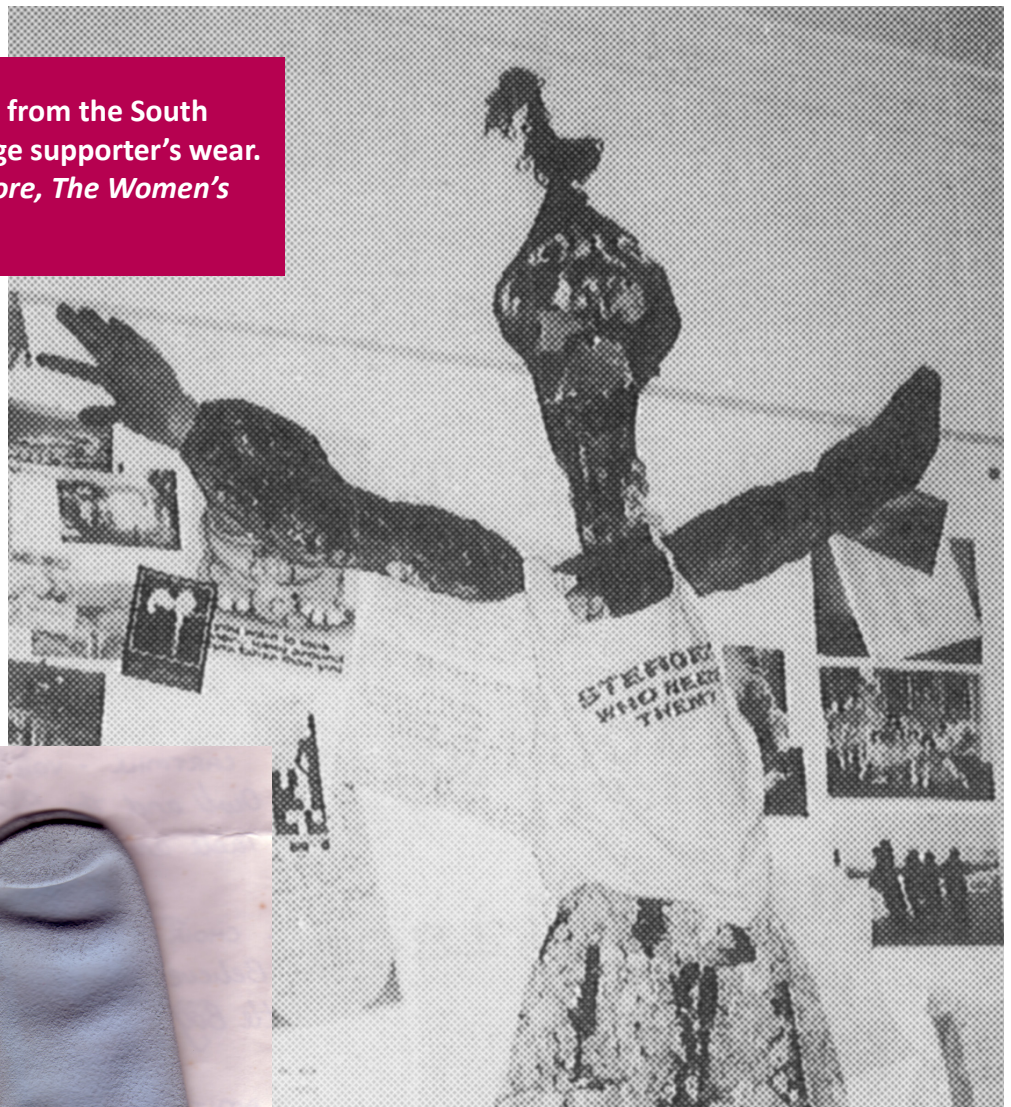


The Early History of Mary Woozer

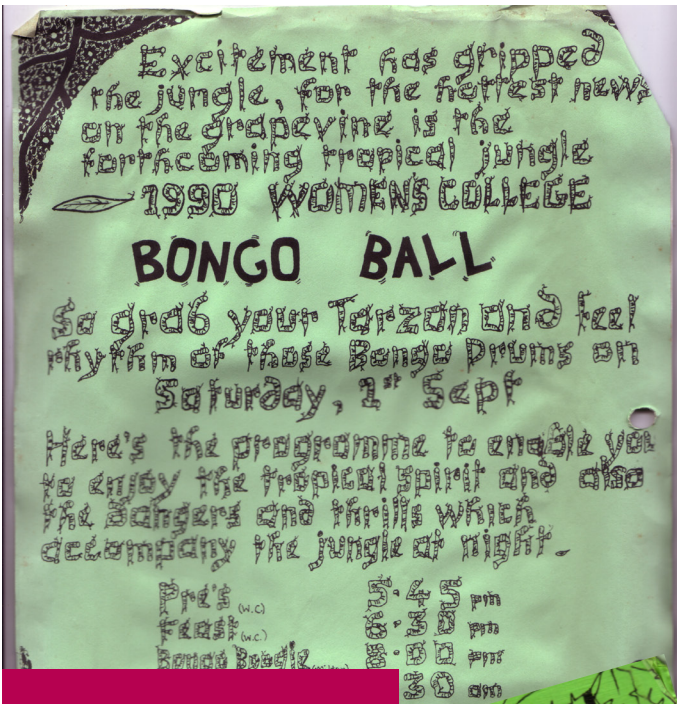
It began as a prank. Lucy Moxon, having some fun at the expense of Nerissa Lee Long, both of them freshers in 1990. Lucy had finished her first semester exams but Nerissa still had one or two to go. With time on her hands, Lucy constructed a life size doll out of newspaper, plastic shopping bags, and rubber gloves, a face cut from the cover of *Semper Floreat*, the UQ student paper. She hung the body from the frame of Nerissa's door and attached his hand to the door handle, so that when the door was opened, the body appeared to be entering the room. Nerissa, unaware of this development, got up early to study for an exam and left her room while it was still dark. The darkness greatly multiplied the shock value from her uninvited guest and Nerissa, immediately suspecting Lucy, went straight to her room in Upper Philp, and banged on the door. Lucy feigned sleep and refused to answer, so Nerissa responded by cutting off two rubber glove fingers and Blu Tacking them to the door, in a simple but eloquent gesture (see below).

The next night Nerissa and Lucy collaborated and repeated the prank, this time on Kath Myers, a pharmacy fresher (and famous for ordering ham and pineapple pizzas then picking off the pineapple).

Mary Woozer #1, a cannibal from the South Pacific now dressed in college supporter's wear.
Photo reproduced from Eeyore, The Women's College magazine, 1990.

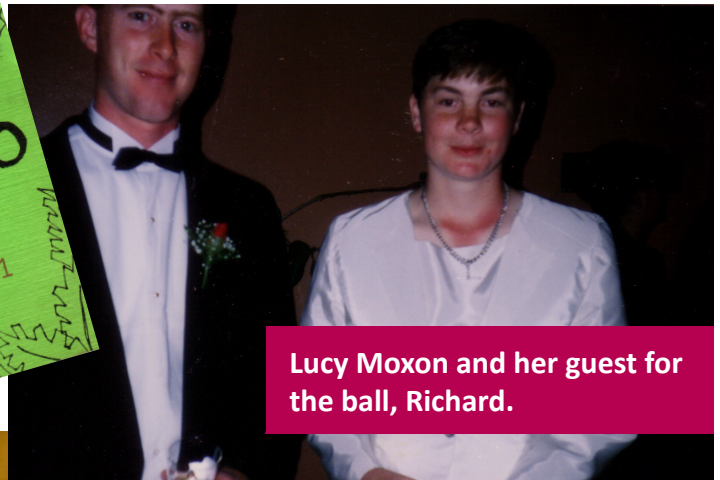


The dismembered fingers of the original prank body stuck to Lucy's door.



The South Pacific Bongo Ball invitation and flyer.

Word of the hanging man quickly spread around college. Seeing his potential, JA (Julie Ann Drinnen), the sports convenor) asked Lucy to make two more bodies, one male, one female, as decorations for the annual college ball. The theme was the South Pacific Bongo Ball and the two cannibals were arranged around a steaming cauldron. These figures were slightly more sophisticated and made of rubber gloves, black stockings stuffed with newspapers, black wool for hair and bones through their noses. The female was subsequently adopted as the college mascot and given a new outfit of a college singlet and loud shorts which very popular amongst students at the time. She was initially named Ginny, but fortunately the principal intervened and she was rechristened Mary Woozer and Lucy became an official member of the social committee as head decorator.



Lucy Moxon and her guest for the ball, Richard.



First years at The Women's College Ball, 1990. Kath Myers, back row, 4 from the left in teal.

Mary Woozer #2 in armour with evidence of the Leonian reprisals.



Mary attended many sporting events representing the Woozer tribe and became known amongst the other colleges. However her fame was also her downfall. Later that year the boys from St Leo's college stole Mary and burnt her publicly at the ICC Swimming Carnival. And so a tradition began. Try as they might, the Women's College girls failed to capture the Leonian's "lucky rake" to retaliate in kind. Instead Lucy made a new Mary Woozer for 1991 with tan stockings and patriotically maroon hair. This time she was kitted out in armour - knitted chain mail, a shield with The Women's College crest, a helmet - and a dead Leonian skewered on the end of her sword. Leo's accepted the unspoken challenge and attempts to obtain the new Mary started to get serious. At one point they even broke into Lucy's room but as she had by then moved to "The Basement", Mary remained safely hidden in an odd, vertical cupboard built into the window ledge. Another popular hiding spot was the boot of Lucy's ancient Mazda. Mary attended many more sporting and cultural events that year but again succumbed to a fiery end at the hands of the Leonians. The next year Mary's maroon hair was cut

short (Lucy claiming to have run out of wool) and she was dressed in a fire fighter's outfit fashioned from a yellow plastic raincoat. Sadly this didn't stop the Leonian's burning her once again and although Lucy left college at the end of that year, 1992, Mary Woozer continues to be reincarnated each year to serve as the college mascot.



GENERAL AREAS
XTN NAME

a quieter year
for Mary —

- 671 Computer Laboratory
- 666 Council Room
- 675 Front Desk
- 667 Library
- 660 Tutorial Room

STAFF

XTN NAME

With short hair
— we were making
a statement! —



ed by 871 8XXX, if

A page from Lucy's scrap book in 1992, evidently recycled from the college phone directory. Mary Woozer #3 in a firefighter's outfit with other Women's students on Oval 2, with "The Basement" in the background.

and Iran out of
wool... .