

# DARGAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



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## **EILEEN SCHICK**



I know that many of you will share the shock and sadness of the sudden passing of Eileen Schick.

Eileen, or Miss Schick as she was to many, was a larger than life personality who has been described by a number of past students as an icon of Dargaville High School.

Eileen Schick and Dargaville High School were intertwined for over 50 years. She was a student here in the late 1950's becoming Head Girl and St George House Captain in 1960. She was a very active sportsperson gaining sports blues in athletics, basketball and softball.

Eileen attended Auckland Teachers' Training College in 1961 and 1962. While there she was awarded a sports blue after gaining a place in the Auckland under-20 basketball team, the Auckland 'A' Reserve Grade Women's Cricket Team and New Zealand Universities Athletic Team to meet Australia. In 1962 she gained a College Honours Award for all-round ability and leadership.

Eileen then returned to Dargaville High School between 1963-66 where she taught Mathematics, Science, Biology and PE, while also organising girls' basketball and softball. She continued with her own sporting career representing Northland against Australia in basketball and was a member of the Northland Athletic team.

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

CONTRIBUTING

INTEGRITY

Over the next 16 years she was a missionary teacher in the Solomon Islands. Initially she took up a one-year voluntary service position with the Order of St Stephan's United Church at Kihili Girls School in Bougainville, New Guinea. This grew into a way of life as a missionary and Education Inspector responsible for seventy-six schools across many small islands. She commuted by way of a canoe with a small outboard engine, sleeping at night on the top of desks in the schools.

Eileen returned to do some relief work at Dargaville High School in 1985-86 and then rejoined the staff in 1987. She held positions of Guidance teacher and acting Guidance Counsellor before becoming Senior Mistress in 1990. Eileen made a huge contribution using her talent for organisation to ensure so many functions in the school ran smoothly. End of year prize-giving, student registers, sports draws were always handled meticulously and went without a flaw. Eileen loved the school and felt it was a part of her family. For many years her contribution to netball within the school and Northern Wairoa was legendary, and she was synonymous with netball throughout Northland.

Eileen was a person who made a difference at a personal level. She was very generous, often lending a spare car to someone who needed it, helping them pick up groceries, babysitting and frequently assisting students financially when they were unable to attend a camp or trip. Over the years many of our staff have had difficult issues to deal with and they have really appreciated the kind words and huge hugs that Eileen enveloped them with. The care and concern she showed for so many people was immeasurable.

Included are a few quotes from staff illustrating what she meant for them.

"Behind that big gruff exterior we knew and loved the compassionate, fair and caring person who gave so unselfishly to so many. We will miss the heartfelt hugs and chocolate hits that Eileen always gave so generously. She could make us shake in our boots with the tone of her voice or make us laugh and feel appreciated and very special. Eileen always noticed the little things and truly cared for others. She was a unique and amazing woman who we loved immensely and who will be sorely missed."

"I had the privilege of being involved in a number of sports exchanges with Eileen over a number of years, the highlight being the tour to Australia in 1995 ( what a memorable 10 days). As many of the pupils were heard to say on their return to Dargaville, " Miss Schick is fun to go on tour with." How right they were.

Eileen's genuine caring attitude and empathy towards staff over many years cannot be over emphasised. What she did for many staff is not widely known - it just happened.

Her contribution to the life at Dargaville High School was enormous - I have lost a real friend"

We offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to Deborah and family, the Schick family, and all of Eileen's many friends.

**David Bargh**  
**Principal**