



ABBOTSLEIGH

Old Girls' Union Inc.

The Loom

ABBOTSLEIGH OLD GIRLS
NEWSLETTER

September 2024



The sculpture *Daydreaming Girl* was presented by the AOGU to the Junior School to celebrate her 70th birthday in May 2024.

UPCOMING 2024 EVENTS



5-29 September
Grace Cossington Smith
Gallery Exhibition - Small
Matters

Tuesday 22 October
AOGU Old Girls vs Current
Girls Debate

Monday 28 October
AOGU Anniversary Grant call
for Application

Friday 15 November
2024 AOGU Ladies
Golf Day

President's message

One of the enduring traditions of an Abbotsleigh education is supporting others in our community. Students are encouraged to think about others, whether through their extra-curricular clubs (such as Interact, Sonta and Oxfam), as part of their camps (such as the week long Year 11 community Service Projects), or part of their Christian Studies (such as support of Anglicare). It is of no surprise therefore that Abbotsleigh Old Girls continue the tradition of serving others when they leave school.

In 2018 the AOGU Committee inaugurated an Anniversary Grant on the occasion of the AOGU's 110th Birthday. The purpose of this Anniversary Grant is to recognise and enable Abbotsleigh Old Girls in their service to the community. It is the AOGU's hope that in financially assisting the delivery community-minded endeavours via our Old Girls, there will be a multiplicative beneficial impact both on those communities and on Abbotsleigh herself.

And over the last eight years this hope has not been disappointed! It has been a privilege to support 11 very diverse community initiatives delivered by many generations of Old Girls. Our recipients have ranged from those who left Abbotsleigh 8 years ago to 50 years ago, and we have supported the delivery of initiatives such as:

- **Local:** A pilot program for the provision of resume writing workshops and one-on-one case management and support with employment identification through Lighthouse for the Community, a Northern-Beaches based organisation that provides frontline support for those experiencing domestic and family violence.
- **Regional:** A project to implement a primary school music and teaching training program in Hillston Central School in Regional NSW, which also included community involvement and setting up a framework for music education in remote communities
- **International:** Partial funding of professional development opportunities for 2 teachers and interpreters from the Wangsel Institute of the Deaf in Bhutan, to address the lack of school education for deaf children in Bhutan prior to 2003

We have reported on many Anniversary Grants in *Around Abbotsleigh*, and I commend you to [click here](#) to read the recently published Issue 68, as well as past issues, should you like to know more.

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The Anniversary Grant has brought our Old Girls closer to Abbotsleigh as well, with many recipients speaking to the girls in Assembly or the classroom, as well as the School taking on a whole-school initiative of supporting Tanzanian girls to attend Bunda Girls Secondary School, like we did with part of our 2019 Grant. Our Anniversary Grant is very much part of our AOGU strategy of Connection Through Community, where Abbotsleigh Old Girls are connected to each other and to School.

We thank our Old Girls for all you do to support others, and are so proud that we have been able to support a few of you in your endeavours through the Anniversary Grant. Applications for the 2024 Anniversary are now open and I encourage you to apply and/or to let your Old Girl friends know that we would welcome their application.

Sarah Franks (1991)
President, AOGU



Reunions

1954 Leavers' 5 Year Reunion

Took place on Wednesday 28 August at Abbotsleigh

1959 Leavers' 65 Year Reunion

Friday 18 October - To be confirmed (School Tour & Lunch) Abbotsleigh Senior School

Diana Dickson (Cay) and Susan Downing (Bevan)

[Click here](#) for 'Expression of Interest' - invitation to follow.

1964 Leavers' 60 Year Reunion

Saturday 19 October (School Tour & Lunch at Abbotsleigh Senior School)
Sunday 20 October

(Lunch at Pymble Hotel)

Suzie Lyle (Craig), Anne Mitchell (MacFarlane) and Penny Stratton

Click here to RSVP by Friday 27 September

1969 Leavers' 55 Year Reunion

Took place on Saturday 14 September at Abbotsleigh

1974 Leavers' 50 Year Reunion

Saturday 19 October

Manly Skiff Club (Lunch plus Abbotsleigh for School Tour in the morning) Annabelle Chapman (Davey)

[Click here](#) to RSVP by Wednesday 9 October.

1979 Leavers' 45 Year Reunion

To be confirmed

Chrissy Baltussen (Bloch-Peterson), Andrea Hunter and Fiona Robinson

All details to follow.

Key upcoming events

Tuesday 22 October: AOGU Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate 6.30-8.30 pm PDCH, Abbotsleigh Senior School (or on Zoom)

Abbotsleigh has an incredibly strong debating program, and the girls regularly bring home championship trophies in various debating competitions. Our fifth annual Old Girls versus Current Girls Debate will be a great contest. With the scores locked at two-all, can the Current Girls make it three years in a row, or will the Old Girls reclaim the trophy?

The current girls and Old Girls taking part in the debate will be announced prior to the event.

We welcome everyone to attend the debate in person or via Zoom link.

This event is free to attend. [RSVP here](#) by Sunday 20 October

Friday 15 November: 2024 AOGU Ladies Golf Day 8 am start

Long Reef Golf Club, Long Reef

All Abbotsleigh Old Girls, mothers of old girls, current mothers and past and current staff are warmly invited to the annual AOGU Golf Day.

Numbers are limited to a maximum of 40 players, please RSVP ASAP to avoid disappointment. Cost - \$130 (includes golf and lunch). [RSVP here](#) by Sunday 20 October

2024 AOGU Anniversary Grant Call for Applications

The AOGU Anniversary Grant was established in August 2018 to celebrate 110 years of the AOGU. It recognises the value that Old Girls add by being contributory members to their local and/or world-wide communities and seeks to assist in these endeavours. The aim of the Anniversary Grant is to support Old Girls to “pay it forward” through an activity or project designed to have a positive social impact and to carry on Abbotsleigh’s tradition of social responsibility and service. Each application will be judged on its merits based on community benefit and positive social impact.

The AOGU is now calling for applications from eligible Old Girls for a limited number of grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

The AOGU will offer Anniversary Grant(s) up to an annual maximum value of \$5000. The full amount may be awarded to one candidate, or if there are several worthy

applicants, the amount may be split. The Anniversary Grant will be awarded to an Old Girl to advance a specific community purpose and is not intended to personally benefit an Old Girl as an individual member.

Full terms and conditions and application form are available on the [AOGU website](#). If you have any further questions, please contact the [Chair of the Grants Sub-Committee](#). Applications close at 5pm on **Monday 28 October 2024** and the winner(s) will be announced at the AOGU AGM on Thursday 21 November 2024. Please submit your applications to the [Grants Sub-Committee](#)

Expressions of Interest (EOI): Abbotsleigh Old Girls Art Exhibition 2025

To celebrate Abbotsleigh’s 140th birthday, the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is delighted to be hosting a curated exhibition showcasing works by Abbotsleigh Old Girls who currently practice as established and emerging artists.

We invite you to submit an EOI if you’re interested in participating, and we will be in touch with further information.

[Click here](#) by 24 October 2024 to submit your ‘Expression of Interest’.

Exhibition Details

Dates: Exact dates TBC - July – August 2025

Curator: Rhonda Davis, Senior curator

at the Macquarie University Art Gallery

Location: Grace Cossington Smith Gallery

Change to the Enrolment Policy affecting daughters of Abbotsleigh Old Girls

We value your connection with the School and would like to assist with ensuring that your daughter attends Abbotsleigh, as you did.

It will no longer be necessary for the daughter of an Abbotsleigh Old Girl to attend entrance testing as a requirement for her entry to Year 5 or Year 7. We look forward to progressing your daughter’s enrolment.

For the earlier enrolment entry points, 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.

1984 Leavers’ 40 Year Reunion

Took place on Saturday 7 September at the Oaks, Neutral Bay.

1989 Leavers’ 35 Year Reunion

Took place on Saturday 7 September at the Four hundred Bar & Kitchen, Greenwood Plaza, North Sydney.

1994 Leavers’ 30 Year Reunion

Saturday 19 October (12 pm onwards) The Apartment, Centennial Hotel, Woollahra (Plus Abbotsleigh for School Tour in the morning) Kirsty Gunning (Broad), Sarah Mangelsdorf, Sarah Robson, Caitlin Ruddock [Click here](#) to RSVP by Friday 4 October.

1999 Leavers’ 25 Year Reunion

Friday 15 November (6pm onwards) The Bridge Room, The Harbour View Hotel, The Rocks
Belinda Thomas and Katie White (Craig) [Click here](#) to RSVP by Friday 1 November

2004 Leavers’ 20 Year Reunion

Saturday 2 November (6 pm onwards) Tilbury Hotel, Woolloomooloo (Plus Abbotsleigh for School Tour in the morning) Gria Meakin (Barlow) and Jacinta Younan [Click here](#) to RSVP by Saturday 25 October.

2009 Leavers’ 15 Year Reunion

Saturday 9 November (4.30 pm onwards) Tilbury Hotel, Woolloomooloo (Plus Abbotsleigh for School Tour in the morning) Alexandra Davis [Click here](#) to RSVP by Friday 1 November.

2014 Leavers’ 10 Year Reunion

Saturday 9 November (6 pm onwards) The Taphouse Sydney, Darlinghurst Jess Broomfield, Georgie Mac Smith, Madi Symonds, Steph Graham and Selena Liu [Click here](#) to RSVP by Friday 26 October.

2019 Leavers’ 5 Year Reunion

Took place on Saturday 16 March at the Greengate, Killara.

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 on fennc@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au should you wish to discuss any aspect of this process. I look forward

to assisting you with your daughter's enrolment and to welcoming her to Abbotsleigh.

Mrs Colleen Fenn
Registrar

2024 Regional Reunions Tasmania Reunion

Took place Friday 23 August at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Hobart.

Canberra Reunion

Took place Thursday 29 August at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Canberra.

If you are interested in organising a Regional Reunion in your area, please contact the Old Girls Office

Calling out for Old Girls!!

Represent Old Girls on Abbotsleigh Council:

AOGU Representatives are important for maintaining Abbotsleigh traditions and ensuring that Old Girls contribute to the ongoing governance of School. We have an upcoming vacancy for an AOGU Representative on Council. For a confidential enquiry or more information, please reach out to Sarah Franks on aogu.president@gmail.com.

Share your news!! The next edition of Around Abbotsleigh is being prepared and will cover news from the second half of 2024. Please share any news of births, marriages and remembrances (up to 100 words), as well as any other career or personal achievements. Submissions should be emailed to oldgirls@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au by 15 November.

Dust off those debating skills: Our fifth annual Old Girls versus Current Girls Debate is on Tuesday 22 October from 6-8pm at the Senior School. We are looking for any interested Old Girl Debaters to wrestle the trophy back from the Current Girls. Please reach out to Sarah Franks at aogu.president@gmail.com.

Help your Year Group to be in the know. The AOGU are looking for Year Representatives to help ensure that relevant news and event information is shared with as many Old Girls as possible. If you are able to help post relevant information on your social media or email list, please contact Fiona Hobill Cole (Armstrong, 1981) on aogu.secretary@gmail.com

Support current students to think about their careers. Please consider how you can pay it forward to today's Abbotsleigh students. The School is always looking for Old Girls to:

1. Volunteer to speak at an Industry Career Webinar
2. Offer to host a placement for Year 10 Work Experience
3. Connect as a representative of the Tertiary sector
4. Connect as a Scholarship recipient or student at an international University.

If you feel like you might be able to support current girls in any way, please reach out to Vivienne Gilkes, Head of Careers Education and Post-School Opportunities at gilkesv@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

Want to celebrate your 2025 or regional reunion with a bang? If you are interested in helping to organise your year group's milestone reunion in 2025, or a regional or international reunion in 2024 or 2025, please contact the office at aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au

Stay Connected: It is important you keep your contact details up to date to ensure you receive Old Girl invitations so, if yours have changed or change in future, please contact the Old Girls' office on 9473 7740.

Around Abbotsleigh Issue 68

Around Abbotsleigh Issue 68 has been released. Please [click here](#) to download your copy.

Stay connected

Contact the Old Girls
Office: aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au
or **02 9473 7740**

**Locked Bag 1666
Wahroonga NSW 2076**

Sarah Franks: aogu.president@gmail.com
Fiona Hobill Cole: aogu.secretary@gmail.com

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