

MARGARET RUMBOLD

Margaret Rumbold has been a member of Graduate Women Victoria since 1958, making her one of our longest-term members.

Margaret was educated at Chatham Primary School, Canterbury Girls' High School (now Secondary College) and MacRobertson Girls' High School. Awarded a teaching studentship to study at Melbourne University, she graduated BA with majors in French and History and sub-major in English, followed by a Diploma of Education.

Margaret was appointed to Canterbury Girls' High School to begin teaching senior and junior French. While teaching full-time, she continued part-time studies in Education, graduating BEd three years later. She spent a year in Europe travelling, teaching for one month in a secondary modern school in London's East End and for two months at Cranborne Chase, a boarding school for girls in the West Country, and she participated in pedagogical subjects at the Sorbonne for five weeks. She resumed teaching in Melbourne and later completed MA Preliminary studies part time, leading to acceptance as a candidate for an MA in French.

Margaret later travelled again to Europe, this time for research purposes. Her studies were undertaken under the supervision of Professor WH Barber of Birkbeck College, London University. The chosen topic was the life and works of Pierre Coste, who was amanuensis to the philosopher, John Locke. Original material was gathered chiefly in the British Library, the Bodleian in Oxford, the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Bibliothèque de la Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français. Writing the thesis was completed whilst working full time teaching in Melbourne, and an MA was awarded in 1975. In 1991 the thesis was published by Peter Lang Publishing Inc under the title of *Pierre Coste: Traducteur huguenot*.

Research for a history of Canterbury Girls' High School had begun much earlier and *These our School Days: Mangarra Road Revisited* eventually appeared in 2000.

Margaret's teaching career spanned over forty years, including not only at Canterbury, but also Koonung High School, Mentone Girls' High School and Balwyn High School, which absorbed Greythorn High at that time. In addition to her teaching duties, for over twenty-six years in two different schools Margaret organised the school teaching practice programmes for student teachers, in conjunction mainly with the Secondary Teachers' College at Melbourne University. Other organisational duties included Modern Language Co-ordinator, Level Co-ordinator, and Professional Development Co-ordinator. As well as various school committees, membership included, for a number of years, that of the French Standing Committee of the Victorian Universities and Schools Examinations Board and of the Modern Language Teachers' Association and the Association of French Teachers' Committees.

Margaret was for twenty years a member of the Balwyn High Chaplaincy Committee and is involved in various ecumenical activities. She is a committee member of the Women of the University Fund, a small charity which originated at the University of Melbourne at the time of the Second World War to assist children. The group meets weekly in South Yarra to process stamps and donated goods or to construct knitted rugs. Margaret's other interests include music and choral singing, gardening, and craft, chiefly knitting by hand, a small proportion of the latter receiving awards and being displayed at the Royal Melbourne Show.