



University of Queensland 2nd year medical students, 1937. Lorna Archibald (front row, far right).

Doctor's lasting legacy

From delivering medical aid during the war, to becoming one of the first women in Queensland to obtain a medical degree: Dr Lorna Archibald (Class of 1931) was an intrepid trailblazer. Lorna led an extraordinary life, marked by intelligence and generosity. She has had an incredible impact on the Somerville House community, beginning with her own days as an excellent student and continuing with her ongoing legacy through the Dr Lorna Archibald Memorial Scholarship. Created with a generous \$300,000 gift from Lorna's Will, the Scholarship was established in 1998. It allows outstanding students, who could not otherwise attend the School, an opportunity to access the same Somerville House education that helped Lorna become a leading dermatologist and inspirational teacher.

The youngest of four siblings, Lorna attended Somerville House with her two sisters. She began her schooling at the original school site in Erneton on Wickham Terrace in 1919 and was one of the pupils who made the move to Vulture Street in 1920. Lorna's school career was a busy, involved and successful one, demonstrating her drive and intelligence. Not only academically gifted, Lorna was also Captain of the Netball team, Treasurer of the Sports Club and the 1931 School Captain. She won the School's highest citizenship award, the Lorna Robertson Award, an early indication of her generosity of spirit and embodiment of Somerville House's values of *Honour Before Honours*.

When Lorna entered The University of Queensland in 1932, there was no medical degree course in Queensland. Instead, she enrolled in a Bachelor of Science, which she was awarded in 1935. In 1937, she received a Master of Science with Honours in Zoology. By then the Queensland Medical School was established, and she graduated with an MBBS in 1942. She was one of only a few women in her cohort.

Australia was in the midst of WWII, and all-male graduates were snapped up by the Defence Forces. This provided the few female graduates with new and exciting options that wouldn't normally have been available to women. Imagine this, a recently graduated young

woman navigating the blacked-out streets of Brisbane, finding her way to patients in need as a locum (a stand-in doctor). This was one of Lorna's many memorable experiences. She also worked for a period at the venereal disease clinic, which was almost unheard of for a woman at that time. Out of this experience arose her interest in skin diseases, prompting further study to become a dermatologist.

By 1949, Lorna had received a Diploma of Dermatological Medicine from the University of Sydney, and her long and admired career as a teacher and practitioner was underway. Undergraduates and young doctors found her strict but fair. She was

devoted to her discipline, definite in her views and an excellent teacher. Her influence on the Somerville House community was immediate: Dr Wendy Harley (nee Hoskin, Class of 1948) was inspired by Lorna to herself become a dermatologist. Dr David Weedon, grandson of first-day pupil, Minnie Connah (nee Wilson, Class of 1902), said Lorna was the doyen of Brisbane dermatology for close to four decades. Lorna was a Foundation Member of the Dermatological Association of Australia (DAA) and was President of the DAA when it was replaced by the Australasian College of Dermatologists.

Even after her passing, Lorna continues to inspire and support Somerville House students.

The Somerville House Foundation honours her bequest through the Dr Lorna Archibald Memorial Scholarship, which has grown considerably over the years. The Scholarship is needs-based and awarded to a boarding student who demonstrates academic excellence, supporting them throughout their entire schooling from Years 7 to 12. Lorna's generosity is deeply appreciated by the students who have received support over the years. The fifty percent scholarship has given these students access to opportunities that have improved their education and also instilled them with the same impressive qualities Lorna had: determination, community-spirit and thoughtful intelligence. It's also led to a richer and more diverse Somerville House community, encouraging students from a variety of backgrounds to bring new perspectives and experiences to the School.

Lorna's legacy will live on for generations.

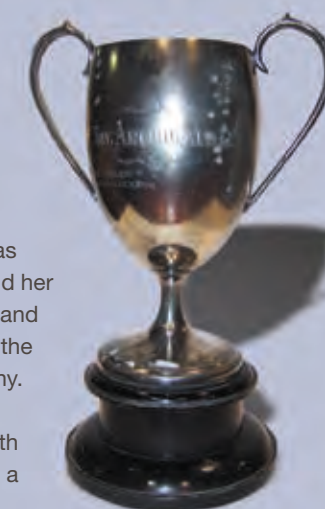
Gifts in Will greatly benefit the future of young students and their educational opportunities. Consider including a Gift in Will to students through the Somerville House Foundation and learn more about the transformational opportunities these gifts can provide.

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For a confidential discussion about how to leave a gift in your Will or how you can establish a scholarship, please contact Ms Petrina Gilmore, Director of Philanthropy, on (07) 3033 9289.

The mystery of the missing cup

Named for the three Archibald sisters, the Archibald Cup has a tale almost as interesting as Lorna herself.

Lorna was a talented player and efficient Netball Captain during her years at Somerville House, but was never rewarded with a trophy as there was none for the sport. In 1932, Lorna and her sisters Jessica and Jean rectified the problem and presented the Archibald Cup to the School. At the time, Netball was the only sport without a trophy. The cup was to remain at the School and be inscribed with the winner's name each year, with the outstanding netballer being presented with a small replica keepsake.



However, the cup went missing for several decades. Anne Jackson was awarded the cup as the "most improved netball player" at Speech Night in her senior year in 1968. As Anne was on exchange in America, her father accepted the cup on her behalf and took it home.

"The Cup sat on a small chest of drawers that I had inherited from my grandmother," she said.

"I didn't ever question its presence as I moved on in life: finishing senior examinations, entering the Faculty of Medicine, marriage, postgraduate studies to become an anaesthetist, failure of the first marriage, a second marriage, two sons... The cup went with me, wrapped in my father's old army duffle bag, along with the skeleton I had as a medical student, my chemistry set from first year uni and so on."

It wasn't until her sport-loving sons were discussing their own achievements at Churchie twenty years later that Anne examined the Archibald Cup once more.

"They boasted of their achievements as we did the typical drive to school and I couldn't resist mentioning that I was Captain of Netball and Athletics at Somerville and I had a cup bigger than any they had received," she said. "This brought the usual disparaging remarks about girls' sports."

"We retrieved the cup from the duffle bag and they inspected it: 'Mum, why is your name the last name on the cup?'. Horrible silence. I had never given it a thought. This was a cup given for a year, not in perpetuity!"

The accidental keeping-of-the-cup amused her sons and the story spread as family joke. Anne returned the cup to the school at her 40th reunion.

"I am ashamed of keeping it so long, but I loved having it under my jurisdiction," Anne said.

One can only imagine that Lorna would have been delighted that her cup spent so long in the hands of another netball enthusiast, academic star and female doctor – a profession she helped pave the way in.