

The Loom

The newsletter for Abbotsleigh Old Girls



President's message

Hi everyone

2018 has been a very busy year. We have celebrated the 110th birthday of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union, as well as the 90 birthday of former Headmistress and Old Girl, Miss Kathleen McCredie. In addition to our regular schedule of events, we hosted a Back to Junior School Day as well as a Gala Evening.

The Back to Junior School Day was a fun afternoon where Old Girls toured the Junior School and had the opportunity to tinker with circuits and new technology in the newly-opened Maker Education and Science Spaces. The activities and tours were led by current Year 5 and 6 daughters of Old Girls. The discussions and shared experiences between Old Girls and our future Old Girls made the afternoon particularly special.

Miss McCredie left an indelible mark on Abbotsleigh, so to honour her 90th birthday, the AOGU commissioned an oral history to record some of her many achievements. The video was created with the support and expertise of Melissa Slattery (Walsh, 1977) and Rebecca Baillie (1989). In addition, a highlights video was put together and we were pleased to share a short extract at the School's Birthday Assembly and the full version at the Gala Evening as well as at the Central and Western Districts Reunion. I understand there are a number of you who missed out on the opportunity to see the video and we are investigating options of how we can make this available.

Through celebrating '110 Years of Building Connections', it has become clear to me how lucky we are to have the AOGU. I've had the pleasure of meeting so many amazing women who have pursued different paths in life and there is so much that we can learn and share with each other. I encourage you to stay connected by following us on the AOGU Facebook page and on Instagram, checking that we are not on your junk mail list and by ensuring your contact details are up to date, which can be done via the school website or by calling the AOGU office.

In the spirit of supporting Old Girls to pursue their dreams to better the world, I am excited to promote the establishment of the 110th Anniversary Grant. You can read more about this later in this edition of *The Loom*.

Last but certainly not least, my thoughts and prayers go out to members of our Abbotsleigh community who are suffering from the devastating drought that is gripping NSW. In addition to the School's initiatives to support boarding families, we are looking at other ways we can support our regional members.

Best wishes and stay connected.

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)
President, Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union



Afternoon Tea and Gala Evening



Back to Junior School



Kathleen McCredie turns 90

It was with much delight the AOGU celebrated the 90th birthday of Miss Kathleen McCredie AM in August. Miss McCredie was the first (and so far, only) Abbotsleigh Old Girl to return as Headmistress (1970-1987). She was a pupil at Abbotsleigh from 1940-1945 and also a Prefect.

During Miss McCredie's term as Headmistress, facilities improved considerably with new science laboratories, a library extension, extra classrooms, a language laboratory and a beautiful Year 12 Common Room. In 1983, the Centenary Building was officially opened and in 1990, the McCredie House boarding house was opened in her honour.

While she saw Abbotsleigh as always having had a strong academic reputation, this wasn't enough for Miss McCredie. She saw it as being all those intangibles – the search after truth, the encouragement to think, to use initiative, to develop responsible attitudes, to serve others, to discipline ourselves, to have fun, to be happy, to be enthusiastic for work and all those activities that help girls to develop spiritually, mentally, physically, socially – and all of this would help to further school spirit.

During the celebrations, Old Girls who had Miss McCredie as their headmistress commented they had been 'so lucky' describing her as 'an inspiration', 'well-loved' and 'a brilliant and visionary educator'.



Annual General Meeting of the Old Girls' Union and end of year function

Wednesday 21 November 2018

At the 2018 Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union ('AOGU' or 'Union'), it is expected that there will be a change to position of Treasurer. The Union is now inviting nominations for new Committee members and Officers.

The AGM of the AOGU is always an informative and often entertaining evening. There will be an overview of the year's work and the Union's financial position before the new Committee and Officers are voted in. All attendees are invited to stay for nibbles and a glass of wine to end the evening.

Please join us for this year's event to thank Margaret Bisley for her years of service on the Abbotsleigh Council and her excellent guidance to the Committee over the years, and Kate Nicholls for her dedication and contribution to the Committee as Treasurer of the AOGU.

Notice of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union Annual General Meeting 2018 on Wednesday 21 November 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union Incorporated will be held in the Resident Staff Room at Abbotsleigh, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga on **Wednesday 21 November 2018 commencing at 7.30 pm**. All AOGU members are welcome.

Order of business

Confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM;

Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Honorary President;

Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Honorary Treasurer including the audited financial statements and the Auditor's report for the year ending 30 June 2018;

Appoint the auditor for the year 2018/2019;

Elect the Committee and Officers for 2018/2019 including confirmation of AOGU nominated Abbotsleigh Council Representatives; and

To conduct any other business of which 14 days prior written notice has been given.

All Committee and Officer positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and nominations for these positions are now open.

Nominations of candidates for positions on the Committee and on the School Council must be signed by the proposer and seconder and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Nominations must be sent by **Monday 19 November 2018** to: The Honorary Secretary, AOGU, Locked Bag 1666, Wahroonga NSW 2076.

A nomination form for the positions on the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union Committee can be obtained by contacting **Heleen Fourie**, Old Girls Relations Manager or call Heleen on 9473 7740.

Members of the AOGU who wish to receive a ballot paper for the election of the Committee, including the council representative, must write to the Secretary requesting a ballot paper **by Monday 12 November 2018**. Ballot papers must be returned by **Monday 19 November 2018** to: The Honorary Secretary, AOGU, Locked Bag 1666, Wahroonga NSW 2076.

For more information, please contact **Sarah Franks, Honorary Secretary of the AOGU**, via email.

Reunions to keep us connected during 2018 Carpe Diem events – Sydney and Brisbane

All Old Girls who have celebrated their 45 year reunion are welcome to attend The Carpe Diem lunches.

- **Sydney** on Monday 15 October 2018
- **Brisbane** on Thursday 25 October 2018

Please [click here](#) to book for either event.

October and November year reunions

- 1948 leavers 70 year reunion, Friday 19 October, at Abbotsleigh
- 1968 leavers 50 year reunion, Saturday 20 October, at Abbotsleigh
- 1998 leavers 20 year reunion, Saturday 20 October, at The Greens, North Sydney
- 2013 leavers 5 year reunion, Saturday 20 October, at the New Hampton Hotel, Potts Point
- 1958 leavers 60 year reunion, Friday 9 November, at Abbotsleigh
- 1988 leavers 30 year reunion, Saturday 10 November, The Skiff Club, Manly
- 1983 leavers 35 year reunion, Saturday 17 November, Balmoral Beach Club

For more information on any of these reunions, or to be put in touch with your reunion organiser, please contact Heleen Fourie fourieh@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au, Old Girls Relations Manager or call Heleen on 9473 7740.



AOGU Ladies' Golf Day

Between 60 and 70 Old Girls, mothers of Old Girls, current mothers as well as past and present staff come together annually at the Mona Vale Golf Club for the Abbotsleigh Ladies' Golf Day on the second Friday after Melbourne Cup day. This year it will be held on Friday 16 November 2018.

If you play golf, have a valid golflink number and would like to join in a wonderful day of friendship and fun, we would love to see you there. You can play as a single, a pair or register team of four.

The cost for the day is \$95 and the closing date is Wednesday 31 October 2018.

Pay online for this event. Registration form:
Mrs Heleen Fourie, Old Girls Relations Manager, or 9473 7740

General enquiries: **Mrs Jackie Rees (Selosse, 1969)** or 9417 8754/0421 080 288.



110th Year Anniversary Goodies

Celebrate the 110 year anniversary of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union and add a dash of panache to the kitchen by sporting our stylish Old Girl apron or wielding our snazzy tea towel.

Apron: \$25 for one or \$40 for two

Tea towel: \$15 for one or \$30 for three

Order and pay here or contact **Mrs Heleen Fourie**,
Old Girls Relations Manager or call Heleen on
02 9473 7740.





AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant Program

The AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant Program: helping Old Girls pursue worthwhile endeavours across a range of activities.

[Read more +](#)



Trundle Public School's latest recruit

Ajax, our former Guide Dog puppy, is winning hearts as a Pets As Therapy Dog way out west.

[Read more +](#)



AOGU Business Networking Breakfast

With Professor Andrea Hull AO (1965), Chair of Advisory Council at Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

[Read more +](#)



The Grace Cossington Smith biennial art award

Join us for the presentation and opening of the Grace Cossington Smith biennial art award on Saturday 3 November.

[Read more +](#)



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<https://www.facebook.com/AbbotsleighOldGirlsandAlumni/>



Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/abbotsleigh_oldgirls/



Twitter

<https://twitter.com/AbbotsleighOG/>



LinkedIn

Search for Abbotsleigh Alumnae on LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5118582>

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