

The Loom

The newsletter for Abbotsleigh Old Girls



President's message

Hi everyone

A warm welcome to you all in this very special year for the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union as we celebrate its 110th birthday.

The Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union ('AOGU' or 'The Union') was founded in 1908 by Miss Marian Clarke. Today, we have more than 9,000 members spread worldwide. The Union aims to maintain and pass down the traditions of Abbotsleigh, as well as keep Old Girls of all ages connected with the School and each other.

Our theme for 2018 is 'Celebrating 110 years of building connections'. We started the year by officially welcoming our youngest Old Girls (2017 leavers) to the AOGU with a casual afternoon tea to celebrate their successes to date. We also hosted an afternoon tea for the Old Girls who have daughters or grand-daughters at the School with a particular focus on welcoming those whose daughters started at Abbotsleigh this year.

The AOGU committee has been busy organising a host of different activities to help continue to build connections and foster the Abbotsleigh spirit. I encourage you to join us whether you are a bridge player (Card Day), keen to get active (walk or run for the AbbGirls team in the Mother's Day Challenge in support of breast cancer research), fancy a walk down memory lane (Back to Junior School Day), prefer a morning of culture (Archibald, Wynne and Sulman tour) or are looking to expand your career network (one of our networking functions). There are many other events coming up so please keep an eye out for the invitations and follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. However, if none of our current events sparks an interest, I would love to hear your suggestions for future events and how we can better engage with you.

Best wishes and stay connected

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)
Honorary President, AOGU

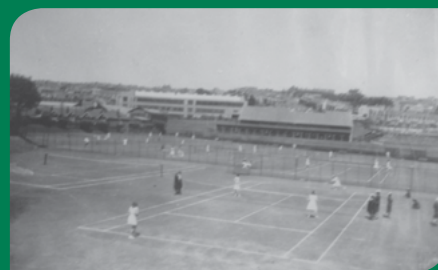


Connections past and present

Over the past few months Old Girls have come together to share common interests.

Honouring Tildesley

Tildesley tennis turned 100 this year. Although wet weather hampered play, a number of Old Girls who had played in the tournament attended the special morning tea and joined in the festivities.



Our Sports Precinct wins major international architecture prize

The Judith Poole Sports Hall and playing fields recently won the Sport in Architecture Award at the 2018 World Architecture News Awards in London.

Mrs Judith Poole attended the ceremony. She is pictured here with principal architect, Michael Heenan. Mrs Poole, who was Headmistress of Abbotsleigh for 12 years before retiring in 2016, said she was overjoyed to be there for the acknowledgments.

'Providing an environment which nurtures the whole child was important to me,' she said. 'Physical development complements intellectual development so this Sports Precinct is an important facility to encourage a range of activity.'



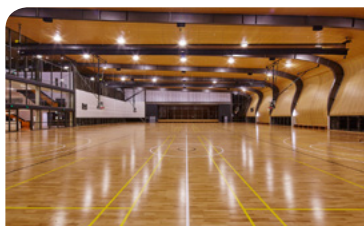
Sport also builds the skills needed in team play and leadership, which are important in many aspects of life.'

Mrs Poole is enjoying a sea change with her husband while spending time with her eight grandchildren.

Current Headmistress of Abbotsleigh, Mrs Megan Krimmer, said the Sports Hall and synthetic field have become an integral part of our PDHPE programs, sports and after school activities.

'The facility is used for a variety of activities including netball, basketball, badminton and gymnastics,' Mrs Krimmer said.

'While this world class facility is a wonderful asset to the School and girls' education, it has also been of great benefit to the local community with many local sporting organisations taking advantage of it as a training venue.'



Old Girls, young girls, new girls

Old Girls, their daughters at Abbotsleigh and some grandmothers who are Old Girls joined us for the annual afternoon tea for Old Girl mothers at Abbotsleigh in February.

2017 leavers celebration

The 2017 leavers gathered to celebrate great results and catch up with friends, teachers and mentors as they step into their lives after Abbotsleigh.



Abbotsleigh Literary Festival

The biennial Abbotsleigh Literary Festival is an exciting event for students and adults. Old Girls and friends are invited to a number of events in June reflecting the theme 'The Story Within'.



These include:

An evening with Stan Grant
Tuesday 5 June
7 pm
Dining Room, Senior School
\$70 per person



Stan Grant is the Indigenous Affairs Editor for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and special advisor to the Prime Minister on Indigenous constitutional recognition.

A multi-award winning current affairs host and author, Stan Grant's Aboriginal heritage has shaped his dynamic, resilient personality.

He has written *The Tears of Strangers*, *Talking to My Country* and *The Urgency of Now*.

Book now

Writing historical fiction with Darcy-Lee Tindale

Thursday 7 June
9 am-12 noon
Betty Archdale Library, Senior School
\$40 per person

Let the irrepressible Darcy-Lee Tindale help you discover your writing skills in a workshop designed to ignite your passion for writing historical fiction.



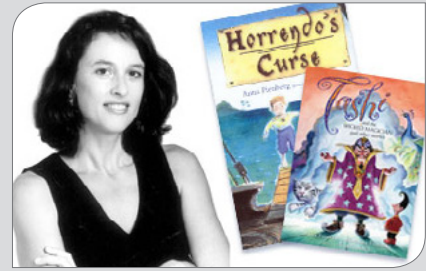
Book now

The importance of reading for pleasure with Anna Feinberg

Thursday 7 June
12 noon
Lower Everett Space, Junior School
\$20 per person

Anna is an award-winning author, her books include 17 titles in the Tashi series and the Minton Goes series. She will present a talk for parents and grandparents on the importance of reading for pleasure and the advantages of promoting reading.

[Book now](#)



Kathleen McCredie Scholarship – creating opportunity

One Kathleen McCredie Scholarship is currently awarded every three years to a girl, who, but for the scholarship, would not be able to attend Abbotsleigh. This scholarship covers full tuition for Years 10-12, is means-tested and honours the dynamic and positive influence of Miss McCredie during her time as Headmistress (1970-1987). The student must demonstrate all round involvement in the areas of spirituality, culture, service, sports and academia.

Past Kathleen McCredie scholars often say that this scholarship changed their life.

The Abbotsleigh Foundation and the AOGU are working together to help to build an endowment so that two scholarships can be offered for a 2020 start. To be able to offer these girls the opportunity, the Foundation needs to raise \$210,000.

One of the ways the foundation is raising funds is through the Dazzle and Dine Ball, which will be held at Luna Park on Saturday 4 August, 6.30 pm to midnight. Tickets are \$275 per person, which includes canapés, a three course dinner, a 5 ½ hour beverage package and live entertainment by the sensational band, Martini Club. Tickets available via [Trybooking](#) or contact Danielle Cotter, Development Manager, on 02 9473 7738.

**Dazzle
and Dine Ball**

**ABBOTSLEIGH
FOUNDATION**

**The Abbotsleigh Foundation invites you to the Dazzle and Dine Ball
a night of glamour, with a celebrity host and, of course, a red carpet!**

**Saturday 4 August 2018
6.30 pm to midnight
Crystal Palace, Luna Park
1 Olympic Drive, Milsons Point**

\$275 per person includes canapés, a three course dinner, a 5 ½ hour beverage package and live entertainment by the sensational 'Martini Club' band.

Dress: 'A night at the Oscars'

Tickets now on sale (Individual or tables of 12).

**So get your dancing shoes ready and book now at
www.trybooking.com/UUFH**

**Funds raised will go towards the means-tested
Kathleen McCredie Scholarships and Indigenous Scholarships.**

**A night at the
Oscars**

Reunions to keep us connected during 2018

Canberra reunion – Tuesday 15 May

Western NSW reunion, Manildra – Saturday 8 September

Brisbane (Queensland) reunion – Thursday 25 October

Year reunions

10 year 2008 leavers – Saturday 15 September at The Winery, Surry Hills. Organiser Jessica Bennett

30 year 1988 leavers – Saturday 10 November, venue TBA. Organiser Emma Joyce (Boston)

40 year 1978 leavers – Saturday 15 September, Killara Golf Club. Organisers Ann Taylor (Kerr), Shelley Laycock (Faine)

50 year 1968 leavers – Saturday 20 October, Abbotsleigh Senior School. Organisers Margaret Symington (Bridgman) and reunion committee

70 year 1948 leavers – Friday 19 October, Abbotsleigh Senior School. Organisers Prue McCullagh (Docker), Elizabeth Palmer (Maegraith) and Janet Hay (Cowper)

Would you like to help organise your reunion?

We are looking for reunion organisers for a few year groups. We would love to hear from you if you would like to be part of the organising committee for the following years:

5 year 2013 leavers

25 year 1993 leavers

15 year 2003 leavers

60 year 1958 leavers

20 year 1998 leavers

65 year 1953 leavers

An open invitation

Are you interested in joining a group of vibrant, dedicated and generous women?

I warmly invite you to join the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union committee in 2019. The AOGU has a long tradition of exceptional Old Girls volunteering their time to serve on the committee. These women share a love of the School and its traditions, a passion for girls' education and value the importance of maintaining a connection with Abbotsleigh and connecting the generations of amazing girls who have passed through its gates.

We meet on the first Wednesday evening of each month during term time and it is a wonderful opportunity to hear from our Headmistress and generally share ideas. If you have a little bit of spare time, I strongly encourage you to get involved.

Do you have a background in finance or accounting?

We are looking for someone to take on the position of Treasurer in 2019 as our current Treasurer comes to the end of her five-year term. The role of the Treasurer is to coordinate and oversee the investments, tax payments and administration of the Union's bank accounts. However, we are not a large organisation, so the role is not particularly onerous. Please contact Heleen Fourie (fourieh@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au) for further details.

I look forward to welcoming you onto our team.

Belinda Burton
President AOGU

AOGU networking dinner

Health, vitality and happiness



Speaker

Louise Edney (Fritschy, 1986) nutritionist and founder of Nourishing Nosh

Thursday 31 May 2018

6.30 for 7 pm

Fortune Village Restaurant, 209 Clarence Street, Sydney
\$50 per person (includes dinner, wine and soft drinks)
\$450 for a table of 10

Click [here](#) to pay by Wednesday 23 May
AOGU – celebrating 110 years of building connections



Ten minutes with our Head of Junior School

We caught up with our Head of Junior School, Ms Sally Ruston, to see what drew her to education and what interests her outside the school gates.

[Read more +](#)



Awesome cross country results in Paris

Six of our senior athletes recently competed at the ISF World Schools Cross Country Championships in Paris.

[Read more +](#)



Back to Junior School day

All Old Girls are invited to an afternoon of nostalgia and creative fun at the Junior School.

[Read more +](#)



AOGU Archibald Tour


The AOGU warmly invites Old Girls to an exclusive tour of the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman prizes.

[Read more +](#)

Like us!

Thanks for helping us reach 1.5k followers on [Facebook!](#)

If you like to stay in touch with what's happening with our members and across the School, this is a great way to do it. Enjoy bite-sized news stories and updates sharing achievements and events.



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