



## **Dr Jean Grieve Bryson (née Gordon) 1922 – 2015**

Class of 1939

In 1940, Jean left the High School of Dundee to study medicine at the University of St. Andrews. It was there that she met her future husband, Bill Bryson.

Bill was a New Zealander and when he returned home to become a GP, Jean followed as soon as she could. They were married four days after her arrival, on 30 December 1946 in Wellington.

For 35 years, they worked together running their local medical centre. The surgery was adjoined to the house so, whilst working part-time in the practice, she also raised their four children.

Jean was keen on making her community a better place. In the 1970s, she put forward a proposal for the introduction of sex education in primary schools and lobbied for housing for the elderly in her local area. She saw the looming demographic changes along with the need for a community response.

When Bill died in 1983, Jean took a part-time career as a medical assessor, issuing international medical clearances for racing car and rally car drivers. She later worked as a medical advisor for a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre.

She was actively involved in the Girl Guides movement, and in her local branch of the Red Cross. Her services to the community were acknowledged when in 1990 she was awarded the New Zealand Commemoration Medal.

Jean is survived by her children, seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Jean attended the school with Grace Suckling (née Brown) whose obituary also features on the school's website, and they were friends from the age of 6. They both emigrated to New Zealand after marrying New Zealanders, and raised families in Wellington. They ended up retiring to the same village of Waikanae and died within months of each other.