



ABBOTSLEIGH

Old Girls' Union Inc.

The Loom

ABBOTSLEIGH OLD GIRLS
NEWSLETTER

February 2025



Abbotsleigh Old Girls Choir, singing in celebration of the Abbotsleigh Old Girls' Union (AOGU) Centenary

2008

UPCOMING 2025 EVENTS



Saturday 29 March
School Autumn Fair and
Senior School Library
Official Opening

Friday 30 May
AOGU Speakers Breakfast

Friday 20 June
Archibald, Wynne and Sulman
Prizes Tour

Sunday 27 July
AOGU Back to School Day

President's message

What a jam packed year for Abbotsleigh in 2025! The School's 140th Birthday is certainly a reason to celebrate and a fabulous excuse to come back to visit Abbotsleigh.

There are lots of opportunities to attend special AOGU / Old Girls events, as well as join the wider school community at a school event. Please peruse the Old Girls Calendar here and use our handy 2025 Checklist below to diarise events that you are interested in.

We are particularly pleased to be holding our first ever AOGU Back to School Day in July this year, timed with the School's official 140th Birthday Assembly and the special Old Girl Artists Exhibition at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery. What a great opportunity to grab some school friends and see how campus has changed. There will be tours, exhibitions, a chapel service and food - lots to choose from. Please let us know if you are thinking of attending by completing the Expression of Interest form [HERE](#).

The last time there was an Old Girls Choir was in 2008, on the occasion of the AOGU's Centenary. Can you recognise anyone in this edition's cover photo? We are reforming the Old Girls Choir and welcome everyone to join. Personally, I haven't really sung in a choir since I left school in 1991, and I'm looking forward to having a go!

It has also been 10 years since the last School Fair. The Library Opening and School Fair in March will be a special opportunity to bring together the whole school and wider Wahroonga community. There will be something for everyone - music and dance performances, games, rides, stalls, high tea and a champagne tent. The AOGU will be holding a stall where you can purchase plants, play games and buy merchandise. Bring the whole family and friends to share your school with them! We hope to see you there.

This year's calendar now includes School Events that you may like to attend like the Glow Festival, Carol Service and HSC Showcase. You are welcome at these events, whether you are curious to see what AbbGirls are up to, or are thinking about whether Abbotsleigh may be right for your daughter or granddaughter.

With so much variety, there should be something for everyone. I dearly hope to see you at an event this year.

Sarah Franks (1991)
President, AOGU



Reunions

1955 Leavers' 70 Year Reunion
To be confirmed

1960 Leavers' 65 Year Reunion

Friday 28 November (Lunch)

12 Noon start

Senior School Dining Room,
Abbotsleigh

Save the date - invitation to follow
Click [here](#) to express your interest to attend

1965 Leavers' 60 Year Reunion

Saturday 8 November (Lunch)

12 noon start

The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron,
33 Peel Street, Kirribilli

Save the date - invitation to follow
Click [here](#) to express your interest to attend

1970 Leavers' 55 Year Reunion

Thursday 18 September (Lunch)

12 noon start

Chatswood RSL, 446 Victoria Avenue,
Chatswood

Save the date - invitation to follow
Click [here](#) to express your interest to attend

1975 Leavers' 50 Year Reunion

Weekend of Saturday 18 and Sunday
19 October

The Fernery, Mosman and other
potential locations

Save the date - invitation to follow
Click [here](#) to express your interest to attend

Key upcoming events

Your Handy 2025 Checklist

Be organised for the year and tick-off the following:

Diarise this year's hallmark events

1. School Fair and Library Opening - Saturday 29 March: Enjoy performances, and rides and visit the Old Girls Stall
2. 140th Birthday Assembly - Friday 25 July
3. AOGU Back to School Day - Sunday 27 July: See how your school has changed since you left!

Fill in the Expression of Interest forms:

4. [Here](#) to join the Old Girls Choir: the first performance is at the Back to School Day Chapel Service
5. [Here](#) to help us plan events for the Back to School Day by letting us know what you would like to attend

Look through the 2025 Calendar and diarise any other events of interest

6. Get together a group of friends for the AOGU Speakers Breakfast, Archibald Tour, Golf Day and more...
7. Check whether 2025 is one of your 5 to 10 year reunions (and tell your friends) and consider coming to a regional reunion
8. Come to a regional Community Event: Dubbo in May, Wagga Wagga in June, Narrabri in July
9. Come to a School Event to see what the current girls are up to, such as the HSC Showcase, GLOW Festival or Carol Service

Join the Old Girls Choir

The Old Girls Choir is **open to all Old Girls**, whether you have sung in auditioned choirs, in participatory choirs or haven't sung in a choir before. Maybe you have fond memories of singing in an Abbotsleigh Choir and haven't sung since. We really don't mind how long it has been since you've been part of a choir. We are inclusive and welcome everyone. What we sing will be decided once we know how many of us there are.

Our first performance will be at the **AOGU Back to School Day on Sunday 27th July 2025**, as part of an Old Girls Chapel Service to celebrate the Chapel's 60th Anniversary. Whether we become an ongoing endeavour will depend upon interest and opportunity. We may gather once a year, or every few years - who knows. The July performance will have a few fun rehearsals prior.

We are very excited to have Susannah Pinter (Flint, 1989) as our Conductor. Susannah is a teacher in the Abbotsleigh Senior School Music Department, and conducts both choirs and bands. She is a passionate chorister, and was even part of the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony as part of a worldwide remote choir!

So, **please register your interest in participating in the Old Girls Choir by completing this form [here](#)**. Even if you are not sure yet, or you can't attend the Back To School Day in July, please register your interest for the future.

Tell us what you want at the AOGU Back to School Day

We are excited to be organising the first ever Back to School Day on Sunday 27 July. As we are creating this event for the first time, we need your ideas (and whether you think that you will come). We are planning a day that you can attend for all or part of the day.

We want to make the day as special as possible for everyone who comes, so please complete this Expression of Interest Form [here](#) to let us know:

- Whether or not you plan to come.
- What you would like to do: such as senior school and junior school tours, art exhibition / event, food, chapel service, student exhibitions, sport. We may not be able to do it all this year, but can't wait to pull together our first ever programme.

Generations Breakfast (for Old Girls with daughters or granddaughters currently attending Abbotsleigh)

Each year we hold a special breakfast to welcome all Old Girls with current student daughters and granddaughters, and those students. Invites will be sent shortly, but you are also welcome to book [here](#) for Friday 4 April from 7-8.30am.

Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Tour at the Art Gallery of NSW

Reserve your spot at this year's private tour, held before the Gallery opens. This is a sell out event each year and Old Girls from a range of years attend. Tickets are the same cost as attending the exhibition. Book [here](#) for Friday 20 June from 9.15 - 10.30am

Women's Golf Day

Our 2024 Golf Day was a sell out, with Old Girls from 2023 to 1963 coming together for a great day of golf and stunning lunch at Long Reef Golf Course. If we can get the numbers, we will expand the slots from 40 to 80 golfers. Please register your early interest [here](#) (you don't have to be in a four), so we can determine how big this year's event will be!

1980 Leavers' 45 Year Reunion

Saturday 26 July
6 pm onwards
Garden Pavillion, The Oaks, 118 Military Road,
Neutral Bay
Click [here](#) to RSVP by Friday 11 July

1985 Leavers' 40 Year Reunion

Saturday 26 July
6-11 pm
The Occidental, 43 York Street,
Sydney
Save the date - invitation to follow
Click [here](#) to express your interest to attend

1990 Leavers' 35 Year Reunion

To be confirmed

1995 Leavers' 30 Year Reunion

Saturday 30 August
7-11 pm
Kittyhawk, 16 Philip Street, Sydney
Click [here](#) to RSVP by Friday 8 August

2000 Leavers' 25 Year Reunion

Saturday 25 October
6 pm onwards
Kirribilli Hotel,
37 Broughton Street, Milsons Point
(tbc)
Save the date - invitation to follow
Click [here](#) to express your interest to attend

2005 Leavers' 20 Year Reunion

Saturday 13 September
6.30 pm onwards
The Firehouse Hotel,
86 Walker Street, North Sydney
Save the date - invitation to follow
Click [here](#) to express your interest to attend

2010 Leavers' 15 Year Reunion

Saturday 23 August
4-10 pm
The Tilbury Hotel,
12 Nicholson Street, Woolloomooloo
Save the date - invitation to follow
Click [here](#) to express your interest to attend

2015 Leavers' 10 Year Reunion

To be confirmed

2005 Leavers' 5 Year Reunion

Took place on Saturday 17 May

2024 Leavers' One Year Reunion

To be confirmed

Call Outs

Calling Abbotsleigh Artists The AOGU is considering gifting the School an artwork for its 140th Birthday. If you are an artist connected to the School who is interested in an exploratory discussion on being awarded a commission to create this artwork, please contact AOGU President Sarah Franks on aogu.president@gmail.com.

Donate to our raffle for means based scholarships The AOGU would like to have a raffle at the School Fair in March and at the Back to School Day in July to raise funds for the Kathleen McCredie Award Fund. This award is means-tested and allows a girl to attend Abbotsleigh who would not otherwise be able to.

A raffle is also a great opportunity to raise awareness of Abbotsleigh Old Girl products, skills and businesses. If you have an item or experience that we could include in the auction, please let us know on aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au. With your permission, we will profile all donations on our social media so that the Old Girl community is aware of your business and your support.

Complete the Careers and Study Survey

In November, every Old Girl should have received an email from Vivienne Gilkes (OG 2001), who is Abbotsleigh's Head of Careers Education and Post-School Opportunities. This School survey captures information on your studies and career experiences so that the broader school community can be better connected. The AOGU strongly encourages you to complete this survey (and give permission for the information to be shared with the AOGU) so that we can use the information to organise networking and mentoring across the Old Girls community. The survey can be found [here](#).

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.

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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