



ABBOTSLEIGH

Old Girls' Union Inc.

The Loom

ABBOTSLEIGH OLD GIRLS
NEWSLETTER

June 2023



Sack race at sports day

1923

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday 22 July, 6 pm
Abbotsleigh Community
Event, Narrabri

Saturday 29 July
Mother and Daughter Event

Tuesday 17 October, 6 pm
Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate
at Abbotsleigh and on Zoom

Friday 3 November
Golf Day, Long Reef Golf
Course

President's message

History making opportunity for Old Girls

With the end of Paul Fontanot's term as Chair of Abbotsleigh Council, there is a vacancy for an independent Council member, and the role of Chair. Criteria for the role of Chair includes a preference for an Abbotsleigh Old Girl. This is an exciting opportunity for an Old Girl to be the Chair of Abbotsleigh Council for the first time in the School's 138 year history! If you are interested, or can recommend another Old Girl, please email aogu.president@gmail.com ASAP as nominations close in mid-July. Look out for more information to be emailed shortly.

Thank you for your opinions

Thank you to the 530 Old Girls across all leaving years for taking the time to complete our Old Girls survey. As a result, the AOGU is donating \$1,200 towards Yalari Scholarships for Indigenous students, \$1,100 towards the Kathleen McCredie Award and \$250 towards Abbotsleigh's Building Fund. Analysis is underway and will inform our events refresh.

Cheers, Sarah Franks (1991), President



Upcoming events

Thursday 22 July, 6 pm

Abbotsleigh Community Event, Narrabri

All Old Girls in the Narrabri area are invited as guests for dinner in Narrabri, coinciding with the Boarding Schools Expo. Please book [here](#) by Monday 10 July. This event is supported by the School, the Abbotsleigh Parents' Association (APA) and the Abbotsleigh Boarder Parents' Association (ABPA)

Save the date

Saturday 29 July (time TBC) Mother and Daughter Event

Invitations will go out in the next couple of weeks for the annual mid-year event to bring together current students with their Old Girl mothers and grandmothers.

Tuesday 17 October, 6 pm

Old Girls vs Current Girls Debate at Abbotsleigh and on Zoom

Rally your fellow Old Girls and support your favourite team as the Abbotsleigh Old Girls face off against the current girls. Don't miss this unique opportunity to witness the collision of tradition and progress, as various generations enlighten, challenge and inspire. Join us for an unforgettable evening of passionate advocacy.

Friday 3 November

Golf Day, Long Reef Golf Course

Keep your eyes peeled for the upcoming invitation to our AOGU Golf Day.

Wednesday 22 November, 7.30 pm AOGU AGM, at Abbotsleigh and on Zoom

Stay connected

All AOGU members are welcome to join our Facebook group [here](#) or our LinkedIn group [here](#). Leavers since 2013 are welcome to join our recent leavers Facebook group, The Yarn [here](#). To update your contact details, please complete [this form](#) or contact the Office.

For any enquiries, please reach out to the Old Girls Office or call 02 9473 7740.

Reunions

2022 Leavers' 1 Year Reunion

Saturday 9 September

Organised by AOGU

2018 Leavers' 5 Year Reunion

Date and venue TBC

Alex Vincent, Emma McDouall and Nellie van den Hoek

2013 Leavers' 10 Year Reunion

Date and venue TBC

Julia MacDonald and Shannon Brass

2003 Leavers' 20 Year Reunion

Date and venue TBC

Geraldine Nordfeldt, Sophie Lucas (Wade) and Annabelle Holcombe

1993 Leavers' 30 Year Reunion

Saturday 11 November, 12 noon
Manly Skiff Club, Manly

Rhonda Kaan (Turner) and Gretel Sachs

1983 Leavers' 40 Year Reunion

Saturday 21 October, 7 pm
Firehouse Hotel, North Sydney

Narelle Fay (Armstrong)

1968 Leavers' 55 Year Reunion

Wednesday 11 October, lunch
Kirribilli Club

Sue Holmes (Cadell) and Marg Symington (Bridgman)

1963 Leavers' 60 Year Reunion

Saturday 17 June
Abbotsleigh Dining Room

Helen Muir (Hawthorne)
Subsidised by the AOGU

Organising a reunion

Organising your reunion is easy and lots of fun with plenty of support available from the Old Girls Office to help make your event a success.

The Old Girls Office can assist in terms of administration, including creating and sending of save-the-dates and invitations, managing RSVPs as well as the processing of payments etc. The format of the reunion is up to the organisers as is where and when to hold the event. The Abbotsleigh Dining Room is an option, or the Old Girls Office can suggest venues where other reunions have been held successfully in the past. We can also offer a school tour and/or chapel service around your event should you wish.

Your first step may be to find other Old Girls from your year group to form an organising committee and to perhaps investigate possible dates and venues. The Old Girls Office can share a list of Old Girls from your year group indicating who we do and do not have contact details for – it’s a good idea to enlist the help of the committee to follow up where there are gaps.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Old Girls Office to find out more about how we can help you organise your next reunion!

Year Representative call out

We are developing an Old Girls Year Representative network to help us ensure that the Abbotsleigh Old Girls’ Union continues to be a strong organisation for all 6,000+ Abbotsleigh Old Girls. Our main aim for the Year Representatives initiative is for all Abbotsleigh Old Girls to know what the AOGU is up to and for the Committee to hear from our members about what they need and want from their Union. It is intended to be light-touch but vital – a key part of the connection between year groups and the AOGU.

The role of a Year Representative is to:

Be a point of contact between the AOGU and your year group

Be part of a private Facebook group of Year Representatives where information updates will be shared

Share announcements and news with your year group’s own Facebook (or other social media) page/group, to notify all Old

Girls from your year of upcoming events, as well as flagging with them issues that the AOGU would like feedback on

Provide the AOGU Committee with feedback from you or others in your year, or encourage members to reach out directly to the AOGU

Reinforce the message that the AOGU is an Old Girls-led organisation which belongs to all Old Girls, and which is separate from the School

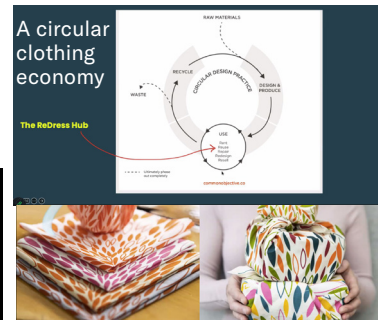
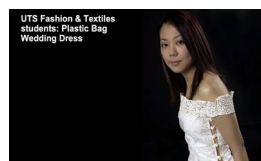
The role does not require organising events or reunions, or fundraising.

If you would be interested in being your class’s Year Representative and working with the AOGU to better connect the Old Girls community, please get in contact with Fiona Hobill Cole at aogu.secretary@gmail.com to learn more.

Snippets

SPEAKERS BREAKFAST

This year’s Speakers Breakfast featured Old Girl, Kirsty Mate (1979), 2022 recipient of the AOGU 110th Anniversary Grant. Kirsty gave a dynamic talk about her passion and experience in the world of sustainable design, reusing materials and building community. The grant has helped her endeavour, The ReDress Hub to stay afloat during the downturn. It was a very inspiring talk which was recorded and is available via the Old Girls Office.



Moving house?

Update your details by contacting the Old Girls Office at aogu@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au or call 02 9473 7740.

Stay in touch

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

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Fiona Hobill Cole: aogu.secretary@gmail.com

Follow us on



*Cover image

This photograph of the sack race at Abbotsleigh’s sports day in 1923 was donated to the Thurles Thomas Archives by Phyllis Allen (AOG 1924). Miss Allen identified some of the girls as follows, (R-L) Elfrida Newbiggin, Margaret Grant, ?, Judith Dawson, Constance Pain, Colleen ?, Una Newbiggin, ?, Agnes Swan, ?, Phyllis Allen.

