

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)[Forward to a Friend](#) [Alumni](#) [International](#)

July 2020

[ALUMNI COMMUNITY](#)[EVENTS](#)[ALUMNI UPDATES](#)[LOOKING BACK](#)[WESTLAKE NEWS](#)

Hi everyone

We hope you have stayed safe and well in the challenging few months we have all experienced, whether you have been in New Zealand or are now based overseas. Some of the networks, particularly that of the founding co-ed students, expanded considerably over the Lockdown period. We hope you will continue to find ways the alumni networks can be of benefit.

It is great to have students back at schools again in NZ, with many sports and activities resuming and activity again on the corner site where our new Event Centre is taking shape.



In this issue, we note alumni visits to Westlake and feature profiles of a new judge, Judge Hana Ellis, an alumna with her first book publication, Jessica Satherley, Football Fern Erin Nayler, professional musician Tracey Collins, and award-winning kitchen architect Toni Roberts.

Alumni Community

For many alumni, experiences over the past few months will necessitate changes in jobs and lifestyle. Our LinkedIn group has over 300 Westlake alumni, so do join the group in case there are ways connections here can be of help.

[Westlake Girls LinkedIn Group](#)

Founders Group

The FB Group for our co-ed founders expanded greatly over the Lockdown period in NZ, and now has over 90 members. Thanks to Robin Reid, in particular, for researching names and sharing photos among the group. Robin is now one of the Admins for the Facebook Group.

[Westlake High School Founders \(WBHS and WGHS\)](#)



Facebook groups

All the Facebook group links are at the end of the newsletter. The alumni year is your Year 13 / Form 7 year of high school, regardless of whether or not you attended for those 5 years. For example, if you started in Form 3/Year 9 in 1983, your

Events

Alumni Events - 2020

There's just one reunion on the horizon so far this year, but please get in touch if you are interested in working together for a decade reunion for the alumni classes of 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 or 2010, or if there's just a small group of you who are catching up and would like to pop into your old school to have a look around. We can generally arrange for these informal visits. Contact the Alumni Co-ordinator - alumni@westlakegirls.school.nz

Class Reunion



Class of '95 – 25 year catch-up.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 16 October, 6pm

(For all those who started at Westlake Girls in 1991 - the Alumni Class of '95)

WGHS staff room – welcome drink and a look around the old school.

Then Smales farm, Fantail and Turtle, for a chat and catch up.

Very informal. Come for a short time or linger though the evening.

Numbers will be confirmed closer to the time so a space can be booked at Smales Farm across the road.

Thanks to Carrie George (Lister) for organising this.

Further information will be through the Facebook Group and you can message Carrie.

[Westlake Girls Class of 1995](#)

Alumni Updates

Alumni Updates

Thanks to alumni who have visited Westlake in the past two months and given careers presentations in the Engineering and IT fields.

Clare Wood (Quartermaine) (2005) a Quantity Surveyor, Emily Melhuish (2012) a Data Engineer, Courtney McCormick (2015) Chemical Engineering student at The University of Auckland, Julia Niall (2006) and Tanya Gray (2006) software developers.

Thanks also to Gyneser Gomez (2018) who linked up with senior students for a zoom conference during Lockdown to share her experience of studying Music at The University of Auckland.



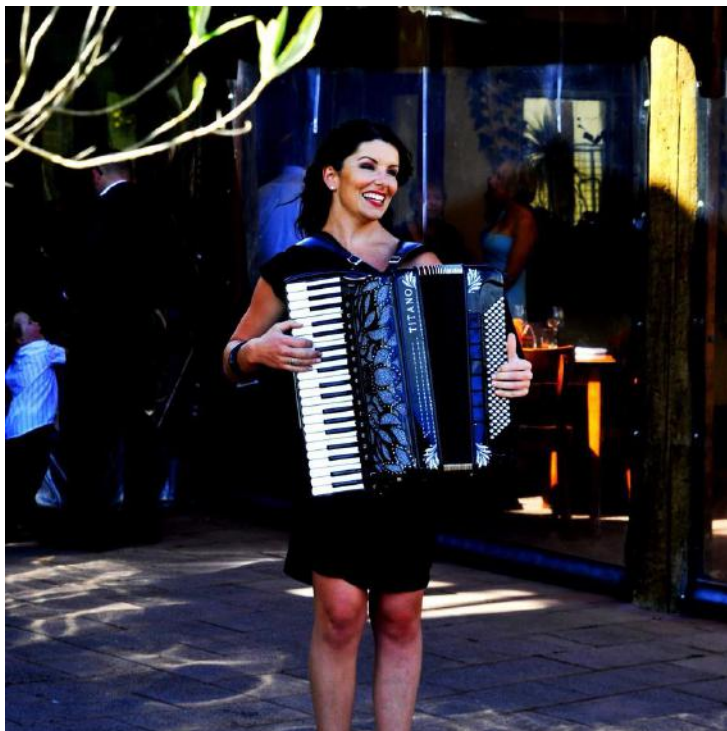
Three former Westlake Head Prefects attended a 2020 Prefect assembly in June 2020, to share what they have been up to since they left school, and pass on tips to our 2020 prefects. The three were all Head Prefect during the previous five years, while the current cohort of prefects have been at Westlake.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Sharing their stories were Nadia Pavlovich (2016), Hala Barakat (2019), and Sydney Clough (2017), pictured here with 2020 Head Prefect Kaia Tupu-South. The 2018 Head Prefect, Izzy Sheild, was unable to attend. Nadia is currently establishing a new business venture 'Nadia's Kitchen Garden', in Northland, Hala is studying a conjoint Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Commerce at The University of Auckland, and Sydney is studying towards a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, also at The University of Auckland.

Tracey Collins, Class of '99

Professional Accordionist



Earlier this year, just before the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, Tracey Collins performed in the Vive La France festival in Milford, entertaining around the market place and on the entertainment stage, The same day, she travelled to Hamilton to play in an Irish band on the Waikato Explorer river boat as part of the Hamilton Gardens Festival.

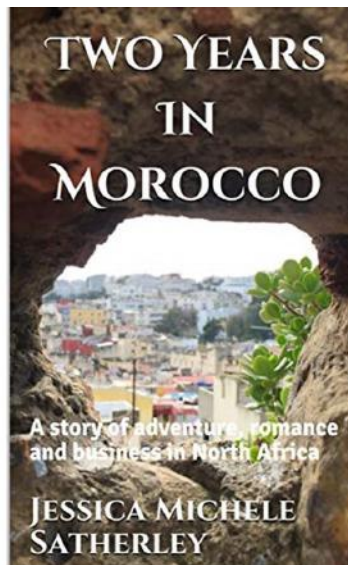
Tracey Collins is thought to be New Zealand's only female professional Accordion Entertainer. She has been playing for 30 years, the past 16 years professionally, with a versatile repertoire including Mediterranean, Celtic, and Latin in a range of styles - classical, lounge or contemporary.

She left Westlake at the end of Form 6 in 1998. Her musical involvement was principally outside of school, apart from assembly performances. In her Form 4 year, 1996, she was part of the Air NZ Accordion Orchestra which toured Europe.

She has won considerable praise for her talent throughout New Zealand, Australia and Asia, and has played at events such as The America's Cup, NZ Fashion Week, Volvo Ocean Race, Food & Wine Festivals, Remuera French Festival, and the Tauranga Jazz Festival.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

radio commercials.

Jessica Satherley, Class of '01**Author, digital media specialist, yoga teacher**

Congratulations to Jessica Satherley on the recent publication of her book 'Two Years in Morocco', a novella based on the time she spent living and running a business in North Africa. Jessica returned to New Zealand early in 2019 after more than a decade working in international media in London and New York, as an editor and journalist.

During her years at Westlake she was drawn to the arts and languages, having studied English, German, Spanish, Geography and Art History. She was always inspired to travel and had taken part in the German exchange programme Westlake offered, which led her to attend high school in a small town near Heidelberg for a semester.

After leaving Westlake, Jessica completed a Bachelor of Communication Studies at AUT, majoring in Journalism, before heading overseas. She worked in British newspapers while in London from 2006 – 2011 and then moved to New York for work, where she lived until 2016.

While based in New York, she continued to study part time and completed a Certificate course at New York University, 'Good Nutrition for a Healthy Lifestyle' and studied yoga, becoming a registered teacher of yoga with the American Yoga Alliance. She was also a volunteer with New York Cares, specialising in encouraging children in homeless shelters to eat healthy meals and to exercise.

After almost five years in New York, she moved to Marrakech, Morocco, where she taught yoga and created a luxury loungewear clothing brand, which was featured in The Four Seasons Hotel Boutiques in Marrakech and Hong Kong.

Jessica moved back to Auckland in 2019 and is currently a Digital Content Specialist for Westpac Bank, specialising in writing for REDnews business website, corporate photography and creating social media content. She also runs yoga classes in English and French at Alliance Francaise.

Two Years In Morocco is available on Amazon and Kindle.

https://www.amazon.com/Two-Years-Morocco-adventure-business-ebook/dp/B086HCRP4X/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1591678480&sr=8-1

Link to book on Amazon

Hana Ellis, Class of '87**District Court Judge**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

We extend our congratulations to Judge Hana Ellis (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou), Westlake Girls Class of 1987.

Judge Ellis has been appointed a District Court Judge with Family Court Jurisdiction, based in Whangārei. She was sworn in at the Manukau District Court in March this year.

She attended Westlake Girls from 1983 – 1986 together with her twin sister Ngarino, before heading overseas and undertaking extramural study at Massey University at the end of Form 6, and then heading to the University of Auckland to begin a conjoint art history and law degree.

She has family history at Westlake as her mother Elizabeth Ellis taught there as an art teacher in the 1960s and her nieces and nephew have attended Westlake also. She loved art and languages while at Westlake and was particularly influenced and inspired by her art teacher Sue McBride and English teacher Dr Pam Laird.

Judge Ellis commenced her career as a barrister in 1993 undertaking District and High Court work. She followed this with three years as a solicitor at the Māngere Community Law Centre, before working as a law firm associate for Recordon & Co for four years, practising in criminal, civil, ACC, family, tribunal and mental health matters.

From 2001 - 2010 Judge Ellis was a partner at Otene & Ellis, specialising in family law and mental health matters, as well as being appointed as Lawyer for Child and Lawyer to Assist. From 2010 she practised as a barrister in South Auckland specialising in family law and mediation.

She says that she enjoyed her years at Westlake and it gave her a stable grounding for her studies at university and the confidence to try new things and enjoy and celebrate life.

Erin Nayler, Class of '09

Football Fern (Goalkeeper), NZ International

Erin Nayler was one of many sporting fans celebrating recently when NZ and Australia were announced as co-hosts for the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023. She is pictured here (left) with fellow Football Ferns Annalie Longo and Hannah Wilkinson.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Erin played football throughout her Westlake years, and her father was also a Westlake football coach. She received sporting honours and played in the NZ Secondary School team in her senior years. After graduating in 2009, she had a year studying and playing at Indiana-Purdue University, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

She says, 'My time at Westlake Girls was very memorable and it was where I really started to progress my football career. I was selected for the NZ Secondary School Team which travelled to Australia. This was the start of my pathway into the national team selections. I have great memories at Westlake Girls and the education there helped shape the person I am today. From the incredible teachers to the lifelong friends I made in the classroom and on the football field.'

Erin made her international début in 2013 and played in World Cup campaigns in 2015 and 2019. After the 2016 Rio Olympic campaign, when she was the starting goal-keeper, Erin headed to France to play, initially in Lyon, then in Bordeaux.

She returned to NZ when the Covid-19 pandemic cut the season short, and spent Lockdown training in Northland.

Erin has studied part-time for a BSc in Biological Sciences at Massey University, fitting the studies around her international career. She is also currently completing a Diploma in Health Sciences from the NZ Naturopathy College.

She hopes to soon resume playing in the Northern Hemisphere as she has signed for an English club, but hopes she can return to NZ play as a Football Fern.



Erin Nayler at the 2019 World Cup in France.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)**B Arch, CKDNZ****Director of Kitchen Architecture Ltd**

We heard about Westlake alumna Toni Roberts' interview by 'Women in Industry' earlier this year, and how her can-do attitude and desire to make a real difference to the way families live, have contributed to her success.



Her Westlake years played a small part in that drive. As a female in the 80s, the journey to a career in architectural design was somewhat different to now.

She says, "Throughout my high school years, rather than picking a 'career' early, we were encouraged to gain skills and learn in a range of fields, follow what you love doing, and fed the mantra "Girls can do anything".

A knack for mathematics (pattern finding), physics (reasoning) and art (seeing), led to my desire to learn Technical Drawing which required walking into an all-boys school (Westlake) twice a week as a shy 15-year-old. Success in this led to my degree where the invaluable skills of scale, human-directed design and space appreciation were further nurtured."

After completing a degree in Architecture at The University of Auckland, and an architecture internship, Toni went on to specialise in kitchens, establishing her business "Kitchen Architecture". In 2000 she was involved in the founding of the Independent Designers Group where experienced designers still meet regularly for education, sharing inspiration and networking.

Toni recently designed a second kitchen and bathroom for an alumna friend, Sarah, from her Class of '85. Both mid-century architectural homes, the renovations have featured in prominent home magazines. Toni especially loves helping her local North Shore connections.

Toni's design projects have won several awards, she has featured in premium home magazines, conducted guest tutoring modules at Unitec, as well as sharing her knowledge at seminars.

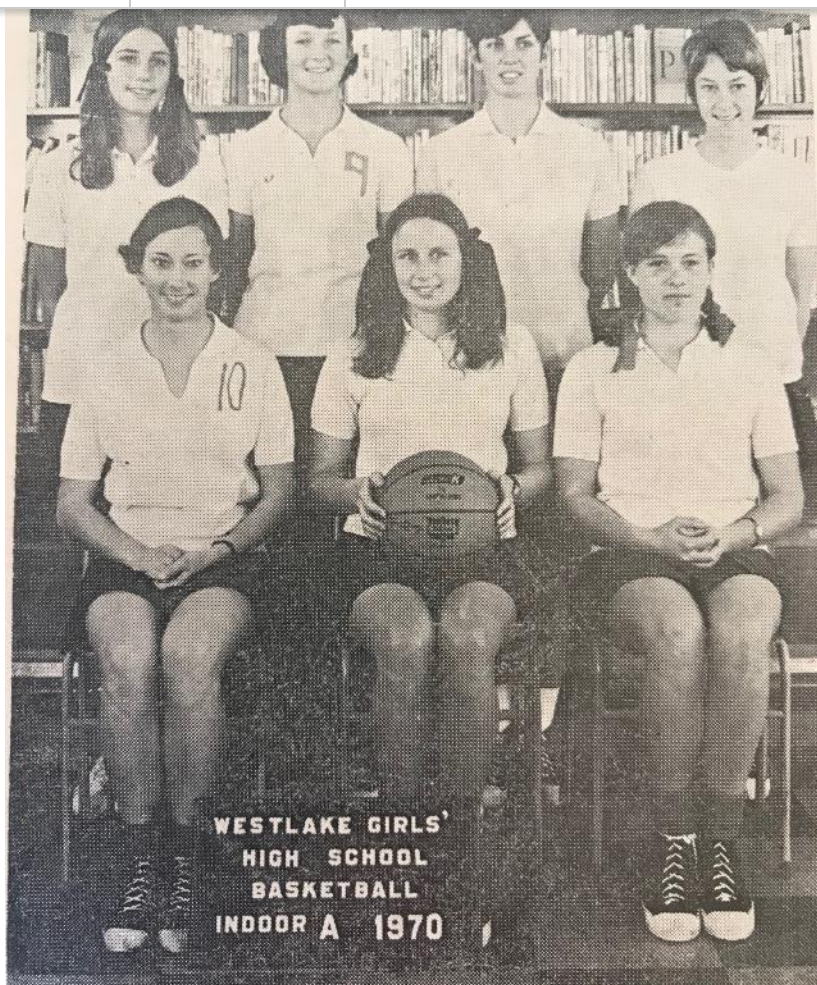
She is now based in Silverdale in a purpose-built studio and family home that she designed, where the kitchen 'showroom' performs as a test space and physical 'experiment' of ergonomic design improvements.

[For the full interview](#)

[For Kitchen Architecture's website:](#)

Looking Back

Winning indoor basketballers 1970



Indoor basketball started at Westlake in 1965, and Westlake teams were regular winners of the North Shore Competition from 1966. This 1970 team won the Auckland Secondary School competition, a first for Westlake.

A look back to 1993

1993 was the year that Westlake won the inaugural NZ Secondary Schools Fleet Sailing Championship, and Dame Catherine Tizard presented the Catherine Tizard Trophy for the sailing win. As well as this, she presented medals to senior Westlake award winners in different disciplines, at the Suffrage Centennial Awards Ceremony.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

RSS



Westlake News

Westlake's Head of Music, Fiona Wilson (née Milmine), an alumna from the Westlake Class of '91, has recently been announced as a new Associate Conductor for New Zealand's national premier chamber choir "Voices NZ Chamber Choir". Also selected as an Associate Conductor is Rowan Johnston – former Head of Music at Westlake Girls and current conductor for Choralation choir.

Fiona has been a member of Voices NZ Chamber Choir since 2006 and has previously sung with NZ Youth Choir, London's BBC Symphony Chorus, V8, Auckland Chamber Choir and Dorian Choir. Fiona is the Director of Cantare, the

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Progress on the Westlake Girls Event Centre

After a couple of months break in construction over Lockdown, work has resumed on the new Westlake Girls High School Event Centre. Concrete for the foundations was poured in July.



The ground-breaking ceremony for the new Event Centre took place in late December 2019.

Led by HOD Māori, Matua Eddie Hudson, there was a blessing and waiata. We were delighted to include alumni in the ceremony - Peter Burn, a 1957 foundation pupil of the then co-ed Westlake High School, and Sue Newman (née Powell) a founding student from 1962, the first year of the single-sex school.



Addition to the Entrance Foyer

Recent alumna Emma Ormsby, Class of '19, was the Top Scholar in Sculpture for the 2019 NCEA examinations. One of her impressive works was recently placed in the entrance foyer at Westlake Girls, with a blessing led by HOD Māori, Matua Eddie Hudson, and a group from the Westlake Kapa Haka.

This year Emma is studying for a conjoint Bachelor of Fine Arts and BA in Māori Studies and Communications at The University of Auckland, as well as returning to Westlake as a part-time technician in the Art Department.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Alumni Association Update

Westlake Girls Alumni

Westlake Girls LinkedIn Group

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

Class of 1973 Westlake Girls

Class of 1974 Westlake Girls

Class of 1975 Westlake Girls

Class of 1976 Westlake Girls

Class of 1977 Westlake Girls

Class of 1978 Westlake Girls

Class of 1979

Westlake Girls Class of 1980

Class of '81 Westlake Girls

Westlake Girls 1978 - 1982

Westlake Girls Class of 1983

Class of '84 Westlake Girls

Westlake Girls Class of 1985

Class of '86 Westlake Girls

Class of '87 Westlake Girls

Westlake Girls Class of 1988

Class of '89 Westlake Girls

Westlake Girls Class of 1990

The Westlake Class of 1991

Westlake Girls Class of 1992

Westlake Girls Class of 1993

Westlake Girls Class of 1994

Westlake Girls Class of 1995

Westlake Girls Class of 1996

Westlake Girls Class of 1997

Westlake Girls Class of 1998

Westlake Girls Class of 1999

Westlake Girls Class of 2000

Subscribe**Past Issues****Translate ▼****RSS**

Class of 2003 Westlake Girls
Westlake Girls Class of 2004
Class of 2005 Westlake Girls
Class of 2006 Westlake Girls
Westlake Girls Class of 2007
Westlake Girls Class of 2008
Class of 2009
Class of 2010
The Westlake Class of 2011
Class of 2012
Class of 2013
Class of 2014
Class of 2015 Westlake Girls
Class of 2016 Westlake Girls
Westlake Girls Class of 2017
Westlake Girls Class of 2018
Westlake Girls Class of 2019
Westlake Choralation Choir Alumni
Westlake Girls Key Cygnetures Choir alumni
Westlake Symphony Alumni
Westlake Girls Alumni Australia
Westlake Girls Alumni UK
Westlake Alumni Korea
Westlake Girls Rowing Alumni
Westlake Boys Alumni Page (Westlakers)



Westlake Girls High School

Copyright © 2020 Westlake Girls High School, All rights reserved.

[update subscription preferences](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#)