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APRIL 2019



ALUMNI COMMUNITY EVENTS ALUMNI UPDATES LOOKING BACK WESTLAKE NEWS

Hi everyone

Welcome to the first alumni newsletter of 2019. We hope things are going well for you all.

The Westlake landscape is changing with the demolition of the hall finally underway. Assemblies have been taking place in the gym since the hall ended its active use almost a year ago.



The swan logo that once adorned the outside of the hall has long gone, but we were made aware of an interesting piece of 'swan history' recently, with the visit from a founding Westlake teacher (featured in the newsletter).

We are also pleased to let you know about some reunions coming up in 2019 including decade reunions and a reunion celebration for the award-winning Westlake Girls Choir 1992-2008. We also share news of former students with professional and personal achievements and milestones.

Alumni Community

What's new?

We have recently set up a **Westlake Girls High School LinkedIn page**. We'd love you to *follow* this so we have another layer to our alumni connections. If you have a profile on LinkedIn, check you have included *Westlake Girls High School* in your Education details to make the best use of the alumni network.

<https://www.linkedin.com/school/westlake-girls-high-school/>

Facebook groups

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years. So if you started in Form 3/Year 9 in 1989, your alumni year would be 1993 (Form 7/Year 13), even if you left in Form 5/Year 11 in 1991.

A recent alumni get-together

A group of alumni rowers, coaches and managers from the winning Maadi Cup squads of 1989 met for lunch at the Podium cafe at Lake Karapiro at Maadi weekend, March 30th. They were able to catch up on 30 years since crews won the Levin Jubilee and Dawn Cups at the Maadi national championships in 1989 as well as support Westlake's rowers in their events this year.

Thanks to former students **Maria Anstis** and **Karen Lynch** for their work in the Westlake rowing alumni community.

From the '89 squad:L-R **Malcolm McIntyre** (coach), **Lynley Allison**, **Karen Lynch**, **Elena Fowler**, **Geraldine Bayly**, and **Chris Goodwin** (manager).



Geoff Bonham

Westlake High School Alumni Committee member



Geoff Bonham, a member of Westlake High School Reunion committees for several decades, passed away recently.

Geoff attended the co-ed school 1958-61. He contributed actively to successful Westlake reunions over many years and encouraged collegiality and connections among former school mates.

He was well known as a local businessman and was active in the community through many years in Rotary clubs, some time on the Takapuna Local Board, and personal campaigns on local issues. His contribution to the Westlake High School alumni group will be missed.

Geoff kept his original school cap from 1958, and is pictured here at the 60th Reunion in 2017.

Recent Westlake graduates - the Class of 2018

Thanks to three former students – **Kjirsti Pedersen**, **Maitreyi Jain** and **Elizabeth Vaughn** for attending Westlake's first Scholarship Breakfast for 2019 and sharing their scholarship experience and tips, following their own successes in NCEA Scholarship 2018. Two other successful scholarship students from 2018, **Janice Lim** and **Beverley Sun**, sent through helpful notes on their experiences, to be shared with the group.



From left: Kjirsti, Maitreyi, and Elizabeth with principal Jane Stanley.

Events

Coming Alumni Events 2019

Class of 1999, 20 Year Reunion 2019



When: Saturday 1 June 2019, 7pm
Where: Takapuna Boating Club, Takapuna

Keep in touch through the event FB group
<https://www.facebook.com/WGHS99/>

Thanks to Anna Ashton, Katrina Hosken and Kate Grigg.

Email: westlakegirlsclassof99@gmail.com

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Class of 1989 30 Year Reunion 2019**

When: Saturday 21 September 2019, 3 - 6pm

Where: Westlake Girls Staffroom

Further details coming soon through the Facebook group.

[Westlake Girls Class of '89](#)

Any queries - alumni@westlakegirls.school.nz

Thanks to Sarah Beaman, Geraldine Bayly, Rachel Haydon, Paula Satterthwaite, Tracey Hansen, Rachel Klaver and Jeanette Rendle.

Key Cygnetures Choir Reunion

A chance to sing and catch up with each other and with Elise Bradley and other Key Cygs music staff.

The reunion has 2 aspects and we hope many of you will be able to be part of both - singing and socialising.

Choir details

Singing with Elise's Toronto Children's Chorus and Westlake's Cantare Choir:

Rehearsals: Sunday 30 June, 2-5pm, WGHS (Room M9) AND Tues 2 July 6-8pm (Room M9)

Combined Concert: Wed 3 July, St Matthew in the City, Auckland, 7.30pm

Reunion Social Function

When: Tuesday 2 July 8-10.30pm, (after the choir rehearsal)

Where: Westlake Girls Staffroom

Details and Registration form on the Facebook group

[Westlake Girls Key Cygnetures Choir](#)

Thanks to Moira Clarke, WGHS Music Department

Any queries alumni@westlakegirls.school.nz

Alumni Updates

Alumni Updates

Chanel Brodeur-Muir, Class of 2017

Our congratulations to Chanel Brodeur-Muir on being awarded a basketball scholarship for St Thomas Aquinas College in New York.

Chanel came to Westlake for Year 12, playing basketball in our premier team and completing NCEA Level 2 in preparation for scholarship applications to the USA.

One of her fellow Westlake basketball team players, Zara Jillings, is also on a basketball scholarship in New York.



Somi Kim, Class of 2007

Congratulations to alumna **Somi Kim**, Class of 2007, who is the new pianist in the NZ Trio. Somi has built a reputation as one of New Zealand's finest collaborative pianists, having studied and worked overseas for several years. While she was at Westlake, Somi was fully involved in musical activities, including singing in choirs and playing in the orchestra and chamber music groups.



(L-R) NZ Trio Founder and cellist Ashley Brown, Somi Kim, pianist, Amalia Hall (ex-Rangitoto), violinist

Kimberley Franklin, Class of 2014

Fashion Design graduate

Congratulations to Kimberley Franklin who has graduated with BDes (Hons) Fashion Design, from Massey University, Wellington. Her collection, 'I am Human' won the Kate Sylvester Award for Design Excellence, 2018. Renowned designer Kate Sylvester is also a former student of Westlake Girls.

Kim has recently completed a 3-month internship at Kate Sylvester Designs in Auckland.

'Being able to work along side Kate and her team was a fantastic eye-opening experience into the real world of fashion in New Zealand. My time at Westlake helped me to gain a forward thinking, opportunistic attitude that helps bring my design work to life.'

Kim was recently recognised as one of 27 international emerging designers of 2019 at the iD Dunedin Fashion Week. She has now resumed her studies in Wellington towards a Masters Degree.



Kim's Designs from iD Dunedin Fashion Week 2019

Eden Wairua-Orme, Class of 2015

Congratulations to AUT graduate, Eden Wairua-Orme who has been awarded a 3-month internship at Paramount Recording Studios in Los Angeles.

She has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Communications Degree (Creative Industries) and is delighted to have had Janet Tupou, a fellow Westlaker, as one of her course lecturers. Eden's intern scholarship from AUT comes with a USA work visa, a generous stipend, flights and travel insurance and is a wonderful acknowledgement of her skills.

While studying for her degree, she worked as a sales assistant, brand ambassador for NZME Media Company, and most recently, as crew for Umusic NZ, reviewing new music and using social media in promotions.

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than just my high school education. I always took part in non-curricular activities such as sport and Kapa Haka, particularly in Years 12 and 13. I joined the Philosophy club, Amnesty International and was asked to be part of the Māori committee.

Similarly, my teachers specifically in the Social Sciences, English and Māori departments, shaped many of my interests – through social studies and classical history I developed an awareness for issues happening around the world, and a desire to help people. Through English, I fell in love with writing and reading.

But beyond that, I built a lot of important friendships with my peers and teachers that have led me to where I am today. I often look back on my time at Westlake and appreciate the positive impact it had on my interests and career aspirations.

With her year-long visa, Eden hopes to stay and work in the United States for the remainder of the year.



Two Westlake graduates at AUT - Janet Tupou, AUT lecturer, and Eden, one of her students

Janet Tupou, Class of 2005

Masters in Communications Studies, PhD AUT
Lecturer AUT

Janet Tupou graduated from AUT at the end of 2018, the first Tongan to have completed and graduated with a PhD in Communication Studies at AUT.



Her doctoral thesis was 'Whose voice speaks? Tongan Creativity in Aotearoa,' which investigated creativity among Tongan people in New Zealand and the mixed views of Tongan and New Zealand-born people. Janet says she wants her research to benefit more than just herself. "I am completing this research for my people, for my family and for the future of New Zealand-born Tongans."

Janet has been teaching in the School of Communication Studies since 2014 after completing her Bachelor, Honours and Masters degrees in Communication there. She has also completed a Graduate Diploma of Tertiary Teaching.

She was a Deputy Head Girl at Westlake in 2005. She says, *"My years at Westlake played a huge impact in shaping the person I am today. There weren't many Pasifika students in my time, and that motivated me to make the most of the opportunities that the school offered. The pearls of wisdom passed down from teachers will never be forgotten."*

As well as lecturing at AUT, Janet has recently become a part-time real estate agent in her local community – Beach Haven/Birkenhead. In this role, she has teamed up with her sister Gina Tupou, who is also an ex Westlake student.

In the future Janet plans to start her own life coaching business where she hopes to inspire other young women to live their best life possible. She is currently doing further research and attending international conferences.

Erin Forsyth, Class of 1998

Artist/illustrator

Erin is a visual artist based in Auckland. She is perhaps best known for her most recent work - a continuing series of contemporary natural history illustrations of native flora and fauna of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

She was recently commissioned by Predator Free NZ to design and illustrate a poster celebrating

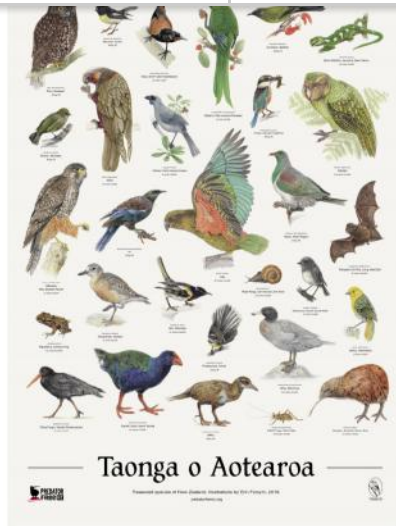


In her time at Westlake Girls, Erin was a keen student of art and art history subjects. This led to a brief tertiary education in freehand animation and later, the opening of her aerosol art supplies store. These early experiences provided the foundation and connections necessary for Erin to develop her practice as a freelance illustrator and artist.

Erin has actively contributed to the arts since the late '90s, as an artist, shop owner, studio director, arts editor, curator, and exhibition and event coordinator, including for The Depot Artspace in Devonport, and Auckland Artweek.

Her work includes large-scale murals, one of which is in Wynyard Quarter, wrapping around a container-sized battery storing solar energy which is needed to power Vector Lights on Auckland Harbour Bridge. It was unveiled in 2018 by Energy and Resources Minister Megan Woods. The project aligns with Erin's keen interest in the environment and sustainability.

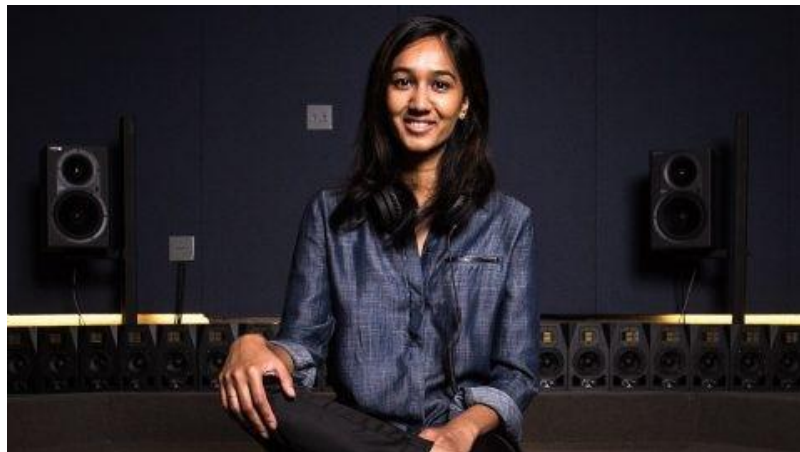
Last year she did a sculpture commissioned by Auckland Council to commemorate 125 years of women's suffrage. It's called '[Kid Justice](#)' and is installed in Crawford Park in Howick.

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Priyanka Shekar BE (First Class Hons.) UoA, MA (Stanford)

Music Technologist

Westlake Girls Class of 2003



Priyanka Shekar is a music technologist who was recognised as one of the University of Auckland's influential young alumni in its 2018 '40 under 40' list.

She is currently the Programme Director for Real Industry, a non-profit start-up which provides industry education and leads partnerships between music, digital media companies and top-tier universities. She is based at the Stanford University Ignite Innovation Hub.

At Westlake, Priyanka excelled in sciences, being awarded the Annette Sharp prize for Physical Sciences and the Massey University Top Student in Physics and Calculus in Year 13 in 2003.

She considered Pharmacy, Pre-Med and Engineering options before deciding on Engineering at the University of Auckland. She graduated with a BE in Electrical & Electronics Engineering with First Class Honours in 2007, then undertook an MA in Music, Science & Technology at Stanford University with the help of a Stanford Fellowship and a Fulbright Award to cover her tuition costs.

“Earlier I had never been sure how to integrate music with engineering but my time researching at Stanford’s Center for Computer Research in Music & Acoustics really helped me explore all

Priyanka is also involved in promoting Engineering options for women, with mentoring roles and participating in seminars and conferences.

Congratulations to Priyanka on this recognition from the University of Auckland. We hope to welcome her back to Westlake to share some of her journey with other students at some stage in the future.

Kate Massey, Class of 2001

Chief Marketing Officer, JCurve Solutions, Sydney

Young Executive of the Year & Top CMO50 2018, Australia



Congratulations to Kate Massey on being named the CEO Magazine Young Executive of the Year, Australia 2018. This award was made at the end of 2018 and is very prestigious.

She has worked for JCurve Solutions (ASX: JCS), a publicly listed Cloud Solutions Company, in various roles for nearly a decade, helping businesses through the adoption of cloud business management software.

This rounded out an impressive year of career highs for Kate who was announced in CMO Magazine's Top CMO50 list for 2018 as well.

Kate has also been recognised as a Champion Fundraiser and advocate for Cure Cancer Australia, having personally

raised over \$67,000, and been involved in collectively raising over \$600,000 towards curing cancer through research.

She has completed a number of endurance challenges to raise money for this cause, including the gruelling Kokoda Trail, the Salcantay Trail to Machu Picchu, summiting the highest free-standing mountain in the world Mt Kilimanjaro, completing the New York Marathon, the Larapinta Trail in Outback Australia, and most recently leading the 'Kosi for a Cure Challenge' which involved summiting Mt Kosciuszko, Australia's highest peak, four times in three days – the equivalent height of Mount Everest. In this, her team hit unexpected blizzard conditions which closed the road to the mountain, and changed the course of the adventure, but Kate and a couple of friends managed to summit 2 and 2/3rd times in 3 days.

"The last 8 years have certainly been an absolute rollercoaster, after being faced with the

my life in the direction I wanted to take it. Once on the road to recovery I set out to build a life by design (not default) which included carving out a career I am hugely passionate about, making a difference in the fight against cancer, getting out of my comfort zone and taking on memorable adventures, and surrounding myself with the people that matter.

So whilst the journey has been far from easy, I can wholeheartedly say I am proud of what I have achieved through having a clear understanding of what I am passionate about. Cancer unlocked a relentless drive within me and unstoppable resilience, and this shines through with what I have been achieving in and out of the board room”.

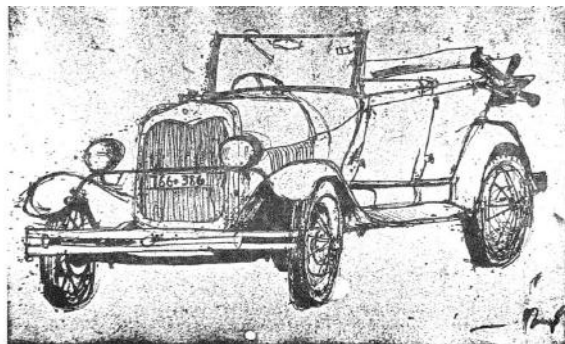
Kate finished Westlake Girls in Year 13, 2001 after relocating in Form 3, from Manchester, England. *“I have very fond memories of my time at Westlake and made lifelong friends that are a part of my life today. There was always plenty of laughter both in and out of the classroom.”*

She completed a BBus Degree in Marketing and Management at AUT, 2002 - 2005. Shortly after graduating, Kate headed to Sydney where she has been based since 2006.

Kate continues to be a driving force behind the continued growth of JCurve Solutions including its expansion into Asia, and also plans to personally raise over \$100,000 for Cure Cancer, taking on new adventures that keep her inspired.

Looking Back

Phil Slight, Westlake High School foundation teacher
First Art Teacher and 'swan logo' designer



DRAWING by P. G. Davies SA.

Westlake High School Foundation Art Teacher, Phil Slight, and his 'famous' classic car, sketched by a student, Perry Davies, in 1961.

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Phil Slight, Westlake's first art teacher, visited NZ recently on a rare return home. He taught at Westlake High School 1957 – 1961. He then headed to Spain where he lived and worked for a few years before settling in England.

He forged a successful career in the UK, where he was involved in postgraduate art education for over 30 years. He is now retired and back living in Spain.

He was surprised to see that the swan logo, relatively unchanged, is still displayed at our Westlake High Schools.

In 1956, shortly after his appointment to the incoming foundation staff of 1957, the first headmaster, Mr Harvey Thomson, asked him to design a logo for the new school. With a small team gathered around him, the swan logo emerged, and it is still a strong identifier for Westlakers past and present.

Phil was delighted to be contacted by several of his former students who learnt of his return trip here.

Former student Anne White says, *"I have very good memories of Phil Slight as I was in the first 6th form UE (University Entrance) art class. I think there were only 5 or 6 of us in it and it was a wonderful last year at school. We had lots of time off school site on 'field trips' in Mr Slight's vintage convertible. I can recall one day we squeezed the whole class in the car and took off to Devonport to do some sketching, and that was a common theme for our classes. Would never be allowed these days as not a seat belt in sight.*

He was a great teacher who managed to get us all through the examination that year."

Looking back to the '90s

The opening of the new H Block was in February 1999, by Governor General Sir Michael Hardie Boys. Key Cygnetures Choir sang at the opening. H Block has subsequently had a major renovation after watertight issues were found.



Former principal Mrs Alison Gernhoefer greets the Governor General, Sir Michael Hardie Boys

Westlake News



As part of Westlake's response to the tragic events in Christchurch, Westlake prefects, led by Head Prefect Hala Barakat and Board of Trustees Student Representative, Sania Mohammadi Jafarian, arranged writing workshops where students could write letters and messages offering sympathy and compassion to affected families.



This was extended to the wider Pupuke Kahui Ako Community of Learning (COL) which incorporates nine schools in the area and hundreds of handwritten letters were delivered to the mosques in Christchurch.

More than \$4,000 was also raised for grieving families in the *Colour My Day* mufti day project

Organisers Sania and Hala on Mufti Day

Westlake success in summer sports - tennis and volleyball

Westlake Girls has reaffirmed its position as the top NZ school in tennis, after the premier tennis team won the national title in March 2019, for an impressive 5th successive year!



Westlake also won the national volleyball title - March 2019



Alumni Association Update

Westlake Girls Alumni

Westlake Girls Class of 1966

Class of 1967 Westlake Girls

Westlake Girls Class of 1968

Class of 1969 Westlake Girls

Class of 1970 Westlake Girls

Class of 1971 Westlake Girls

Class of 1972 Westlake Girls

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