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SEPTEMBER 2017

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### **A message from Jane Stanley, our new principal**

Now that I am in my second term as Principal, I want to introduce myself to our alumni who have helped build the wonderful reputation we have here at Westlake Girls.

I feel very fortunate to come to a school that is already flourishing. Every day I am amazed by the talents and achievements of our students, and I know our dedicated staff play a vital role in helping them fulfill their potential. My focus in the coming years is to build on our success and to continue to provide the best possible resources and opportunities so that every student can explore who she is, identify what is important to her and where her strengths lie. I know that your stories are a source of inspiration for our current students; it is so nice to be able to share these at assemblies.



I am excited about the future for Westlake Girls. I know many of our founders came to the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion for the original Westlake High School earlier this year and visited the old school hall for the last time. I can confirm that our plans for the new Events Centre are well under way and construction work will commence next year. With a school roll now of over 2200 students it will be wonderful for us to hold assemblies, stage productions and host events in this new facility, which is due to be completed during 2019.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cathy for her invaluable work over the last few years as alumni coordinator. She has done a wonderful job researching and archiving, and I know she has helped many of you connect with lost friends who inevitably disappear from our lives over time. Our history is part of who we are and we look forward to recording this more publicly in our Events Centre.

Recent research has confirmed how important it is for all of us to stay connected to family, friends and important people in our lives as we navigate our way through the pressures of modern life. I look forward to meeting some of you at future events as we move into this next phase of our school's development.

From the Principal  
Jane Stanley

# Alumni Community

## Facebook Groups

With Facebook groups now set up for all alumni years we hope you will join these closed groups for your year – it's the Y13 / Form 7 year for your cohort, regardless of whether you left school before that final year. (So if you started in 1979 in Form 3, you would be the Class of 1983).

**All links are at the end of the newsletter. Please encourage others as well.**

## What's new?

### Westlake Girls Rowing wants to bring you back into the rowing community.

The WGHS Rowing Alumni and Supporters Group has been formed to unite the alumni and friends of Westlake Girls Rowing and provide a community, network, and an institutional memory. Our goal is to protect, strengthen, and support the rowing programme and its current rowers.

Our Westlake Girls rowers are achieving places at NZ Secondary School Champs, representing New Zealand and gaining college scholarships in the USA.

Please like the page to reconnect with old friends and the love of rowing.

[Westlake Girls Rowing Alumni](#)

We welcome all ex WGHS Rowers, parents and supporters to our Boat Naming Ceremony and afternoon tea, Sunday 5 November 2017, 2pm - 4pm. Please email Maria at [wlgrowing.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:wlgrowing.alumni@gmail.com) if you wish to attend.

## Events

### *Were you involved with Amnesty at Westlake?*

We are keen to contact alumni who were actively involved in Westlake Girls Amnesty Groups from past years as we are planning a special event on **Friday 27th October**.

It is a collaborative function with Amnesty alumni, staff, and current Amnesty leaders.

Westlake Girls is the largest Amnesty group in NZ and we are especially honoured to have a group featured in an international publication due in October.



At Westlake the forerunners of our Amnesty group were the **Women's Consciousness Group**

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*If you were an active participant in any of our early or recent Amnesty groups we would love to hear from you so we can share details of our celebration.*

Email us [alumni@westlakegirls.school.nz](mailto:alumni@westlakegirls.school.nz) for details

Were you in the '95 group?

Or perhaps you were there in 2010?



### **Class of 1997 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

From the organising committee:

*Calling all 1997 Leavers (and any who left 6<sup>th</sup> Form in '96 or 5<sup>th</sup> Form in '95. This is a night of catching up with old friends we haven't seen in ages and celebrating all we've been through in the last 20 years. Celebrate all we've survived and catch up! Tickets are \$70 and include welcome drinks and nibbles. To book, email Jasmine at [jasmine@jasmineplatt.co.nz](mailto:jasmine@jasmineplatt.co.nz)*



### **Westlake Arts, Past and Present Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October, Northart Gallery, Northcote**

The opening function for the exhibition is on **Sunday 8 October 4pm – 5.30pm**. The exhibition continues until 25 October. Art educators, alumni artists and current students of both Westlake Boys and Westlake Girls High Schools will be exhibiting.

### **Rowing - naming ceremony**

Boat Naming Ceremony and afternoon tea: **Sunday 5 November 2017, 2pm to 4pm at the North Shore Rowing Club**. Please email Maria at [wlgrowing.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:wlgrowing.alumni@gmail.com) if you wish to attend.

Alumni and supporters welcome.

## Alumni networking event in Seoul: Wednesday 11 October

This is for all kiwi alumni in Seoul and is hosted by Education NZ. Event and RSVP details are on the [Westlake Korea Alumni](#) group page. WGHS staff will also be there.

# Alumni Updates

## OUR ALUMNI

**Two former Westlake Girls students are candidates in the coming 2017 elections.**

**Naisi Chen**, Class of 2011  
Labour, East Coast Bays

Naisi is in her final year of a BA/LLB at the University of Auckland. She is on the Advisory Board of the NZ - China Council and the Auckland Chinese Students and Scholars Association.

At Westlake Naisi was very involved in cultural activities including Symphony and Chamber Orchestras and Concert Band, and was active on the Cultural and Chinese committees.

*"I am very grateful for the dedicated teachers and staff who made high school such a wonderful experience for me. It was a crucial five years that shaped me into who I am today. I received a very wholesome education from Westlake and will work to ensure that girls after me will receive those same opportunities as I continue to fight for fair opportunities for all."*

<https://www.facebook.com/naisichen/>



**Bridget Walsh**, Class of 2002

Global Candidate for the Green Party

Bridget has been based in the UK as a touring musician since 2009, performing in the band *Electric Swing Circus* along with another former Westlaker, Laura Owen-Wright. They are now working on different musical projects but are in touch, with both based in Birmingham. Bridget is also the founder of INDHE, an online social enterprise connecting artists and musicians across the world.

Bridget was passionate about music at Westlake and sang in Key Cygnetures choir before





Her usual schedule involves touring and recording, spending two months in the US, two in NZ and Australia, and the rest of the year in the UK and Europe. This year, as a political candidate, she spent more time in NZ in 'political immersion' before campaigning and mobilising Kiwis to vote, visiting L.A., New York, Toronto, Sydney, Melbourne and many European cities.

[www.missbridgetwalsh.com](http://www.missbridgetwalsh.com), <https://www.greens.org.nz/candidates/bridget-walsh>

### **Judy Millar, Class of 1975 NZ and International Artist**

Judy Millar is an artist with an international reputation who divides her time between Berlin and Auckland. She was commissioned by the Auckland Art Gallery to create a new artwork for the Gallery's South Atrium. Her installation, *Rock Drop*, opened in July 2017.

Judy is one of New Zealand's foremost 'experimental and internationally-recognised artists'. She received a raft of grants and scholarships following the completion of her M.F.A at Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland in 1983. This includes a scholarship from the Italian Government in 1990, a Wallace Art Award 2002, and the Colin McCahon Residency in Titirangi in 2006.



Highlights of her career include two exhibitions at the Venice Biennale representing New Zealand with her solo exhibition *Giraffe-Bottle-Gun* (2009); and *Collateral Event Time, Space, Existence* (2011).

Her paintings are held in major public collections in New Zealand and in several international collections including the Kunstmuseum, St Gallen, Switzerland, and Tichy Foundation in Prague.

Judy has maintained a connection with her former art teacher Sue McBride, has visited the school to talk with students and has taken part in a collaborative art exhibition for past and present Westlake arts.

***Rock Drop at the Auckland Art Gallery***



<http://judymillar.com/>

[Judy Millar talks about her work](#) (2015)

**Paige Thomas, Class of 2010, Fulbright Award**



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year of study.

She will research the impact of skill training for swallowing in patients with motor neuron disease, towards her doctorate in Speech Language Sciences at UC. She also has a UC Scholarship towards her PhD studies.

Paige enjoyed languages and sciences at Westlake with a study trip to France at 16 a highlight.

*'Travelling to France with Westlake opened my eyes to the importance of learning about the world around me. It taught me to say yes to experiences even those that might seem scary.'*

Paige followed her B.Sc at the University of Auckland with a Master of Speech and Language Pathology at UC. A summer research studentship with the Rose Centre for Stroke Recovery and Research in Christchurch confirmed her decision to pursue a career in Communication Disorders.

*'I am very passionate about both research and working with patients so an ideal career would be the opportunity to combine both of these aspects of speech and language therapy,' she says. 'I would love to do my part in helping to find a way of optimising treatment to help patients recover more efficiently.'*

### Dr Ngarino Ellis, Class of '87 - National Book Award

Congratulations to **Ngarino Ellis** on winning the Judith Binney prize for Best First Book Illustrated Non-Fiction at the Ockham Book Awards 2017. Her book is *A Whakapapa of Tradition. A Century of Ngati Porou Carving 1830-1930* with photography by Natalie Robertson.

Ngarino is a senior lecturer at the University of Auckland with research interests including indigenous biography, the history of indigenous art, and indigenous approaches to art crime in Aotearoa.



*Ngarino (right) with photographer N Robertson at Ngarino's marae O Hine Waiapu at East Cape, where they launched the book last year..*

### National Social Media Awards

#### Jing (Jessica) Miao Class of 2004 Entrepreneur

Jessica Miao founded and is CEO of UMS (United Media Solutions), a multi-lingual social media company with offices in China and NZ. Her company took the top award for an international campaign for their *Wechat* campaign with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.





### Musical successes

#### **Julie Park, Class of 2013, Violist**

Congratulations to Julie Park on being placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the prestigious University of Auckland Graduation Gala Concert Competition 2017, winning a \$4000 prize as well as the Development Award of \$2000.

She was the first ever violist to be named in the finals out of the 10 years of this competition.

At Westlake she led the viola section in the Westlake Symphony and Chamber Orchestras and is currently studying at the University of Auckland for a Bachelor of Music Honours.



She has performed as a soloist with the University of Auckland Symphony Orchestra and the Baden Baden Philharmonia Orchestra and was the Young Soloist of the Year 2016 with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra.

Julie has tours coming up in New Zealand, UK and Germany in a quintet consisting of professors of the University of Auckland and internationally renowned violinists. She is also planning to audition in the UK and United States to further her music studies.

*'Studying at Westlake Girls High School was one of my best decisions in life. I received such*



### Lauren Bennett (2013), Music Scholarship to Yale



Congratulations to former Westlake Girls student Lauren Bennett (Class of 2013) who has been accepted into the Yale University School of Music, USA, to do a Masters in Performance Violin, with a full 2 year scholarship. She has just completed her B.Mus (Hons) at the University of Auckland.

While at Westlake Lauren played with many aspiring musicians in Westlake groups, leading the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. A highlight was an award-winning string quartet, *Geist*, playing with three others, Britta Balzat, Sophia Lee, and Sally Kim who are all pursuing musical careers.

During her university studies she was part of an award-winning duo which won the Pettman/Royal Overseas League Music Scholarship enabling them to travel to the UK for a 6 week concert and lesson tour.

She says,

*I owe part of my passion for music to the music scene at Westlake. Westlake music was highly motivating because of the high level of playing and musicianship of all the students. The teachers and directors in the music department were also very inspiring and supportive.*

### **Watch out for these 2 Westlakers in national teams!**

#### **Victoria Lelo, Class of 2012 Lacrosse**

Victoria has recently captained the 2017 NZ Women's World Cup Lacrosse Team at the World Cup in England 2017, having completed her degree at McKendree University, Illinois and recently returning to NZ. She was in the NZ U19 team when she was in Year 13 at Westlake, then debuted in the NZ Women's Team in 2013 in Canada. While on a scholarship at McKendree she captained their team for 4 years and played in All Tournament Teams and the USA Women's Lacrosse



*'Westlake truly supported me as both a student and an athlete and provided me with a sound academic foundation that allowed to me study at the tertiary level in both NZ and the USA. I have very fond memories of Westlake that are truly irreplaceable and am very thankful for all the support I received there. I am very proud to say I was a Westlake Girl.'*

#### **Temalisi Fakahokotau, Class of 2012, Silver Fern**

Temalisi was recalled to the national Silver Ferns squad 2017/2018 after debuting in 2014. She played 2 tests then spent 2015-2016 with the Northern Mystics. She moved to Christchurch early in 2017 to play for the Mainland Tactix.

[Temalisi on her recall to the national team](#)



Photo credit: Ken Baker Photography

## Looking Back

10 years ago: In 2007, the sailing team won the National Team Championship title.



Our foundation rowers, 1982-83



**Moira Mallarkey** was farewelled at the end of Term 2 after 27 years' service at Westlake Girls. She has taken up a position as Associate Principal at St Cuthbert's.

She has been a Deputy Principal since 2013, and has also been HOD Biology, a Dean and Assistant Principal.

Moira was very involved with students outside the classroom: the first and second X1 Hockey teams at weekly games, national competitions and the 2007 tour to Melbourne, and Westlake Girls Road Cycling and Mountain biking teams for many years.

She has fond memories of annual Y13 Biology camps at Mangawhai Heads to study the mangroves.



*I have loved my time at Westlake. There have been many changes over the last 20 years, both in the buildings and the curriculum. I remember teaching in E block when the cows were in the adjoining field, definitely something I will never forget*

### **Sailing success - The Reynolds-Smith twins**

Westlake Girls students, twins Brianna and Courtney Reynolds-Smith (Y13) had great success in the World U23 470 Sailing Champs held in Japan in September. They won the World U20 470 class and finished 8th in the U23 category.

Westlake Girls Olympic Gold and Silver medallist Jo Aleh and her sailing partner Polly Powrie have been assisting the sailors in their career and the Reynolds-Smith twins are also sailing in their medal-winning yacht from the Rio Olympics.

[Read more about the sailing twins](#)



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## Westlake Girls High School

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