



ABBOTSLEIGH

The Loom

ABBOTSLEIGH OLD GIRLS
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2019



Boarders' picnic

Frenchs Forest 1938

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday 12 May
Mother's Day Classic
The Domain

Friday 17 May
Tour of Archibald,
Wynne and Sulman Prizes
Art Gallery of NSW

Thursday 13 June
Business Networking
Dinner
Fortune Village Chinese
Restaurant

Saturday 27 July
Mother Daughter High Tea
Dining Room,
Senior School

President's message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome and Celebrate.

Term 1 has given me the great pleasure of officially welcoming new AOGU Treasurer, Margaret Jordan (Thiel, 1986) to our Committee and Executive Team. As an Old Girl, current Abbotsleigh teacher and an Abbotsleigh parent, she brings a wealth of experience and different perspectives to the role and is an asset to our volunteer team. We also welcome Jessica Combe (2012) and Bronwyn Cooper (Ross-Jones, 1980) as new Committee members.

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)

At the AOGU's first function of 2019, I had the honour of welcoming back the Class of 2018 as Old Girls and congratulating them on their amazing HSC results. They have already achieved so much in a variety of different areas and I look forward to seeing what the next chapter brings from them.

We also have much to celebrate in terms of success stories from our Old Girls and bring some to you in this issue. We love to share and support all Old Girls' successes, so please keep us up to date with your or your friends' news.

In the spirit of supporting Old Girls to follow their dreams to better the world, it was exciting to announce Rachel Scott, Hannah Goodwin and Fiona Riley as the winners of the inaugural 110th Anniversary Grant at our 2018 AGM. Our feature story this edition is an interview with Rachel Scott and it is heart-warming to see how our relatively small contribution made such a large difference to the children of Hillston Central School and their community. Congratulations to Rachel on the wonderful work she is doing. Come join us at our Networking Dinner to hear more about her involvement with the Australian Music School. Please also watch this space as we will be featuring our other winners and their projects throughout the year.

As usual, read on for a line-up of year and regional reunions taking place throughout the year. Of particular note was the Singapore event on 16 April, open to the whole Abbotsleigh community, which was attended by our Headmistress, Megan Krimmer, and Deputy Head, Victoria Rennie. It was wonderful to see so many members of the Abbotsleigh community, past and

present, take this opportunity to connect with each other.

Embracing change.

I am very excited about 2019 as we implement some variations to traditional functions, transition to better use of technology and focus on how we can better communicate and engage with our membership. To get the ball rolling (pun intended) we reinstated the AOGU Bowls Day with a family focus; this is our first family event and it was fantastic to see three generations out on the green laughing and making new friends.

I am also pleased to reveal our new-look *Loom*. While we all enjoy a make-over now and again and are left feeling revitalised, be confident that the spirit of sharing news and networking remains at the core of this publication.

We are endeavouring to update our database systems and better use social media. It will no doubt be a slow process, but we are heading in the right direction and I ask for your patience and assistance as we move forward. We welcome any constructive feedback and ask that you help by updating your contact details through our website.

Finally, you may have heard that our long-serving Old Girls Relations Manager, Heleen Fourie, has left to pursue other dreams and we wish her well. We are very grateful to Rhonda Kaan (Turner, 1993) who stepped up from the Assistant's role to fill the gap in the Old Girls Office throughout Term 1. However, I am thrilled to now announce that Rhonda, assisted by Development and Community Relations Assistant, Carrie Medford, will be our new team in the Old Girls Office.



One of the many thank you letters from the children at Hillston Central School

Class of 2018 Afternoon Tea



The AOGU was pleased to host an afternoon tea for the Class of 2018 as its first function for 2019. What a wonderful afternoon to celebrate their HSC successes, wish them well for

their next chapter in life and for them to catch up with teachers and each other.

AOGU President, Belinda Burton, commended the girls on their support, encouragement and assistance of each other through competitive and stressful times. She attributed their amazingly high mean ATAR of 94.2 (compared to a NSW mean ATAR of 69.75) to their ability to help each other to be the best they can be. She also encouraged them to use the opportunities created by the AOGU to build connections and learn from each other to build a stronger future for

themselves and a stronger future for all women.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Class of 2018 and our newest Old Girls! Best of luck for your next chapter and stay connected.



Mothers' Afternoon Tea

Old Girls with daughters/granddaughters currently at Abbotsleigh gathered for an informal afternoon tea at the start of term to welcome Old Girls whose daughters started at the School this year.



Family Bowls

AOGU bowls has been resurrected with a slightly different focus. At our first family event, inclusive of husbands and sons, three generations came together to share a relaxed evening of barefoot bowls and a barbecue buffet. While we had facilities for a competitive match, our experienced bowlers chose instead to share their knowledge with the newbies and it looks like we have a few bowlers in the making.

A trophy for closest to the jack was awarded to Sophie Conn as well as medals for runners up (Bella Nichols and Karen Love), most enthusiastic (Harry Doyle), most gutterballs (father and son team Dave and Curtis Kennedy), under 12s (Charlotte Doyle) and best novice Kasim Ali-Khan.

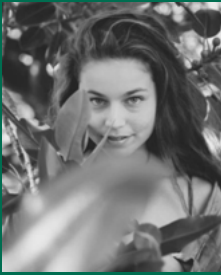


Snippets

PHOEBE LOUGHHEAD (2018)

Phoebe has made her rugby debut for the Waratahs. Initially on the reserve bench, she ran on with 20 minutes to go. Congratulations Phoebe, we will watch your career with interest.

AMY NELSON (2017)



Amy Nelson, aka Little Green, is holding a launch show on 26 April to celebrate the release of her debut single. She will also be featuring another band, Studio 9, formed from 2018 Abbotsleigh graduates. Come

support our Abbotsleigh Old Girl talent. Tickets are only \$15 per adult and children are free. [Click here](#) for more information and to **book now!**

JILL COLEBOURN (2013)



Biathlete Jill Colebourn has made history as the first Australian female in 20 years to qualify for a Biathlon World Cup. The sport combines cross-country skiing with rifle shooting and was born out of survival. Biathlon found its roots

in Scandinavia when people had to hunt on skis. Although not a common sport in the warmer climate of Down Under, the former Abbotsleigh JS Ski Team member is making a name for herself on the slopes.

PIP BRETT (2001)

Fashion designer and former Head Boarder Prefect, Pip Brett, who runs her own boutique in Orange has just been given a Global Honouree Award at the Global Innovation Awards in Chicago. What a massive achievement for 'a little rural girl'! [Click here](#) to read the *Orange City Life* article.

JESSICA DETTMANN (1996)



Old Girl, Jessica Dettmann, made the move from editor to author with her debut novel recently published. *How to be Second Best* is a hilarious and heart-warming book that

captures the drama, delights and delirium of modern parenting. Grab your copy today.



The Old Girls team comprised Amy Nelson (2017), Ella Goldsmith (2015), Natasha Ramsden (2018), Keely Allsop (2018)

Senior School Swimming Carnival

This year's Senior School Swimming Carnival saw the ever-popular race between the boarders, day girls and Old Girls. The race was very well fought out, but the day girls were just too strong. The Old Girls came in a very valiant second though.



Mother's Day Classic

On Mother's Day this year, hundreds of Australian school teams will be walking, running and celebrating in support of breast cancer research. We are pleased to announce that the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union has set up a team for the whole Abbotsleigh community to join as proud participants in the 2019 Mother's Day Classic on Sunday 12 May.

Whether you are walking, running or cheering us on, we would love you to join us on the day. With the prizes for the largest school team, fastest school team and best team fundraising up for grabs, feel free to bring along all your friends and family to join in the fun. With free entertainment and activities running throughout the event, it's a great way to spend the day with your mum!

Make Mother's Day mean more this year by supporting a cause that affects us all.

Join our team **AbbGirls**

Show your support and make a donation [here](#).

Keeping Old Girls Connected

Year Reunions

- **1949 leavers 70 years** – Wednesday 5 June, Abbotsleigh, Organiser Sue Cross (Jacobs)
- **1959 leavers 60 years** – Friday 25 October, Abbotsleigh, Organisers Angela Barker (Blackwood) and Chris Fox (Carter)
- **1964 leavers 55 years** – Sunday 27 October, Killara Golf Club Organiser Anne Mitchell (Macfarlane)
- **1969 leavers 50 years** – Saturday 31 August, Abbotsleigh, Organisers Helen Audsley, Meriel Barlow (Beale) and Helen Mallick (Beveridge)
- **1979 leavers 40 years** – TBC, Organisers Suzie Currie and Chrissie Baltussen (Bloch-Petersen)
- **1989 leavers 30 years** October, venue TBC Organiser Anthea Thomas (Mulready)
- **1999 leavers 20 years** – TBC, Organisers Georgia O'Hara and Sofie Mason-Jones
- **2009 leavers 10 years** – TBC, Organisers Alexandra Davis, Jaclyn Ap and Sophie Armitage

Thank you to all who have already volunteered to help organise these reunions. If your year group is not listed and you are due to celebrate a five or ten year anniversary since leaving school, and you wish to be involved in organising your reunion, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact the Old Girls' Office at aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au or 02 9473 7740.

Area and Other Reunions

- **North West Reunion** Friday 9 August 2019, 12 noon, Goonoo Goonoo Station, Tamworth Organiser Anne Mitchell (Macfarlane)
- **Queensland Reunion** – Thursday 24 October, The Moreton Club, Brisbane Organiser Sue Innes
- **Carpe Diem Lunch** – Monday 21 October
- **Dubbo Community Event** (including Old Girls) – Saturday 18 May, 6-8 pm at The Red Barrel Wine House, Macquarie Street, Dubbo

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 for 2020. 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 these doors.

We meet on the first Wednesday evening of each month during term time. It is a wonderful opportunity to support the Old Girls community and to build our network of women supporting each other. If you can spare some of your time, I strongly encourage you to get involved.

Do you have a background in investment finance and accounting?

In particular, we are looking to fill a skills gap in the area of investment finance and accounting. Please contact us if you are able to assist.

We look forward to welcoming you onto our team.

ABBOTSLEIGH SPORTS LUNCH
leather and laces

SAVE THE DATE



FUNDRAISING LUNCH

Friday 16 August 2019
12-4.30 pm

NEW VENUE

Doltone House – Jones Bay Wharf

Enquiries email Kris Egan
Media and Events Manager
egank@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au
or call 9473 7738



ABBOTSLEIGH

Careers Night

Can you help?
Abbotsleigh Careers Night
Monday 13 May 2019, 7-9.15 pm
Old Girls needed to share their expertise – especially in the fields of
Follow Your Dreams, Science/Engineering & Primary/Special Education
Light meal available from 6pm
Please call Marg Selby on 9473 7831



Moving House?

Update your contact details [here](#)

Gifts that last a lifetime

Visit the [Abbotsleigh website](#) or contact the [Development Office](#) for more information.

Stay Connected Contact the Old Girls

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

Belinda Burton: aogu.president@gmail.com

Sarah Franks: aogu.secretary@gmail.com

Locked Bag 1666
Wahroonga NSW 2016



AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant Winner

Taking music to the bush with AOGU grant winner, Rachel Scott (1990).

[READ MORE](#)



The Hawkesbury

The spectacular Hawkesbury river landscape is the theme for the latest exhibition at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. 6 April to 9 May.

[READ MORE](#)



AOGU Networking Dinner

Join us for an evening of networking and hear from one of the winners of the inaugural AOGU 110th Grant, Rachel Scott (1990), on how music has helped her work with disadvantaged children. Thursday 13 June 2019.

Invite open to all Old Girls and a guest

[READ MORE](#)



Tour of Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes

You are warmly invited to enjoy an exclusive tour of the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes. 17 May.

[READ MORE](#)