderful dancing and the tale of Little Red Riding Hood performed in English. It was amazing that 4 year olds were able to learn and deliver in a foreign language when that language is not spoken at home.



At the conclusion I was presented with the platter which I in turn presented to Felicity at the recent Sundowner.

Vale Margaret Barclay Ellis 1932 - 2014



Margaret Ellis is remembered by her children as a mother with a light hearted approach to life who manage to effortlessly combine family, work and study (despite discovering even in the 1950's that married women were still expected to resign for home duties). Her love of literature and literacy found expression as the first school community librarian appointed in WA and in her volunteering as a school and adult mentor in retirement.



She also played a leadership role in a number of organizations, including President of both Business and Professional Women (WA) and University Women (WA as well as Vice-President of the Karrakatta Club and a Board Member of Volunteering WA.

Her love of her three children and six grandchildren found expression in many ways, but she particularly enjoyed travel to see them in various places over the years.



Her daughter Kate spoke of her mother as a great role model.

“Mum always lived her life to the full and she was such a happy soul.

I know she has given me a great love of learning, books, travel and current affairs. She was a role model to me in successfully combining work, family and giving back to the community.

And she was always so proud of all of us and her grandchildren. She was confident that we could achieve whatever we wanted. There's not much more a child can ask for than to be believed in.”

Graduate Women WA fondly remembers Margaret, who was a one-time President and a stalwart member, as an inspiring woman who truly embodied the vision of the association. In later years Margaret could not always manage to get to every event, but she loved being a member of the bookclub and meeting the young graduates during gown hire sessions. Her cheerfulness and optimism are missed by all who knew her.

Graduate Women (WA) Inc Committee

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| President | Felicity Farrelly |
| Vice-President | Wendy McCallum |
| International Relations | |
| Honorary Treasurer | Alison Hayden |
| Honorary Secretary | Jenny Jones |
| Other Committee Members | Lalani Weddikkara, Rhoda Chance, Hope Alexander |
| (Acting) Newsletter Editor | Jenny Jones |

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Conveners | |
| Education (Advocacy) | Felicity Farrelly |
| Education (Bursary Coordinator) | Kerry Evans |
| Peace and Human Security | Lalani Weddikkara |
| Status of Women | <i>Position Vacant</i> |
| Membership | Felicity Bradshaw |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Representatives, Coordinators & Other Roles | |
| Education Trust Chair | Lyn Abbot |
| St Catherine's College Council Graduate Women Representative | Ruth Taylor |

Get Involved!

Check out the website and download your registration form.

Website: <http://graduatewomenwa.org.au>

Facebook: *is coming*

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