

Vida Breckenridge '27

(1920 – 1996)



The Breckenridge family had a strong connection with Kambala. Mr. Breckenridge was a member of the first Council of the School, which worked to purchase Tivoli and the land on which Kambala stands. The girls, Vida and Marie ('32), were extremely gifted students. In 1923, Vida won prizes in English, Latin, and Physiology as well as prizes at the Kambala Annual Prize giving ceremony, including a prize for general proficiency.

Vida was also an avid member of the Kambala Old Girls' Union from the 1930s. In fact, in 1953 she voted successfully to save the Union. The Honorary Secretary Alisa MacDonald Gill noted in her report for that year that "Vida has been a tower of strength and never minds how often I ask her for advice. The Union owes a lot to Vida, because on one occasion it was her vote alone that saved it from extinction."

Vida and her sister Marie were highly involved in the art world. They were both artists and undertook academic work on over thirty-years of out-of-print art, papers and books that were donated to the Art Gallery, Mitchell Library, and University of Sydney in 1969. A portrait of the two sisters by New Zealand artist Nancy Borlase is in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. Vida passed away on 14 December 1996.