



ABBOTSLEIGH

Old Girls' Union Inc.

The Loom

ABBOTSLEIGH OLD GIRLS
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021



'Shorty' and 'Lucy'

1945*

Abbotsleigh girls on the bank near Vindin House.

UPCOMING EVENTS



**Mother's Day Classic
Charity Run/Walk**
Sunday 9 May
Local locations across Australia

Card Day
Thursday 13 May
10 am-3 pm
GCS Gallery

Networking Drinks
Thursday 3 June
6-9 pm
City location TBC

Mother Daughter Dinner
Saturday 24 July
6.30-8.30 pm
Dining Room, Abbotsleigh
Senior School

President's message

Every day may not be good,
but there is something good in every day.

Alice Morse Earle

This is a quote that I use repeatedly with my girls as they navigate the challenges of growing up and is a concept that I have relied on heavily as the past year unfolded. Thankfully, as vaccines roll out worldwide and life slowly returning to 'normal', it becomes easier each day to find that 'something good'.

Since our last edition of *The Loom*, the AOGU has been involved in a number of 'good things', such as our inaugural Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate, which took place via Zoom and attracted a large audience ranging from families with Junior School children to our older Old Girls, and whom were located both locally, regionally and overseas. We were able to support two very worthwhile projects through our 110th Anniversary Grant and I hope you enjoy reading our feature story about Linda Dalton's project on page 6. We have launched the online **Old Girls Business Directory** to help support Old Girls' businesses now and into the future. After a year's absence, we were able to meet in person for our Family Bowls evening and it was wonderful to see some new faces attending. We look forward to seeing many more of you in person again as the year unfolds.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to the 2021 AOGU Committee in the Who's Who on page 3. If you have any interest in representing the Old Girls, reconnecting with the School or being involved in the Abbotsleigh community in a different way, I strongly encourage you to join our team for 2022. With technology, it is easier than ever to be involved and there is no need to be located on Sydney's North Shore.

In particular, we are recruiting for a new Treasurer, so if you have skills in the area, please contact us.

Finally, a reminder that *The Loom* is now fully digital. Please help spread the word to other Old Girls asking them to provide the AOGU with current email addresses to ensure receipt of future editions of *The Loom* and other publications as well as invitations to reunions and other events.

Keep well and stay connected.

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)



Who's Who on the AOGU

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)

Belinda studied Law at QUT in Brisbane and subsequently worked as a corporate lawyer in Brisbane and London. While in London, she moved into regulation of publicly listed companies. Following the birth of her first daughter, she moved back to Sydney and enjoyed a career break until after the birth of her second daughter. Belinda returned to the work force as a risk, compliance and corporate governance consultant in the superannuation industry. She is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has served as a non-executive director on a small corporate superannuation fund and a social enterprise in the area of disability and mental health services. Belinda is now a Director and the Fund Secretary for the Manildra Flour Mills Retirement Fund. Belinda has been a member of the AOGU Committee since 2016, taking on the role of Vice-President in November 2016 and becoming President late 2017. Both her daughters are currently at Abbotsleigh.

Vice President

Rebecca Baillie (1989)

Rebecca loved her time at Abbotsleigh and is passionate about making connections with other Old Girls and keeping in touch with lifelong friends she made at school. After graduating, Rebecca completed Arts Law at Macquarie University. She is a journalist, television producer and documentary maker, currently working at SBS on the Insight program. Rebecca worked at the ABC for two decades as a reporter and a producer on shows including 7.30 and Australian Story. She has a daughter in Year 12 at Abbotsleigh and a son in Year 9.

Treasurer

Margaret Jordan (Thiel, 1986)

Margaret completed an Honours degree in Pure Mathematics at the University of Sydney before embarking on a career as a secondary school Mathematics teacher. She taught in a range of girls' independent schools in Sydney and then Canberra before coming back to Sydney

in 2009 and taking up a teaching position at Abbotsleigh. She is currently Director of Studies at Abbotsleigh. Margaret has a daughter in Year 11 at Abbotsleigh and a son in first year university. Margaret joined the AOGU Committee at the end of 2018 as Honorary Treasurer.

Secretary

Sarah Franks (1991)

Sarah enjoys sharing her Abbotsleigh experience with her daughter, currently in Year 9 at Abbotsleigh. She works in People Operations at Google, which she combines with family life and her passion for coaching and life drawing. She has been the AOGU Secretary since November 2017 and the AOGU Representative on the Marian Clarke Society since late 2019.

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Kim Boniface (Anderson, 1985)

Kim studied Commerce (Marketing) at UNSW, completed an EMBA at the AGSM and works in Employee Engagement and Communications for the Westpac Group. Her three daughters are all recent Old Girls. In her 'spare' time, Kim enjoys judging Rhythmic Gymnastics and recently joined the Gymnastics NSW Judging Management Committee. The immediate past President of the AOGU, Kim stepped down at the end of 2017 after six years. She has been an active member of the Committee since 2008, during which time she also served a three-year term as AOGU Treasurer.

Carly Bull (Mansfield, 1991)

Carly recently joined the AOGU Committee as her eldest and only daughter completed Year 12 in 2020 (she also has two sons, in Years 8 and 10). Now that she is a parent of an Old Girl, she felt that being part of the AOGU Committee is a great way to give back to Abbotsleigh, stay active within the Abbotsleigh community as well as keep in touch with friends who are currently on the Committee. Carly studied Physiotherapy at Sydney University, graduating in 1995. She has had a varied career as a physiotherapist both in Sydney and overseas, but for the

last 13 years has run her own successful physiotherapy and Pilates practice in Turramurra (formerly in Killara). She is also a keen triathlete and endurance sport competitor, having competed twice at the ITU Triathlon World Championships (2014 and 2018) and completing a full Ironman in 2016 (despite not being very athletic at school!). She is currently training for the 2021 Ultra-Trail Australia 50 km ultramarathon, and even has an Abbotsleigh Old Girl as her coach!

Karina Conn (Lorsch, 1986)

Karina has been teaching for 30 years. She now focuses on working with children 'on the spectrum' and with learning difficulties, plus mentoring teaching students at university. However, Karina is first and foremost a proud mum of three daughters, all of whom have attended Abbotsleigh. One of the nicest things about being part of the AOGU Committee for Karina is the ability to have a better understanding and connection with her girls through the School.

Bronwyn Cooper (Ross-Jones, 1980)

Bronwyn was a litigation lawyer but is now into beef farming. She has two daughters who are Old Girls with the younger one graduating in 2019. While she has stepped down from being the Boarder Representative and is no longer an Abbotsleigh parent, she is pleased to be able to continue to be active in the Abbotsleigh community through the AOGU.

Suzie Evennett (Taylor, 1984)

Suzie studied at Macquarie University and travelled extensively through Europe while working in the banking and insurance industries. After a career break to raise her children, she returned to work in the education sector and has remained there for the last decade. Of her three children, both her daughters attended Abbotsleigh, with the youngest graduating in 2018. Suzie has been on the Committee for more than seven years and enjoys the ongoing AOGU connection to the School, the interaction between generations of Old Girls, what they have achieved and how they work together to support the wider community.

Fiona Hobill Cole (Armstrong, 1981)

Fiona studied Landscape Architecture at UNSW after attending Abbotsleigh and has worked as a Landscape Architect since then. Her business fionacoledesign started when her children were little as she started designing friends' gardens and supervising their construction. She loves creating beautiful gardens that people can use and enjoy and respond to the wonderful environment. She has three children. Both her daughters attended Abbotsleigh, her youngest graduating in 2019. Joining the AOGU Committee was a means of staying actively involved in the Abbotsleigh community.

Lara Lizzio (Dawson, 1996)

Lara recently joined the AOGU Committee. Lara works in Corporate Communications consulting to government agencies, large corporations, small business, entrepreneurs and politicians, providing advice on strategy, media, public relations and communications, as well as issues management and crisis communications. Lara is Founder of LM Consulting, operating for 13 years and more recently founded, Wellmum, a platform based on her passion for wellness advocating for mums. After discovering a love of athletics at Abbotsleigh, she captained the Athletics Club at Sydney University and competed for Australia in athletics. She has served on Committees for The Garvan Institute of Medical Research, the Brain Cancer Committee, Vision Australia, Camp Quality Children's Cancer, The Young Professionals Australian Olympic Committee and the Australian Tourism Export Commission. Lara's daughter will commence Abbotsleigh Junior School in 2027.

Karen Love (1987)

Karen works in the corporate world in management consulting and mediation. She is a current Abbotsleigh parent and has found being on the Committee since 2017 very rewarding as it provides a different perspective to school life.

Anne Mitchell (Macfarlane, 1964)

Anne is part of three generations at Abbotsleigh. After school, she moved to the UK, married, then lived in South Africa, Queensland and Philadelphia. Anne's mother had always been active in the Old Girl community and when she passed away, Anne became involved with the AOGU as a way of honouring that connection. She has been a long-standing Committee member also serving

as the War Records Coordinator and is a key organiser of the annual Card Day.

Kate Nicholls (Hall, 1985)

Kate studied Actuarial Studies at Macquarie University, then worked as an actuary before taking a career break to focus on her children. She now works for NAB in remediation. She has two daughters who left Abbotsleigh in 2016 and 2020 and a son who graduated in 2018. Kate is the immediate past Treasurer for the AOGU, serving in this role for four years before stepping down at the end of 2018. She enjoys being on the AOGU Committee as it gives a different perspective to school life.

Caroline Rigby (Miller, 1984)

Caroline had a career in paediatrics as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at RNSH. After taking a career break to focus on the children, she returned to the workforce and now owns an in-home nursing business, HomeWise Health. Caroline comes from a long line of Abbotsleigh connections. Her mother, aunts, sister-in-law are all Old Girls. She has four children; her two daughters graduating in 2016 and 2020. Caroline has been a member of the Committee for a few years and loves everything to do with Abbotsleigh.

Lucy Shilling (Lyle, 1987)

Lucy lived in Sydney and worked in finance after leaving school, with a couple of years travelling overseas in the mix. She now lives in Orange and works in the family crane and earthmoving repairs business. She has one daughter currently at Abbotsleigh, a daughter who graduated from Abbotsleigh in 2020 and a son who has also left school. She has a strong connection to the school with her mother, sister, mother-in-law, sister-in-law and three great aunts having attended Abbotsleigh. Lucy took on the role of AOGU Boarder Representative in 2019.

Alex Zhao (2015)

Ziqing (Alex) is currently completing Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws degrees at the University of Sydney. Through her academic and internship experiences in Sydney and overseas, Alex developed her passion in the areas of accounting and law. As a proud Marian Clarke Scholar and with a heart of giving back as an AOGU award recipient, Alex joined the AOGU committee in November 2019 to stay connected to and serve the Old Girl community.

AOGU COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Linda Ellis (Morris, 1990)

Linda is Group Company Secretary and Corporate Counsel for Steadfast, where she is responsible for ASX compliance and other regulatory liaison, corporate governance and stakeholder liaison, generating growth and improving financial performance. Before joining Steadfast, Linda was a corporate lawyer, specialising in mergers and acquisitions. She is also on the board of Mosman Church of England Preparatory School. Linda took on the role of AOGU Representative on Abbotsleigh Council in November 2018 and brings extensive experience in strategic planning, major projects, risk management and market disclosure.

Bronwyn Matthews (1982)

Bronwyn followed Abbotsleigh with a BEc MComm(Fin) and a CFA. She has also completed the AIDC course in the last five years. Bron has more than 25 years' experience in investment management, particularly equities. She has also founded, owned and operated a Preschool and K-9 NSW Curriculum school for 350 children in Singapore, run a recruitment company and served as a director on the Abbotsleigh Foundation Board over the last nine years.

Michelle Vanzella (1987)

Michelle has a BEc LLB (Hons), an MBA and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She was a boarder at Abbotsleigh and has a daughter in Year 12. She has a combination of customer, marketing, digital, data and commercial legal skills built up across multiple industries, including technology, retail, property and financial services. Michelle practised law at Allens and has held senior executive positions with iconic Australian brands including Westfield, Suncorp and AAMI. She was previously a non-executive director of Canteen and is currently non-executive director at Hunter Water and Collaborate Corp (ASX:CL8). Michelle has been an AOGU Representative on Abbotsleigh Council since November 2015 and is currently Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and a member of the Chair's Communication Committee.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Sarah Hofman (Dowsett, 1986)

Sarah has a Master of Economics, is a chartered accountant and holds her practising certificate from CA ANZ.

Sarah is Chair of the Australian Securitisation Forum and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is currently a Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, having previously spent 20 years as an investment banker. Sarah is a second-generation Old Girl with her mother and aunt both Abbotsleigh boarders. Sarah's daughter left Abbotsleigh in 2018. Sarah has served as an AOGU Representative on Abbotsleigh Council for six years and prior to that served for four years as the AOGU Representative on the Abbotsleigh Foundation. She was appointed a Life Member of the AOGU in November 2019.

Jacqueline Rees (Selosse, 1969)

Jackie continues to be involved with her company, running O'Grady Drama, which develops skills such as communication, confidence and creativity through drama for children. Jackie loved her years at Abbotsleigh and her two daughters both attended the School. She has served on the Committee for many years and continues as an Honorary Life Member supporting the link to our Old Girls.

Margaret Sachs (Coburn, 1965)

Margaret works in the family business, ExecEstate. She joined the AOGU Committee in the early 1970s and over several decades has served as AOGU Secretary, Vice President, President and Chair of the Centenary Appeal Fundraising Committee for the Chapel Organ. She also served as a Director of the Abbotsleigh Foundation and member of the Abbotsleigh Foundation Fundraising Committee and the Marian Clarke Society for many years. Margaret continues to be an active member of the AOGU Committee and Marian Clarke Society. Margaret's daughter is an Old Girl and her grand-daughter is a current student in the Junior School. Abbotsleigh is in Margaret's blood.

Melissa Slattery (Walsh, 1977)

Melissa graduated from Sydney University in 1981 and taught English, History and French at St Luke's Anglican School. She joined the AOGU committee in 1987 and has since served on the Committee, becoming Secretary and

then President from 2001 to 2003. One highlight of those years was helping her predecessor as President, Elizabeth Tomlinson, to establish the Kathleen McCredie Award. She served from 2003 to 2011 as an AOGU Representative on the Abbotsleigh School Council (including on its Building and Development Committee). Melissa was appointed as an Honorary Life Member in 2013, a role she finds very fulfilling. In 2017-2018 she enjoyed working with Rebecca Baillie to produce an oral history of Kathleen McCredie's life to celebrate her 90th birthday. Melissa's daughter graduated from Abbotsleigh in 2005.

EMERITUS LIFE MEMBERS

- Robin Archer (Horwitz, 1959)
- Sue Cross (Jacobs, 1949)
- Jenny Davies (Holman, 1963)
- Robin Kench (Hobart, 1951)
- Kathleen McCredie AM (1945)

Calling Old Girls: New Committee Members and Treasurer needed

Do you answer 'yes' to any of the following?

- I want an opportunity to represent Abbotsleigh Old Girls
- I want an opportunity to reconnect with the Abbotsleigh community
- I want an opportunity to gain a different perspective within the Abbotsleigh community
- It is important to build and strengthen connections between alumni
- I would like to share my time, skills and contacts to help build the Old Girls network

If you answered YES to any of the above statements, you should join the 2022 AOGU Committee and we warmly invite you to join us at some of our 2021 meetings to see what we are all about. The Committee meets just twice a term on a Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm.

All skills and contributions are valued and required, but we notably have a skills gap in the areas of:

- Accounting
- Investment finance
- Events management

- Communications strategies
- Fundraising
- Data management

So, if you have experience in any of these areas, we need you!

The Executive Team will be stepping down in November as they will have served their maximum term. Therefore, if you are interested in taking on an Executive Committee role, please let me know. In particular, we need a new Treasurer. It is not a prerequisite to have an accounting or finance background to take on this role, although a general understanding of finances and a mathematical mind is desirable.

Being part of the AOGU Committee is a wonderful opportunity to work with the Old Girls community and to build our network of women supporting each other, as well as maintaining a connection with Abbotsleigh. It is rewarding work that is also a lot of fun.

Please feel free to contact me at aogupresident@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Belinda Burton
President, AOGU

AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant winner

Linda Dalton says the grant gives valuable rural community project “a whole new life.”

By Rebecca Baillie (1989), AOGU Vice President

It's a rite of passage many 16 and 17-year-olds take for granted: learning to drive and getting their Ps.

But for some young people in and around Linda Dalton's (1979) hometown of Bellingen, on the NSW Mid-North Coast, getting a driver's licence can be tougher than it seems.

“The Bellingen Shire has a relatively low socio-economic index... many people are employed in part-time work, juggling childcare and work, and many rely in part or altogether on Centrelink benefits,” Linda explained.

“There are a significant number of single parent families who are only just getting by.”

In NSW, learner drivers need to log 120 hours of supervised driving before they can apply for their provisional licence.

“In Bellingen, parents (can) struggle to scrape together money for even one driving lesson with a driving school, and working parents, particularly single parents... struggle to find the hours to supervise their children's driving themselves,” Linda said.

With limited public transport in the area, young people rely on getting their licence to get around.

“In a rural area, having a licence opens up enormous possibilities – education, social, part-time work,” Linda said. “If you can't drive, you can't work. It's as simple as that.”

Linda, a solicitor in the town, saw the need and helped establish a project with Bello Youth Hub, called Two Way Street. The program pairs learner drivers with community volunteers, many of whom are retirees, to help the young drivers clock up the requisite training hours.

The Two Way Street project is staffed and organised by volunteers and runs entirely on donations and fundraising. It has two donated vehicles which cost \$3,000 a



Linda Dalton, second from left, was awarded an AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant, which will help keep the Two Way Street project in Bellingen, NSW on the road for a year

year to operate – in petrol, registration, insurance and servicing.

“Our policy is not to charge anything. The second you introduce a fee you lose the ones who can't make the fee. The ones who can pay the fees are the better-off ones. So, by charging a fee you undercut the project in two ways – we lose the kids we want to engage with, and secondly, that obligation to give back would be lost.”

Approximately 150 young people have earned their licences through the program since it began in 2014.

In lieu of payment, the young people give back in other ways. A number of teens who went through the project have become mechanics and service the Two Way Street cars. Others help with car washing and fundraising.

While the program has the tangible, practical benefit of teaching young people to drive and be safe drivers, Linda says an intangible benefit is the creation of strong relationships between young

people and their mentors. Young people turn to their older mentors for advice, and mentors enjoy an enhanced sense of purpose through meaningful engagement with younger members of the community.

“That is where the magic is. It's beautiful.”

In 2020, the AOGU awarded Linda a 110th Anniversary Grant of \$3,000, with the funds guaranteeing the project runs for another year, by covering the on-road costs of its two vehicles.

“I was incredibly grateful that we were able to keep going, that is where the money has been invaluable, it has given Two Way Street a whole new life.”

Our other 2020 Grant winner, Nina Dunn (Tesoriero, 1995), applied for the grant on behalf of Lighthouse for the Community, an organisation that provides frontline support for those experiencing domestic and family violence. We will feature the important work of this life-changing and life-saving organisation in the next edition of *The Loom*.

Snippets

Marion Rivers AM (Osborn, 1965) Orthoptist and former Orthoptics Australia president Mrs Marion Rivers AM (Osborn, 1965) of Gisborne South, Victoria, became a Member of the Order of Australia for services to eyecare and community service. You can read more about Marion's achievements in the next edition of *Around Abbotsleigh*.

Lucy Samuels (2012)

Congratulations to Lucy Samuels (2012) who was one of four finalists in the 2021 NSW Regional Woman of the Year Awards. With a background in broadcast journalism, Lucy is one of the creators of *ExtraOrdinary Outback Stories*, a podcast which sees her piloting a single engine aircraft to outback communities to give rural and isolated people a voice. When she's not flying across remote Australia, Lucy is an employee of Furneys Stockfeeds based in Dubbo. She also volunteers for several causes and has helped raise awareness of 'Save Our Voice', a campaign backing regional media.

Lauren Seeto (AOG 2020)

Congratulations to Lauren Seeto (AOG 2020) who has been named as a finalist in the ClickView Aussie Student Inventions competition. Last year, Lauren created an automated music trolley prototype, which aims to help students move their instruments from place to place as easily as possible. You can watch Lauren's video (and see the other finalists' entries) at the [**Aussie Student Inventions website**](#).



Year 12 2020

We celebrate and congratulate our newest Old Girls – the young women of Year 12 2020 – who, in the face of the unprecedented challenge of a worldwide pandemic, demonstrated outstanding resilience, agility and diligence and achieved outstanding HSC results. The girls navigated their learning during this challenging time supporting and encouraging each other and remained committed to their theme of 'Let's Celebrate: Our Stories Our Spirit Our Strength'. Their stories, their spirit and their strength have become part of Abbotsleigh's rich history and will certainly be something to which future generations of Abbotsleigh girls will aspire.

Congratulations,
Abbotsleigh Class of 2020!

Old Girls triumph at Swimming Carnival



It was a triumphant win for arguably one of the strongest Old Girls swimming teams to ever take on the Boarders and Day Girls at the annual Abbotsleigh Swimming Carnival held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Tuesday 23 February. A reunion of the Nationals Team that represented Abbotsleigh in 2018, team members Becca St Vincent (2019), Holly Nelson (2020), Tash Ramsden (2018) and Emily Ong (2019) completely smashed their opposition in the pool! Congratulations Old Girls!



ABBOTSLEIGH
Old Girls' Union Inc.

AOGU EVENTS 2021

Save the Date.



MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC CHARITY RUN/WALK

Sunday 9 May
Local locations across Australia

The AOGU has kicked off its 2021 Mother's Day Classic campaign and is inviting the Old Girls community to get involved by joining *Team AbbGirls*. This is the fourth year the AOGU has entered a team, but this year the event is going local, meaning that on Mother's Day, you can set out to achieve your goal in your own time, place and pace or at one of a variety of designated locations.

Click here to join *Team AbbGirls* this Mother's Day and you can help support those affected by breast cancer.

CARD DAY

Friday 13 May
10 am-3 pm
GCS Gallery

Commencing with morning tea Grace Cossington Smith Gallery (Vindin House), Abbotsleigh Senior School.

Book a table, bring a friend or let us put you in a team. Everyone is welcome!

\$40 per person

Get tickets here by May 7

NETWORKING DRINKS

Thursday 3 June
6-9 pm
City location TBC

MOTHER DAUGHTER DINNER

Saturday 24 July
6.30-8.30 pm
Dining Room, Abbotsleigh Senior School

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Guest speakers: Linda Dalton and Nina Dunn (2020 110th AOGU Anniversary Grant recipients)

Friday 20 August
8-9.30 am
TBC

ARCHIBALD, WYNNE AND SULMAN PRIZES EXHIBITION TOUR

Friday 15 October
9.30 am
Art Gallery of NSW

GOLF DAY

Friday 12 November
8 am-3 pm
TBC

AGM

Wednesday 17 November
7.30-9 pm
Abbotsleigh Senior School and Zoom

OLD GIRLS VS CURRENT GIRLS DEBATE

Tuesday 23 November
6.30-7.30 pm
PDCH, Abbotsleigh Senior School and Zoom



Reunions for 2021

Marian Clarke Society Black & Gold Lunch (for those Old Girls celebrating 35 years or more since leaving school)

Friday 16 July
12.30 pm
Dining Room, Abbotsleigh Senior School

1950 leavers' 70 Year Reunion

Date tbc
Dining Room, Abbotsleigh Senior School tbc

1951 leavers' 70 Year Reunion

Date tbc
Dining Room, Abbotsleigh Senior School tbc

1960 leavers' 60 Year Reunion

Monday 8 November – Tour of Abbotsleigh
Tuesday 9 November
lunch
Pymble Golf Club, Pymble
Anne Le Couteur (Bullen)
Morag Hollway
Jane Meggitt (Rutherford)

1961 leavers' 60 Year Reunion

Thursday 15 July
12 noon for 12.30 pm
Pymble Golf Club, Pymble

Julie McFadzean (Dillon)
Jill Auld (Cowper)
Kristin Johnson (Kerr)
Joan Lampe

1965 leavers' 55 Year Reunion

Wednesday 10 November
12 noon
The Queen's Club, Sydney
Pip Bowmaker (Wilkinson)
Liz Tracy (Lee)
Margaret Sachs (Coburn)
Jane Hewett (Elmslie)

Stephanie Hardy (King)
Belinda Dawkins (Petrie)
Penny Sharp (Petrie)
Virginia Ryan (Rorke)
Dimitry Riley (Wood)

1970 leavers' 50 Year Reunion

Date tbc
Libby Gardiner (Amos)

1971 leavers' 50 Year Reunion

Saturday 16 October
Morning tea followed by lunch
Dining Room, Abbotsleigh Senior School
Catherine Morrison (FitzSimons)
Gillian Atwell (Reeves)

1980 leavers' 40 Year Reunion

Saturday 25 September
2.30-6 pm
Mosman Rowers Club, Mosman
Linda Lorimer (Pratten)

1981 leavers' 40 Year Reunion

Organisers needed

1985 leavers' 35 Year Reunion

Saturday 16 October
Firehouse Hotel, Walker Street, North Sydney
Cathy Pegler
Lucy Rigby
Susannah McLennan
Sarina Locke

1990 leavers' 30 Year Reunion

Organisers needed

1991 leavers' 30 Year Reunion

Saturday 6 November
1-4 pm
Gallon Hotel, Pymont
Anine Leakey

1995 leavers' 25 Year Reunion

Saturday 11 September
Venue tbc
Lisa Bloom (Thiedeman)

1996 leavers' 25 Year Reunion

Date tbc
Ro Backus (Armstrong)
Lara Lizzio (Dawson)
Kate Howitt (Griffith)
Elissa Coates (Hickey)

2000 leavers' 20 Year Reunion

Saturday 29 May
5.30 pm
The Tilbury Hotel, Woolloomooloo
Leonie Marsh (Mansfield)
Caroline Hugall (Kell)

2001 leavers' 20 Year Reunion

Organisers needed

2010 leavers' 10 Year Reunion

Date tbc
Ally Dennis
Elyce McClelland
Millie Hart
Eunice Fung

2011 leavers' 10 Year Reunion

Organisers needed

2015 leavers' 5 Year Reunion

Date tbc
Bianca Brummer
Amelia Bryant
Emily Hazell
Alice Johnson
Lucy Taylor

2016 leavers' 5 Year Reunion

Organisers needed

For more information about your reunion or to contact the organiser, please contact the Old Girls office.



Moving House?

Update your contact details [here](#)

Gifts that last a lifetime

Visit the [Abbotsleigh website](#)
or contact [Sasha Carrel](#) for more
information.

Stay Connected **Contact the Old Girls**

Office: aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au
or 02 9473 7740

Locked Bag 1666
Wahroonga NSW 2076

Belinda Burton: aogu.president@gmail.com

Sarah Franks: aogu.secretary@gmail.com

Follow us on  

Please note that *The Loom* is going fully digital. Please ensure that the AOGU has your email address to continue receiving future editions of *The Loom* and other publications. For those of you who have a particular need for a printed copy of *The Loom*, please contact the Old Girls Office to discuss.

Scholarship opportunities

The Foundation Scholarship is now open and available to new and current Abbotsleigh students in Year 9 2021 (Year 10 2022). It is a needs-based academic scholarship which commences at Year 10 level and provide up to 50% remission of school tuition fees for the remainder of schooling. Consideration is given to academic attainment, general interest and ability and participation in other activities, for example, service and community activities, music, drama and sport. Two Foundation Scholarships are awarded. This scholarship has a closing date of Friday 11 June. [Click here](#) to download the application kit.

The Centenary Scholarship was inaugurated by the AOGU in 1985 to commemorate Abbotsleigh’s Centenary Year and is awarded annually. It is awarded to a current Year 11 student who is the daughter of an Abbotsleigh Old Girl for all round participation and achievement. This is a non-means tested scholarship which provides 25% remission of school tuition fees for the remainder of schooling. Eligible students will be sent a letter of invitation and application form during Term 2.

Change to the Enrolment Policy affecting daughters of Abbotsleigh Old Girls

I am delighted with the change to the Enrolment Policy affecting the daughters of Abbotsleigh Old Girls. We value the connection of Old Girls with the School and would like to assist with ensuring that daughters of Old Girls attend Abbotsleigh. It will no longer be necessary for the daughter of an Abbotsleigh Old Girl to attend entrance testing for her entry to Year 5 or Year 7. Accepted places are offered to daughters of Abbotsleigh Old Girls entering at ALL entry points on early application. Abbotsleigh Old Girls are strongly encouraged to make application soon after the birth of their daughter to best



ensure a place at Abbotsleigh. After 12 months of age, places are offered to those girls on the waiting list and while we will always try to assist with progressing enrolment for the daughter of an Old Girl, it will become more difficult to guarantee a place. The entry points for Junior School are Transition, Kindergarten, Year 3 and Year 5. The entry point for Senior School is Year 7. Please contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of this process. I look forward to welcoming the daughters of Old Girls to Abbotsleigh.

Mrs Colleen Fenn, Registrar
registrar@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

Aprons \$25 each or two for \$40

Tea towels \$15 each or three for \$35

Portable chargers \$25 each

All profits from merchandise sales go towards the Kathleen McCredie Award.

Order now

Or call 02 9473 7740



Celebrate your time at Abbotsleigh with a commemorative paver

When an Abbotsleigh girl walks out the front gates for the final time and takes her first step into her new journey as an Old Girl, she can't help but leave a little piece of herself behind.

The School has a special way to recognise these special 'steps of time'. In recognition of donations of \$500 or more (tax deductible) to the Abbotsleigh Foundation, you will receive a commemorative paver and in doing so create a lasting legacy.

Our pavers are located just outside the Marian Clarke Building where current students, staff, Old Girls and guests stroll by them on a daily basis.

These 'steps of time' tell a story of those who have been part of the School's history and at the same time create an opportunity where Old Girls and their families can enjoy seeking out their pavers amongst the collection. In addition, our current students also enjoy finding familiar names and families during their school day.

Every Abbotsleigh girl, past and present, has benefited from the generosity of parents, Old Girls and staff.

If you would like to take up this opportunity, please contact **Sasha Carrel** or call 9473 7738.



*Cover image

1945, Abbotsleigh girls on the bank near Vindin House.

Photograph from Rosemary Middleton (MacPhillamy, 1948).

Our cover girls have only been identified as 'Shorty' and 'Lucy'. If you think that you might know who they are, please let the Old Girls Office know at oldgirls@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au or call 9473 7740.



AOGU events



AOGU AGM

Like most of the AOGU Committee meetings last year, the 2020 AOGU Annual General Meeting in November was held via Zoom – one of the upsides was it allowed for members who live outside Sydney to attend more easily.



AOGU Family Bowls Day

Old Girls Rosie Meares (2019), Fiona Hobill Cole (Armstrong, 1981) and daughter Clementine Hobill Cole (2019) enjoying the 2021 AOGU Family Bowls Day.



Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate

The inaugural Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate was held at the end of last year via Zoom. Pictured are participants including Old Girls team members Sarah Kelland (2016), Kendall Shepherd (2014) and Kaitlyn Crowe (2014) who successfully argued against the topic 'that wisdom comes with age'.



AOGU Networking Breakfast

The 2020 AOGU Networking "Breakfast" went ahead via Zoom and Rebecca Ladd (1981), one of the 2019 AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant winners, provided a fascinating insight into the Deaf community across the world.

