



ABBOTSLEIGH

*Old Girls' Union Inc.*

# The Loom

ABBOTSLEIGH OLD GIRLS  
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



## Abbotsleigh, 2025

UPCOMING 2025 EVENTS



**Tuesday 18 November**  
Senior School Global  
Learning Centre or via Zoom

**Wednesday 19 November**  
Dangerously Modern Private  
Tour

**Sunday 30 November**  
Abbotsleigh Carol Service

**Friday 5 December**  
Women's Golf Day

# President's message

## It's a Wrap!

It has been an amazing year celebrating Abbotsleigh's 140th Birthday - and there are still a few months to go. We were delighted by the response to Back to School Day, with over 400 Old Girls, former staff and families coming together to reminisce, reconnect and rediscover. There was such a warmth and energy to the day, all because Old Girls were so excited to be back and in many cases share their School with family. We will definitely hold another day in a few years time. If you missed the BTSD opportunity to return to campus and can't wait that long, you are welcome to attend the School's Carol Service at the end of November. There are also a few AOGU events left for the year including another NSW Art Gallery tour, Women's Golf Day and a few more reunions - so please consider joining us for a last hurrah for 2025.

The women who serve on the AOGU Committee and our Representatives on Council and Foundation are outstanding Old Girl ambassadors and are an example of true teamwork and drive. We would love to have you join us on the Committee, or even to help organise one thing, such as a regional reunion, younger set event, book club - whatever you are passionate about. Please consider signing up - details are in this edition of The Loom.

As the AOGU wraps for the year and heads into 2026, my term as AOGU Honorary President will end at the AGM. Chatting to you all at various events has been such good fun - with an easy commonality coming from our educational foundations and shared experience, even if we were at Abbotsleigh decades apart! It has been a privilege and honour to represent Old Girls within the School community, and I thank Old Girls for their support of the AOGU and for Abbotsleigh over the past four years.

*Sarah Franks (1991)*  
**President, AOGU**

### AGM Notice and Attachments

It's that time of the year where we share a round-up of the year's events and prepare for the next year. The 2025 Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30pm in the Global Learning Centre and via Zoom. Please take a look at the [2025 AGM Notice](#) and [Agenda](#), as well as the [2024 AGM Minutes](#). Nominations for all Executive roles and Committee membership are open and [nomination forms](#) are due by Friday 7 November at 5pm. Please RSVP to the AGM by the same day by emailing Heidi Grout at [aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au).

### Back to School Day Highlights

by Bron Cooper

On Sunday 27 July 2025 Abbotsleigh "buzzed" with energy as over 400 Old Girls, former staff and families celebrated the inaugural Back To School Day as part of Abbotsleigh's 140th birthday celebrations. We hoped the events throughout the day would foster a sense of reconnection, rediscovery and to reminisce. The glowing feedback received from those who attended showed overwhelmingly that our hopes were

realised. Thank you to all organisers and helpers who worked tirelessly to make the day a memorable one and to all the Old Girls and Abbotsleigh Community that attended and made it such a great day.

Junior and Senior school tours showcased old and new buildings and facilities and the Chapel service with guest speakers, Mrs Robyn Claydon, Rev MacDonald and the newly formed Old Girls Choir was heartfelt and inspirational (enhanced by the sunlight streaming through the wonderful stained glass windows).

A delicious lunch atop of the new library was followed by drinks with the Old Girl Artists at the Grace Cossington Smith Gallery for the official opening of the school's 140th Birthday Old Girl Art Exhibition with guest speaker, Cathy Wilcox who entertained us with tales of her time at school. Attendees of all ages (including Old Girls spanning six decades) celebrated connections, tradition and creativity which is at the core of Abbotsleigh.

**Check out some fabulous photos** that were taken on the day.



## 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  
RSVP here by Friday 14 November

**1965 Leavers' 60 Year Reunion**  
Saturday 8 November (Lunch)  
12 noon start  
The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron,  
33 Peel Street, Kirribilli RSVP here  
by Friday 31 October

**1970 Leavers' 55 Year Reunion**  
Thursday 18 September (Lunch)  
This event was cancelled.  
The 1970 Leavers will wait until  
2030 to celebrate their 60 Year  
Reunion.

**1975 Leavers' 50 Year Reunion**  
Took place on the weekend of 17-19  
October.

**1980 Leavers' 45 Year Reunion**  
Took place on Saturday 26 July.

**1985 Leavers' 40 Year Reunion**  
Took place on Saturday 26 July.

**1990 Leavers' 35 Year Reunion**  
To be confirmed.

**1995 Leavers' 30 Year Reunion**  
Took place on Saturday 30 August.

**2000 Leavers' 25 Year Reunion**  
Took place Saturday 25 October.

**2005 Leavers' 20 Year Reunion**  
Took place on Saturday 13  
September.

# Call Outs

There are so many different ways to be part of the vibrant Old Girls community, and we welcome your involvement whether one-off or ongoing. Below are some ways you can be involved.

## **Nominate to be the next AOGU Representative on Abbotsleigh Foundation - by Monday 27 October**

Abbotsleigh Foundation supports and financially assists Abbotsleigh in a variety of ways including the provision of funds for buildings, scholarships, prizes, educational equipment and research. The AOGU appoints one Representative to the Foundation and this will become vacant at our AGM. The [role description and nomination form](#) is available here and we welcome nominations by **5pm on Monday 27 October**.

Separate to being a Director on Foundation, Old Girls often serve on one of the two Foundation Sub-Committees - the Investment and Finance Committee or the Fundraising Committee. Being a member of a Sub-Committee is a great way to become familiar with the Foundation and is a highly valued pathway of many prior AOGU Representatives on Foundation or Abbotsleigh Council. The AOGU can facilitate an introduction to the Foundation Chair should you have the relevant skills and aspiration to contribute to a Sub-Committee.

## **Nominate to be the next AOGU Secretary - by Friday 7 November**

The AOGU Secretary is a member of the AOGU's Executive Team. The primary responsibilities of the role are to co-ordinate AOGU meetings, keep minutes and records, and facilitate communications as required. This role will be vacant from the AGM and is an ideal opportunity to be involved in the inner workings of the AOGU and support the Old Girl community. No specific experience is required. Information on the role and the nomination form can be [downloaded here](#).

## **Join the AOGU Committee - nominations due by Friday 7 November**

We welcome new nominations to the AOGU Committee at each AGM. We are a vibrant group of women spanning across all decades, and are organised into Sub-Committees such as Events, Finance, Communications, Careers, and Governance. Each Committee Member sits on at least one Sub-Committee, and has the opportunity to contribute in areas that best suit their interests. Nominations are due at 5pm on Friday 7 November 2025 via the [nomination form here](#).

Note: if you don't have the time to commit to being on the AOGU Committee, but would love to be on one of our Sub-Committees, please let us know. Sub-Committees are a great way to contribute to some of our activities and, for our younger Old Girls, a great way to develop your professional skills outside the work environment.

## **Ad-hoc involvement**

Do you have an idea for a social event? Or a networking opportunity? Have some time to help us write an article for Around Abbotsleigh? We welcome all ideas and whatever time and skills you have and would love to hear from you.

Please reach out to Sarah Franks for more information or a confidential conversation about any of the above opportunities on [aogu.president@gmail.com](mailto:aogu.president@gmail.com).

## **Tell us about your involvement in the hospitality industry - by Saturday 1 November**

The final touches to Abbotsleigh's new dining precinct will be completed over the 2025-2026 summer holidays. In the lead up to its opening, the School is planning a feature on Old Girls involved in the food hospitality industry in the next issue of Around Abbotsleigh (which will be distributed in early 2026). If you are an Old Girl chef, caterer, restaurateur, event manager or involved in the food industry and would like to be included – or know of an Old Girl who might be interested – please contact the Old Girls Office at [oldgirls@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:oldgirls@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au) as soon as possible, and by Saturday 1 November at the latest.

## **Debate on the Old Girls Team in April/May**

We need Old Girl debaters and an adjudicator for the 2026 Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate in late April / early May. The exact date is being finalised and it will be on either a Wednesday or Thursday evening at 6.30pm. To make it easier to accommodate work and study, we have changed the timing and format of the debate. The topic will be released one week prior to allow for preparation at your leisure with your Old Girl teammates, and the debate will start at 6.30pm at Abbotsleigh. Please contact Helen Hudson on [HUDSONHELEN@YAHOO.COM](mailto:HUDSONHELEN@YAHOO.COM).

## **Complete the Careers and Study Survey**

Thank you to the many Old Girls who have responded to a survey sent out by Vivienne Gilkes (2001), Abbotsleigh's Head of Career Education and Post School Opportunities. This School survey captures information on your studies and career experiences so that

## **2010 Leavers' 15 Year Reunion**

Took place on Saturday 23 August.

## **2015 Leavers' 10 Year Reunion**

Saturday 1 November  
1-5 pm  
The Terrace & Spare Room,  
The Oaks Neutral Bay  
RSVP close

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) to assist us in organising networking and mentoring across the Old Girls community. The survey can be found [here](#).

**Merchandise**

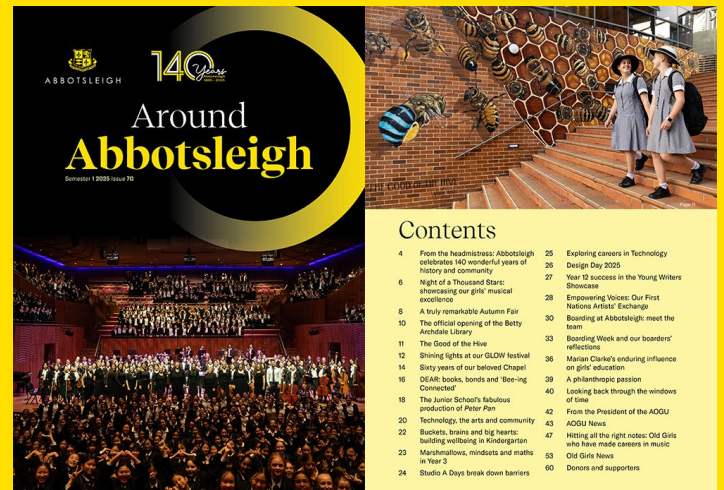
During the 140th Birthday year, the AOGU has refreshed our merchandise. We are especially excited to have expanded our range through the launch of the stunning Chapel Window scarves in honour of the Chapel's 60th Birthday. All merchandise is available [here](#). All profit from the sale of merchandise is donated to the Kathleen McCredie Award Fund, which was inaugurated in 2001 by the AOGU to provide an opportunity for girls to attend Abbotsleigh in Years 10-12 who otherwise wouldn't have been able to.

**Do we know? We probably don't...**

Please share your news or that of your friends and family with the AOGU Office at [aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au](mailto:aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au). Aside from births, deaths and marriages, we'd love to hear about any special achievements and awards, such as career awards, sport and arts feats, and Australian honours. There are so many wonderful things that Old Girls do, and the only way that we know is if someone tells us.

**Check out the Latest Abbotsleigh and Old Girl News**

The latest issue of Around Abbotsleigh has just been released and is full of school news from the first half of the year. [Click here to download it.](#)



**Stay connected**

Contact the Old Girls  
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