



ABBOTSLEIGH

The Loom

ABBOTSLEIGH OLD GIRLS
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2019



Debutante Ball

Wentworth Hotel
Sydney, 1940

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thursday 17 October
Queensland Reunion
The Moreton Club
New Farm, Brisbane

Thursday 31 October
Networking Breakfast
Westpac, Barangaroo

Friday 15 November
Golf Day
Mona Vale Golf Club

Wednesday 20 November
AOGU AGM
Global Learning Centre
Senior School

President's message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Staying Connected.

As you are all aware, the AOGU celebrated 110 years of building connections last year. Why are connections so important? Making connections or 'networks' provides different perspectives, increases your knowledge, challenges you to think, introduces you to others and also raises your profile.

Belinda Burton (Tjeuw, 1991)

These connections can lead to opportunities, career advice and support. Research shows that professional men are more likely to ask someone in their business network for a favour or advice, whereas women are more hesitant. With a network of more than 9,000 Abbotsleigh girls in diverse fields across the globe, it seems silly not to take advantage of this wealth of knowledge and experience. We want to help our Old Girls build a stronger network, thereby helping to build a stronger future for all women. Accordingly, the AOGU hosts a number of events throughout the year providing opportunities for Old Girls to meet and mingle with friends old and new. I strongly encourage you to join us for some of these events. In particular, join us for a thought provoking talk from Penny Hackett (1984), President of Dying with Dignity NSW at our upcoming Networking Breakfast on Thursday 31 October.

Continuing with the theme of building connections, we are seeking ways to better engage with our Old Girls. Traditional ways of sharing information through *The Loom* and *Around Abbotsleigh* continue to play an important role. However, you will have noticed an increased use of email and social media to communicate. Don't forget to follow the AOGU Facebook page ([facebook.com/abbotsleigh](https://www.facebook.com/abbotsleigh)). We have also tasked our Communications Sub-Committee to create a Communications Strategy to assist us to be more relevant to Old Girls today.

110th Anniversary Grants

You may recall that as part of its 110th Anniversary celebrations, the AOGU launched its 110th Anniversary Grants program. The aim of this program is to support Old Girls

in meaningful endeavours to benefit the community and have a positive social impact. The grant recognises the value that Old Girls add by being contributory members of their local and world-wide communities through financial assistance and raising awareness of their activities. I am excited to announce that applications for the 2019 Anniversary Grants are now open. Please see the AOGU website for the application form and full terms and conditions. Applications close on Friday 25 October 2019 and the winner(s) will be announced at the AOGU AGM.

Our feature story this edition is an interview with theatre director, Hannah Goodwin. Hannah received one of our inaugural AOGU 110th Anniversary Grants, which is supporting her to stage the Australian premiere of *A Girl in School Uniform (Walks into a Bar)* by Lulu Raczka. Hannah and her team chose to produce this play in response to the worsening violence against women in Australia and around the world. We are very excited about her project and encourage you to read more on page 2.

As always, we have much to celebrate in terms of success stories from our Old Girls and I encourage you to read about them on page 4. We would love to share and support all Old Girls' successes so please keep us up to date with your or your friends' news.

Stay connected.



Farewell Year 12

Hannah Goodwin – Grant recipient

Hannah Goodwin (2010), a winner of our AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant awarded in 2018, shares with us an update on the play she recently directed.

Congratulations, Hannah on your new show. What is this production about?

Thank you! *A Girl in School Uniform (Walks into a Bar)* is a thriller, set slightly in the future, about two young women who live in a city where there are blackouts all the time. When blackouts happen, women go missing. Our schoolgirl, Steph, is looking for her best friend who has disappeared. Her search brings her to a seedy bar in a bad neighbourhood where she meets Bell, a bartender – and that's where the play kicks off.

It's all about women learning to cope with fear in the dark, the power of storytelling and the spectre of male violence. We're producing it in response to the worsening statistics around violence against women in Australia. It's a spellbinding play by a fantastic young playwright from the UK, Lulu Raczka, and I feel incredibly lucky to be directing it.

We know you've been incredibly busy over the last few months, can you share some of the journey you went through to get to this point?

It's been a big journey. In some way, shape or form I've been working on this production for over a year. This time last year I was preparing to pitch it to the Kings Cross Theatre, where it's starting next week. At the end of 2018, their season launched, and I started working with producer Indiana Kwong to make it a reality. We wrote the marketing copy, did the budget, set the ticket prices, applied for funding and started putting together our dream creative team.

The set and costume designer, Ella Butler and I started work on the design in April, sharing reference points and inspiration. Around the same time, we had a big, open call audition process. Over two hundred actors submitted, we auditioned sixty, and ended up with two phenomenal performers – Michelle Ny and Cait Burley.

We started rehearsing part-time 10 weeks ago. Our sound designer and composer Jess Dunn came on board shortly after that. We watched a lot of thriller films together to figure out the genre. Then lighting designer, Phoebe Pilcher came on board, just in time for us to do our first rehearsal in the dark (because close to half of the play happens in pitch darkness with torches). We finally found our stage manager, Sophie Dixon three weeks before we opened (phew!)

Were you also involved in drama and productions while you were at Abbotsleigh?

I absolutely was! I remember playing one of the gossip court ladies in *Amadeus*. I think I was in Year 11. I loved it.

The best stuff was Year 12 Drama, though. It was incredibly formative. It was something that I never thought I would be able to do – stand up and perform on my own, and it felt so good to prove myself wrong. I was fortunate to have access to such an incredible Drama Department at Abbotsleigh and a fantastic teacher, Ms Early.

And, how did winning one of the AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant help you?

A Girl in School Uniform (Walks into a Bar), like all the other independent theatre productions in Sydney, is unwaged. That means that creatives invest their time, passion and energy ahead of time, and hope that ticket sales will go some way towards compensating them for their work. It works this way because arts funding is dwindling in this country, and there are very few avenues for emerging artists to get the financial support or opportunities they need to develop a career. I was fortunate to find that support for this production in the AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant and already it has opened a lot of doors for me. Thank you.

Additionally, by taking some of the financial pressure off, the grant has freed us up to try some different things through community partnerships. We partnered with X Fighting and offered a free self-defence workshop for women after the show on Sunday 29 September. We're also raising money and awareness for 'Mary's House', an independent refuge for women escaping violence in Sydney. I'm glad this project has reach beyond the theatre, in many ways the grant has made that possible.

After you recover from this, what's next for you?

I'm the lucky 2019 recipient of ATYP's Rose Byrne Scholarship for Emerging Female Arts Leaders, which basically means that Rose has kindly given me a bursary to do some professional development and research overseas. So, I will be travelling and working on my project for that. That, and pitching projects for 2020.

Like to know more?

- [Watch the film's trailer.](#)
- [Watch an interview with Theatre Travels.](#)

Kim Boniface (Anderson, 1985)



Snippets

VICKI GARD (1982)

Vicki Gard, plays Hazel Fyfe, Anglican Minister, in Davo Hardy's 4th feature film *The Blood of God*, set in Muswellbrook. The film explores a single father and his relationship with his son as he comes of age. Key to the story is the local minister and her relationship with the family. Hardy wanted to portray middle aged people falling in love and also address the issue of drugs and racism in rural Australia. The film screened during July at the Dendy in Newtown for a limited release.

VANESSA STOCKARD (1993)

Congratulations to artist Vanessa Stockard on being named an Archibald finalist for the third consecutive year. Her 2019 entry is an oil on board portrait of artist McLean Edwards, a renowned, idiosyncratic figurative painter who has been an Archibald Prize finalist himself on five occasions.

CENTENARY SCHOLAR

Congratulations to Amelia Rigby who was announced as the 2019 Centenary Scholar at the School's Birthday Assembly. Thank you and well done to ALL the girls who applied this year; there was an incredibly high standard of achievement and contribution by all the applicants.

The Centenary Scholarship was established by the AOGU in its centenary year and is awarded for all round participation and contribution to the School Community. It is open to current Year 11 Abbotsleigh students whose mothers were Old Girls and provides 25% remission of school tuition fees for the remainder of schooling.



An Evening with Kate Forsyth

On Monday 19 August, Old Girl author Kate Forsyth (Humphrey, 1984) was the special guest at the Abbotsleigh Parents' Association (APA) Book Club meeting.

Kate, who wrote her first book aged seven, warmly described how her teacher encouraged her writing by starting a Writing Group for enthusiastic young students, and how she went on to win the Prize for Creative Writing in Year 12. Since then she has received numerous accolades and awards and has sold more than a million books worldwide.

Kate was candid and generous with the telling of her personal story and sharing the process of her writing. We gained a good understanding of how Kate documents ideas, develops characters and researches historical facts, before beginning the writing of her books.

The interview, conducted by Sarah Luke, was full of insight, warmth and wit. Sarah is a member of the Senior School's English Department and a published author of an historical non-fiction work. Sarah was impressively prepared, despite having just finished marking Trial HSC papers one hour prior!

Ms Kathy Campbell

APA President

Notice of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union Annual General Meeting 2019 on Wednesday 20 November 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union Incorporated will be held in the Global Learning Centre at Abbotsleigh, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga on Wednesday 20 November 2019 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 2019;

- Appoint the auditor for the year 2019/2020;
- Elect the Committee and Officers for 2019/2020 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 18 November 2019** 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 the Old Girls Office at aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au or on 02 9473 7740.

Keeping Old Girls Connected

Year Reunions

- **1959 60 Year Reunion** – Friday 25 October 2019, Lunch and tour of the School, Abbotsleigh, Organisers Angela Barker 0414 487269, Chris Fox 0418 613 577
- **1964 55 Year Reunion** – Sunday 27 October 2019, Killara Golf Club, Organisers Anne Mitchell 0417 226 707, Penny Stratton 0401 349 761
- **1974 45 Year Reunion** – Friday 15 November 2019, Annabelle Chapman's house, Paddington, Organiser Annabelle Chapman 0412 665 412
- **1979 40 Year Reunion** – Saturday 2 November 2019, Middle Harbour Skiff Club, Organisers Suzie Currie, 0401 773 615, Chris Baltussen 9488 8219, Fiona Robinson 90363218
- **1989 30 Year Reunion** – Saturday 26 October 2019, Manly Skiff Club, Organiser Anthea Thomas 0413 015 889
- **1994 25 Year Reunion** Saturday 26 October 2019, The Greengate Hotel Killara, Organiser Amanda Hatzioannou 0409 098 807
- **1999 20 Year Reunion** – Saturday 19 October 2019, Hotel Centennial, Woollahra Organiser Georgia O'Hara 0409 965 101
- **2009 10 Year Reunion** – Saturday 9 November 2019, The Oakes Hotel, Neutral Bay, Organiser Alexandra Davis 0400 387 412
- **2014 5 Year Reunion** – Saturday 12 October 2019, Green Moustache, North Sydney, Organiser Jess Broomfield 0421 194 286

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.

Other reunions and events

- **Queensland Reunion** – Thursday 17 October 2019, The Moreton Club, New Farm, Brisbane, Organiser Sue Innes 0428 988 455
- **Thursday 31 October 2019** – Networking Breakfast, Westpac, Barangaroo, Organiser Belinda Burton 0411 345 425
- **Golf Day** – Friday 15 November 2019, Mona Vale Golf Club, Organiser Katrina Cant 0409 680 083

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 11 November 2019**. Ballot papers must be returned by **Monday 18 November 2019** 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 aogu.secretary@gmail.com.



AOGU Ladies Golf Day

Friday 15 November 2019

All Abbotsleigh Old Girls, mothers of Old Girls, current mothers and staff are welcome to play golf and enjoy lunch afterwards.

If you have friends who have not played with us before who would enjoy this day, please encourage them to come along this year.

Registration from 7.15 am

Golf 8 am (two tee start)

Mona Vale Golf Club

Golf Avenue, Mona Vale

\$95 per person (includes golf and lunch)

Book your tickets via [Trybooking](#)

Enquiries:

[Katrina Cant](#) or 9499 6465 or 0409 680 083

[Carrie Medworth](#) in the Old Girls' office or 9473 7822

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 twice a term during the school term on a Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm at Abbotsleigh.

We are particularly looking to fill a skills gap in the area of investment finance, accounting, data management and communication strategies, but all skills and contributions are valued.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support the Old Girl 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.

I look forward to welcoming you onto our team.

Belinda Burton
President, AOGU

Arboreal Narratives

A multidisciplinary exhibition in honour of trees.

15 October to 2 November 2019



Artwork: Louise Fowler-Smith

Artists

Guillermo Bátiz and Tamryn Bennett	Ian Grant Jane Green
Paula Broom	Hobart Hughes
Amanda Farquharson	Haruka Kokubu
Maria Fernanda Cardoso	Janet Laurence
Louise Fowler-Smith	Liz Perfect
Elizabeth Anne Gervay	Miho Watanabe

Opening and Symposium Saturday 19 October

Symposium: 1.30-2.30 pm | Drinks: until 4.30 pm

Introduction

Louise Fowler-Smith
Artist and founder of the Tree Veneration Society

Planting Trees for the Future

Dr Marlien van der Merwe
Biodiversity Research Scientist
Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

A double story of trees in the poetic imagination

Peter Boyle
Acclaimed Sydney-based poet

Poetic meditations upon 'The New Arboreal Florescence'

Dr Kim Satchell
Surfer, poet, performer and environmental philosopher

Sonic Explorations of Arboreal Environments

Dr Daniel Blinkhorn
Multi international award-winning composer, sound and digital media artist

 ABBOTSLEIGH

 Grace
CossingtonSmithGallery

Gallery hours Mon to Fri 10 am-5 pm Sat 9 am-4 pm FREE ENTRY
Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga | 02 9473 7878
gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au | www.gcsgallery.com.au
An Anglican Pre K-12 Day and Boarding School for Girls



ABBOTSLEIGH



2019 Queensland Reunion

Thursday 17 October 2019

**Join us over lunch for an afternoon of
laughter and memories.**

Please note that the date has changed from that
previously advertised.

12 noon

The Moreton Club
71 Moray Street, New Farm

\$85 per person

RSVP by Wednesday 9 October via [Trybooking](#)

Enquiries

[Sue Innes](#) or 0428 988 455



Moving House?

Update your contact details [here](#)

Gifts that last a lifetime

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

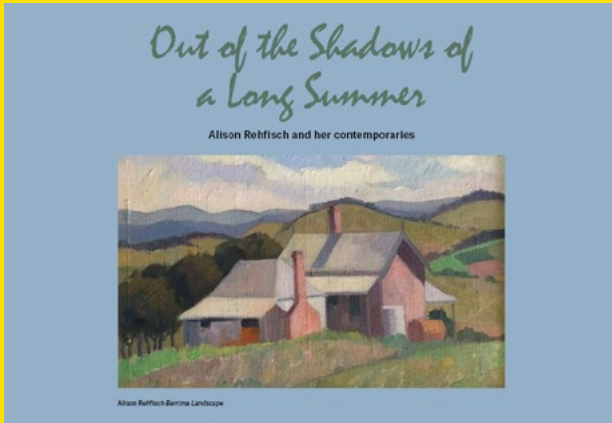
Stay Connected Contact the Old Girls

Office: aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au
or 02 9473 4470

Belinda Burton: aogu.president@gmail.com

Sarah Franks: aogu.secretary@gmail.com

Locked Bag 1666
Wahroonga NSW 2016



Out of the Shadows of a Long Summer

Alison Rehfish and her modernist contemporaries.
GCSG, 4 September to 10 October.

[READ MORE](#)



AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant

To support Old Girls in meaningful endeavours that benefit the community or have a positive social impact.

[READ MORE](#)



APA Book Club Book Discussion

All Old Girls are warmly invited to the APA Book Club discussion of *The Blue Rose* by Kate Forsyth.

[READ MORE](#)



Sport at Abbotsleigh and Why We do What We Do

An insight into the core values of sport at Abbotsleigh from our Head of Sport, Kate Howitt.

[READ MORE](#)