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An investment in girls' education



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend my thanks and gratitude for your generous support in 2021. These have been difficult and demanding times for everyone, yet once again, the School has been strengthened and sustained by the enduring loyalty of the BGGS community.

The ways in which our School community responded to the challenges and frustrations associated with COVID-19 over the past year have been inspiring—in particular, I acknowledge the outstanding work of the Principal and BGGS staff who diligently ensured Grammar girls had quality educational experiences both on campus and each time the School implemented remote online learning.

Some might wonder why a well-resourced school such as ours seeks donations, particularly in times of uncertainty. As we consider the events of the past two years and what may lie ahead, now, perhaps more than ever before, we need to foster a strong and sustainable financial foundation to maintain excellence in a changing environment. This benefits not only our current students but future generations of girls and young women.

This is where your philanthropic investment in the education of girls really matters. While tuition fees cover the ongoing operating costs of the School today, philanthropy helps to provide access, opportunities and resources for the education of girls in the years ahead. The generosity of our donors in 2021 created real progress for access and equity, funding two new means-tested bursaries for future students who otherwise could not attend Girls Grammar. Your support contributed in other important ways too, such as infrastructure and physical resources that enhance the teaching and learning experience for all students.

However you chose to get involved, thank you again for your philanthropic investment in a Girls Grammar education. I very much look forward to reuniting as a community in 2022.

Ms Julie McKay (2000) Chair of the Board of Trustees



'This is where your philanthropic investment in the education of girls really matters.'



Preparing for the future



'Our annual Impact of Giving report is an uplifting reminder of the difference we can all make to others.' How do you prepare a young girl for her future? At Brisbane Girls Grammar School, we believe an excellent education begins with curiosity and courage. From the very first day a Grammar girl walks through the white picket fence, our teachers encourage her to be curious, interested, inquisitive and courageous—to be bold enough to ask questions and share ideas, to be brave enough to persist when challenges and obstacles emerge.

2021 was certainly not short of challenges. We all experienced ongoing disruption and constant change. For our teachers and students alike, it has been a continual balancing act—when to be agile and adapt to new ways of doing things, and when to hold firm to the principles and practices that have guided excellence in teaching and learning for generations at Girls Grammar.

There was much to be proud of in 2021. Once again, we saw remarkable individual and collective achievements and the School's *Annual Review* shares more information about all aspects of School life. After two years of studying in difficult circumstances, the Class of 2021 achieved outstanding ATAR results with more than 79 per cent achieving a score of 90 or above. Two students received scores of 99.95, the highest ATAR possible; only 32 such scores were awarded across all of Queensland.

Whatever their future path, we wish all our students well when they leave us. We may not always know about their accomplishments in their life beyond school, but we believe they have been well educated and well prepared. Similarly, in philanthropy we may not always know about the lasting impact of our giving, but we believe the act of giving will lead to positive change. When you make a donation to Girls Grammar, you are helping us to prepare girls for their future. The School's inaugural Giving Day for bursaries was a wonderful example of the BGGS community's belief in the power of a good education to transform lives.

Our annual *Impact of Giving* report is an uplifting reminder of the difference we can all make to others. We are so fortunate that our students are supported in their access to exceptional learning opportunities through the continued generosity of our community.

As always, the School is deeply grateful for your support and commitment to a Girls Grammar education. Although you may not always directly see the impacts of your altruism, I hope you feel satisfied and proud of your role in enabling an exceptional education for girls so that they are prepared for their future.

Ms Jacinda Euler Principal

Philanthropic priorities

Brisbane Girls Grammar School's philanthropic priorities are focused on four pillars that are essential to the School's commitment to a broad, liberal education for girls.

Bursaries

Girls Grammar fosters a climate of opportunity and has a rich history of educating girls from diverse backgrounds. Through bursaries, the School is committed to offering the life-changing experience of a Girls Grammar education to girls who may not otherwise be able to attend the School.

Buildings

Providing inspirational teaching and learning spaces in all curriculum areas supports students to achieve their full potential. Girls Grammar will continue to invest in infrastructure projects to engage and challenge girls in interesting ways.

Library

Housed in the Elizabeth Jameson Research Learning Centre, the Beanland Memorial Library contains a vast array of specialist resources to spark curiosity, imagination and discovery, and deepen knowledge.

Sport

The School has a long tradition of encouraging students to train and perform to their highest potential in their chosen sport, ensuring girls have access to excellent sports facilities, equipment and programs for their physical and mental wellbeing.



In 2021, more than **\$900 000** received from 580 donors

\$438 706 raised for bursaries in just 12 hours on our first Giving Day

Good Class of 1938 and youngest donor from Class of 2020

More than 350 volunteers gave their time to support BGGS activities



2021 philanthropic highlights



Engaging in the act of philanthropy is always about the future—the individual and collective belief that we can make a difference.

We are living in extraordinary times—and in these times it might feel impossible to look to the future with any sense of hope or optimism, when being in the present seems so demanding and ever-changing. It is, perhaps, instinctive to be preoccupied with our own immediate needs before the needs of others.

Of course, engaging in the act of philanthropy is always about the future—the individual and collective belief that we can make a difference, that we can do something to improve and enable better outcomes and opportunities, to help others and lift them up beyond their imagination. Philanthropy plays a critical and evolving role in Australian society, and it is important to foster the next generation of philanthropists to go out into their communities, engage with and support areas of need.

Our collective Girls Grammar philanthropy genuinely made its mark in 2021, with more than \$900 000 raised in total. I give my sincere thanks to all in the School community who have supported our philanthropic priorities during another challenging year. Your generosity enables us to continue to build upon the principles on which BGGS was founded—to provide an excellent education for girls so that they may thrive in all their endeavours.

A highlight of the year was the School's first Giving Day in October, dedicated to raising funds towards the BGGS Bursary Program. A special group of donors committed to double, dollar-for-dollar, every donation received on Giving Day to create twice the impact—and, in just 12 hours, more than 490 donors contributed more than \$438 000. This was affirming, demonstrating the compassion and commitment from parents, students, alumnae, support groups, staff and trustees to enable girls from a wide range of backgrounds to attend Girls Grammar.

A vibrant and accessible School environment, where students are enriched by diverse experiences and different perspectives, is integral to a Girls Grammar education. Providing means-tested bursaries supports promising future students who will contribute to and benefit from this deep experience, but who could not otherwise attend our School. The School is delighted to be able to offer two new bursaries, commencing in 2023, thanks to our Giving Day supporters.

As always, the School's support groups led by example during the year—once again demonstrating tenacity and patience to ensure as many activities as possible could proceed. The giving of time, collegiality and friendship are essential elements in a strong and connected community and we are grateful to all those who volunteer their time and energy to assist the School.

Thank you again for supporting the education of our current and future students by giving to BGGS.

Ms Georgina Anthonisz Director of Development and Alumnae Relations

Impact of Giving Report 2021

One day—a lifetime of difference











It was 7.30 am on Wednesday 20 October and the Main Campus was already humming with school life. Against the backdrop of a beautiful spring day in Brisbane, jacarandas in full bloom, Girls Grammar's first Giving Day was about to begin. With a goal to raise \$300 000 towards bursaries, there was nervous anticipation about what might unfold over the next 12 hours.

As girls streamed through the gates, they had a chance to get involved by making a gold coin donation in return for a Girls Grammar pocket heart or a blue slushy, a popular initiative led by the House Service Captains. Meanwhile, final preparations were underway in the Louise McDonald Room for the 'Giving Day HQ'—a volunteer centre where a dedicated group of 30 parents, past students and teachers would gather during the day to make phone calls to raise awareness about, and encourage support for, the BGGS Bursary Program.

'To our incredible line of Grammar Women: past, present and future.'

Bursaries contribute to social equity, access and inclusion, offering life-changing opportunities through fee assistance for students who would otherwise not be able to attend Girls Grammar. The School launched the first BGGS bursary in 2018 followed by a second bursary in 2020, both funded through the generosity of philanthropic donations and bequests. There is, of course, more work to do to increase the number of bursaries available. Chair of the Board, Ms Julie McKay (2000) explained:

'We want to ensure that a Girls Grammar education is accessible to the widest possible group of young women. To do that, we need to continue to build our Bursary Program, so it's not just one young woman who can benefit, but many young women over time. Giving Day is a chance to bring the School community together to invest in the education of those girls who, without our support, may not be able to become Grammar girls.'

'Giving back to a community that has given me so much.'

Giving Day simply would not have been possible without the initial belief and commitment of a special group of matching donors who agreed in advance to match all donations made on the day, dollar-for-dollar. The P&F Association, the Old Girls Association and the Board of Trustees kindly provided the initial match gifts, giving BGGS the confidence to proceed. Several alumnae and BGGS families, past and present, also offered match gifts to help create momentum.

And on the day itself, there was certainly momentum in the Giving Day HQ! Donations started to tally quickly on the live website, alongside inspiring and positive messages from those contributing. By mid-afternoon we had reached the \$300 000 goal and set a stretch goal of \$400 000. A little healthy competition never hurts and supporters were encouraged to nominate their House when making their donation, but it didn't really matter which House won (go O'Connor!). It was particularly rewarding to see gifts of all sizes and donors of all ages, with younger Grammar Women getting involved alongside older alumnae, and staff and families all coming together to give the gift of a good education. The hard work and positive energy of our volunteers was greatly appreciated throughout the day.

'The gift of education can never be underestimated. Go Grammar!'

'Thanks from a former recipient of the School's generosity.'

'For the care shown to our daughter and for those coming after her.'

By 8 pm, 498 donors had contributed an incredible \$438 706. The funds raised will enable the School to provide two new full bursaries for two future students to complete Years 7 to 12 at Brisbane Girls Grammar School. Applications will be sought from eligible families this year so that our new Bursary students can commence at Girls Grammar in 2023. We know they will be warmly welcomed into our School community.

'Thank you for all you do for our girls.'

'Making a difference through kindness and the gift of education.'

Giving Day was a genuine celebration of the spirit of giving and will have a deep and lasting impact on the lives of future Grammar girls, providing them with the opportunity to explore their full potential and contribute to our School. As Principal, Ms Jacinda Euler, noted:

'The power of one specific day, dedicated to philanthropy, is that it can unite and inspire us all to strive to do something to make a difference, in whatever way we personally can.'

'Girls' education is a wonderful cause!'

As we look forward to Girls Grammar's 150th anniversary in 2025, there is great excitement for the future as we create our next significant chapter in the education of girls. A strong Bursary Program is integral to this and we look forward to sharing more about plans for Giving Day 2022 later this year.





Beanland—the woman behind the name

An educated young woman and accomplished teacher who was destined to make a profound contribution to the education of girls in Queensland.

The Sophia Beanland Circle was inaugurated in 2020 and is named in honour of Miss Sophia Beanland, fourth Lady Principal of Brisbane Girls Grammar School from 1882 to 1889. Those who choose to include a gift in their Will are recognised, if they wish, with membership of the Sophia Beanland Circle.

In 2017, Ms Rachael Christopherson, then Head of Beanland House, travelled to Bradford in Yorkshire, England, to find out more about this remarkable woman.

Miss Sophia Beanland was born in 1852 in Bradford, a thriving industrial town of 100 000 in north England. Life for girls and women at that time was very different to today. Generally, they were expected to marry, have children and undertake domestic duties rather than pursue education, employment or professional careers. There were, however, significant social changes beginning to emerge, including the suffragette movement and the concept of providing an education for girls.

By the 1850s, Sophia's hometown of Bradford had experienced rapid population growth and migration, as it became an international centre for the manufacture of textiles, particularly woollens. This brought wealth, prosperity and progress to the civic life of Bradford. For Sophia, it brought personal opportunity. Educated, confident and independent, she studied at London University and then Girton College at the University of Cambridge where she obtained a teaching qualification.

In 1875—the year Brisbane Girls Grammar School was founded—Miss Beanland took up a teaching position at the newly established Bradford Girls Grammar School. She became an advocate for young women, often publicly voicing her opinion about the contribution that women made, and could make, to their communities. Committed to the liberating nature of education, Sophia described it as 'the most important subject that can engage the attention of mankind', noting that education shaped a woman to be 'more independent in spirit, more developed in character,' and that 'a woman had the right to a fuller life'.









Brisbane Girls Grammar School Main Building 1887

In 1882, Miss Beanland, then aged 31 years, and her mother Mrs Esther Beanland, made the long and daring trip by sea from England to Brisbane—at that time a small colonial outpost-to begin her appointment as Lady Principal of Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Miss Beanland believed that girls should receive a holistic, rather than a narrow, education. Based on her own education and early teaching experiences at Bradford Girls Grammar School, Miss Beanland ensured the students at Brisbane Girls Grammar School received a balanced curriculum comprising numeracy and literacy, mathematics and science as well as languages, music, art and physical education. She hired accomplished teachers from overseas to teach the girls and was conscious of preparing the students for the entrance exams to Sydney University and universities in England (The University of Queensland did not open until 1911).

Proving to be a progressive visionary, Miss Beanland also led significant advances to the School's facilities. This included the construction of the School's iconic Main Building and the establishment of a staff reference library, later named the Beanland Memorial Library now incorporated within the Elizabeth Jameson Research Learning Centre. A believer in the value of physical education to enhance girls' learning, Miss Beanland also launched a special appeal in 1886 to raise

funds for the construction of the School's first gymnasium and tennis courts and the establishment of the School tennis club and annual tennis prize.

In 1889, Miss Beanland became ill and, on her doctor's advice, returned to England. However, she maintained a close relationship with Brisbane Girls Grammar School for the rest of her life. In 1915, she established the Esther Beanland Medal in memory of her mother—an award in textile design, originally in needlework. The Esther Beanland Medal continues to be awarded at the School's Annual Speech Day and Distribution of Prizes to celebrate the creativity and craft of exceptional Grammar girls.

When Miss Beanland died in 1925, she bequeathed her estate to Brisbane Girls Grammar School 'as a remembrance of Sir Charles Lilley', the School's founder, together with the gold bracelet watch she received as a gift when she left the School in 1889.

Miss Beanland made a profound contribution to the education of girls in Queensland. An advocate for gender equality, the value of education and the belief every student has potential, Miss Beanland has left a lasting legacy at Brisbane Girls Grammar School and we are proud to honour her memory.





Girls Grammar students in the 1880s



Sophia Beanland Circle

Including a bequest in your Will is a powerful and inspiring way to leave a lasting gift that will help enrich the lives of future generations of women. After making provisions for your family and other beneficiaries, it is a chance to support girls' education at Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Those who choose to include a gift in their Will are recognised, if they wish, with membership of the Sophia Beanland Circle. The School is very grateful for the bequests it received in 2021.

If you would like more information about making a bequest to Brisbane Girls Grammar School, please contact Director of Development and Alumnae Relations, Ms Georgina Anthonisz, for a confidential discussion on +61 7 3332 1383 or email development@bggs.qld.edu.au.

References

Christopherson, R. (2017). Sophia Beanland: Visionary, Pioneer, Dream-weaver. Brisbane Girls Grammar School Insights (2017), https://insights.bggs.qld.edu.au/?p=21626

Brisbane Girls Grammar School. A Proud History. https://www.bggs.qld.edu.au/about-brisbane-girls-grammar/our-history/

Gifts of beauty

Girls Grammar is committed to ensuring students have access to art, not only in their Visual Art curriculum studies, but also as part of their daily learning environment. The School art collection includes more than 400 works of art in a variety of media and we are always pleased to receive gifts that enhance the collection.

Grammar Woman and established artist, Kylie Elkington (1983), has generously gifted five of her artworks to the School in recent years. Kylie's work, which captures the beauty of natural wilderness and themes of life cycle, has been recognised with many award nominations.

Her works are also held in the permanent collections of several regional galleries, the CQ University and a number of corporate collections.

Kylie's passion for the natural environment translates through her art—she describes observing nature as 'endlessly fascinating'. Kylie has found plenty of inspiration in the rugged landscape of Tasmania, where she has been based in Deloraine for the last few years alongside her husband, renowned artist Richard Dunlop. BGGS was delighted to receive two of Kylie's works in 2021, Fir and Billilla Gardens.



Kylie Elkington (1983) with her artworks in Principal, Ms Jacinda Euler's, office.

References

Harris, V (2014). A Creative Journey - Selected Artworks by Joyce Hyam. Profile on Queensland female artist, Joyce Hyam, from 1960 to 2008.

The School was also very grateful to receive 22 works by the late respected Queensland artist and Grammar Woman, Joyce Hyam (nee Anderson, 1940), kindly donated by Joyce's daughter, Vivien Harris (1970).

Born in Brisbane in 1923, Joyce was the eldest of four children in a cultured family—her mother studied art in England before World War I and then later in Brisbane under Vida Lahey. Joyce commenced at Brisbane Girls Grammar School in 1937 and naturally her favourite subject was Art. Her Art teacher, Miss Cottew, was a source of education and influence. In 1938, while in Form IVD, she was awarded a Certificate of Merit for her art. Joyce left school, working in secretarial positions for several years during wartime.

In 1959, Joyce, by now a wife and mother, began more formal art training at the Central Technical College on George Street in Brisbane, studying freehand drawing, colour study, general design, light and shade, and painting. She later studied interior decoration as well as lectured and taught classes. After joining the Royal Queensland Art Society in the early 1960s, Joyce began to exhibit her paintings alongside other contemporaries such as Margaret Olley, Milton Moon, Don Ross and Roy Churcher. Throughout the 1960s, Joyce continued to exhibit, receiving increasing recognition for her art. In 1968, her family spent a year living in Munich where Joyce had private lessons from the inspirational Waki Zollner, and studied the technique of batik.

During the 1970s, Joyce remained actively involved in the Queensland arts sector, continuing to teach at the Queensland College of Art, exhibit and write—in 1972, she published *Interior Decoration for Australian Homes*, one of the first books of its kind. By the early 1980s, her interests had evolved, and she began to focus her creative practice on textiles, using marbling cross-stitch, machine quilting and painting techniques on canvas to create art works. Over the next two decades, Joyce collaborated with other female artists to promote the textile arts, exhibiting regularly and continuing to teach. She is recognised for her colourful, imaginative and abstract style as a textile artist.



Joyce Hyam with artwork circa early1960s



Joyce Hyam Textile Art



'I aim to produce work which sings and glows'.

—Joyce Hyam

Nurturing our community

After another difficult year, which posed significant challenges to many BGGS families, we acknowledge and thank Brisbane Girls Grammar School's Parent Support Groups for being the cornerstone of our community and essential to the School's success. From volunteering countless hours to support students, teachers and families to generously donating to enhance girls' passion in Clubs and Activities—the support from these groups was extraordinary.

The Parents & Friends Association represents all parents—every parent is considered a member. During the School year, parents volunteer their time to support a wide range of events, sporting and musical activities, as well as ensuring the smooth running of the P&F Uniform Shop. The Association also provides valuable financial assistance to a range of projects.

In 2021, the P&F Association provided generous support towards the School's Giving Day, as well as funding new outdoor chairs and tables on campus for students to access during break times. In particular, the P&F Association provided support to five co-curricular clubs, with funds for chess clocks, recording studio time, and Chinese cooking classes, among other initiatives. The girls were encouraged to think about projects and submit written proposals to support their suggestions.

President of the P&F Association, Dr Cate Campbell, said while the support group values helping the School with 'big' donations, they felt 'a great deal of satisfaction from helping with "small" initiatives'.

Parents and students enjoyed a host of beloved school events, including the Year 12 Picnic—an afternoon held at Rangakarra Recreational and Environmental Education Centre, where Year 12 students relaxed with their parents while enjoying live music and a picnic.

The Mothers Group and Fathers Group both worked hard to provide the iconic cake stall and BBQ stall for Open Day, both were a great success in terms of funds raised, and community spirit generated. The Mothers Group raised \$10 000 for the School's 2021 Charity, Share the Dignity, a very generous donation which delighted and inspired our students.

The School's Music Support Group provided assistance to the Instrumental Music Program, working tirelessly behind the scenes to prepare for virtual performances while raising funds to support the ongoing purchase of instruments.

The Water Polo Support Group offered practical support to students and staff, acting as team managers and scorekeepers throughout the season. The Water Polo Support Group plays an important role in welcoming incoming Year 7 students and their families, as for many, Water Polo is one of their first opportunities to meet other members of the BGGS community.

The Rowing Support Group continued to provide essential support to the School's Rowing program—from organising early morning breakfasts after training to handson help at rowing regattas. Rowing families gathered at the annual Rowing River Social to raise funds to support the continued provision of appropriate equipment and resources for the Rowing program.













'From volunteering countless hours to support students, teachers and families to generously donating to enhance girls' passion in Clubs and Activities—the support from these groups was extraordinary.'





Thank you to all our parent volunteers in 2021:

Parents & Friends Association Mothers Group Fathers Group Music Support Group Rowing Support Group Water Polo Support Group

Celebrating the sisterhood the Grammar Women network

In the true spirit of embracing sisterhood (and a little hard work!), the Old Girls Association (OGA) partnered with the School's Development and Alumnae Relations team to offer events and reunions for Grammar Women, whenever possible. While plans and aspirations had to change often, we were pleased to connect with alumnae of all ages during the year.

Fast becoming an annual tradition, the OGA held the first Grammar Women gathering of the year in February—a networking drinks in Brisbane with more than 40 past students in attendance representing year groups from 1978 to 2020.

On Wednesday 10 March, the Principal and the President of the OGA co-hosted a special afternoon tea to acknowledge the School's Foundation Day, joined by 50 past students who graduated over 50 years ago. Current and past students joined together for a ceremonial cutting of the cake to celebrate the 146th year of the School.

Also in March, a group of 25 Grammar Women visited the Spring Hill campus for a private tour of the newly opened Science Learning Centre led by Director of Science, Dr Sally Stephens.

Thank you for inviting me to such a wonderful event. What amazing opportunities the girls have, and I hope they come to realise how world-class their science education is

—Chloe Yap (2013)







After a year of postponements and patience, the classes of 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010 finally celebrate their milestone reunions in July, while the class of 1971 and starting classes of 1957 and 1958 reunited in October. For the first time, the dress code included face masks and guests did not disappoint with their stylish COVID-safe attire!

It is never difficult to find inspiration and learn from others in the Grammar Women network—students, families and alumnae enjoyed an opportunity to hear from entrepreneur, columnist and media commentator, Jessica Rudd (2000), and Managing Director for Louis Vuitton (Oceania), Libby Amelia (2001), at a Grammar Women Leaders and Game Changers panel discussion moderated by Principal, Ms Jacinda Euler. Both speakers inspired attendees with their insights into the importance of deep cultural understanding, hard work and persistence, and the value of an optimistic outlook when building a business in a global market.

The stunning European Masterpieces from the Met exhibition at GOMA offered another opportunity for past students to connect around a shared interest or stimulating topic. Twenty-five women joined a private tour led by Grammar Women, Lorraine Thornquist (1967) and Jan Blackford (1958), who are also GOMA art guides, followed by lunch at the Gallery.

While it was more challenging to hold events beyond Brisbane, gatherings for alumnae on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast went ahead for the first time, with year groups represented from 1952 through to 2001. Grammar Women living in Canberra also came together to network and make new connections.

The Grammar Women community comprises past students of all ages and a diverse spectrum of personal and professional experiences. Engaging with and nurturing our youngest Grammar Women is an area of focus and 2021 saw the launch of two new initiatives in partnership with younger alumnae.







The *Grammar Women—Grammar Girls Mentoring Program* was launched at the beginning of the year, offering a way to strengthen links between current students and young alumnae who have graduated from BGGS in the last five years. The program aims to facilitate discussions between students and those who have recently navigated their own transition into life beyond school. Ten mentors supported 30 students during the year, providing guidance on pursuing academic, personal or other goals.

Meanwhile, a group of BGGS and BGS young alumni created *Nil Sine Live*, a live music showcase at The Triffid in Brisbane. The evening included live performances from bands and DJs who are alumni of BGGS and BGS. More than 100 young alumni attended, with plans to make this an annual event.

The year concluded with another *Grammar Women Leaders and Game Changers* event—this time, a virtual webinar featuring journalists, Lenore Taylor (1981) and Ali Rae (2005), in conversation with Principal, Ms Jacinda Euler, about the role and value of contemporary journalism in a strong democracy. While it was not possible to gather in person, it was exciting to welcome Grammar Women to join online, wherever they were in the world.

Whatever happens in 2022, the Grammar Women sisterhood will stay connected!



'The Grammar Women community comprises past students of all ages and a diverse spectrum of personal and professional experiences.'



Thank You

The Board of Trustees and the Principal, on behalf of the School, thank members of the Girls Grammar community for their generous support in 2021 and in years past.

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