



**Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 28 October 2014**

President's Report

It is with great pleasure that I have now fulfilled my first year as President of the Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc (ESU) and tonight I also have great pleasure in presenting the 85th Annual Report to members and special guests in attendance.

Whilst 2013 was a year of consolidation, 2014 has been a year of growth. Not only have we grown by adding a new Committee member, Simone Brian but we have also grown in our ex-student membership numbers due to the Automatic Life Membership of outgoing Year 12 girls. Our growth also includes the engagement of the ex-student body through increased Reunions; locally, nationally and internationally, our regular events and social media (the eNewsletter, Facebook and LinkedIn). The ESU has proudly and consistently worked alongside the College, which in turn has supported our work and values. This can be attributed to the wonderful work of John Da Cruz, Director of Development, Joy England and Gayl McLachlan, Alumni Relations Managers and Susanne Lambert, Database Administrator. We sincerely thank each of you for your support and efforts this past year.

Membership

With the employment of Susanne Lambert as Database Administrator, partially funded by the ESU, and alongside Joy and Gayl, the ex-student records have been slowly improving and regularly updated, definitely an important milestone for the ESU and the College. With the implementation of the Automatic Life Membership of each outgoing Year 12 girl, each year our ex-student database grows by at least 260 members. Over the last several years, we have had trouble balancing our membership record numbers due to a variety of inconsistencies with the care and maintenance of the database in the past, however we can now see that even though there is still the residual of these discrepancies, the database has vastly improved and going forward my hope and aim is to one day have a thoroughly accurate database. All Year 12 girls still need to fill in a Life Membership form with their contact details. This Life Membership form is part of the constitution and whilst the College makes every endeavor to collect these forms from each and every Year 12 girl, it has been a momentous task to chase the final few who have forgotten or neglected to do this.

As at 30 June 2014, our records indicated that we had 6,349 life members. This does not include the current Year 12 girls representing 249 new members who will be added to our database in January next year.

Social Media

I believe this year the ESU social media has stepped up a notch. We are now at 1,260 Facebook members. Facebook is continuously used as a very effective forum to reach ex-students from every age range and on here we post events, invitations, news about ex-students and also about current College occurrences. Through Facebook we have sourced help for the Garden Party, found lost ex-students and reconnected friends. It steadily grows month by month and continues to make the world a smaller place by having such personal contact with ex-students in all areas of the world.

LinkedIn has been quite slow off the mark however we plan to raise the bar with this and bring it to a level of high usage for our ex-students. At present we have 239 members.

The ESU eNewsletter has been enormously successful. This has been primarily driven by Joy who has kept the content exciting, full of news and events and of course some history of the College and ex-students. The eNewsletter has also proved to be very successful in receiving updated contact details, which all in turn helps the database. All of the eNewsletter's can be found on the *Pymble* website under the ESU link.

Whilst social media is a very strong factor in our communication with our ex-students, especially with more and more of the younger generations now connecting back with the College and each other through the ESU, we still need to recognise that not all ex-students utilise this form of communication. Therefore the *Pymbulletin* continues to play an important part of our exposure to our ex-students and also still shows that we are part of the College community.

Reunions

This area of the ESU seems to be substantially growing with the wonderful assistance of Alumni Office and their proactive approach to encouraging year groups to organise their reunion and also various reunions around Australia and Internationally. These have included (October 2013 – October 2014):

- London
- Hong Kong & Shanghai
- Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Toowoomba and Stanthorpe
- 13 Five and Ten Year Reunions including a 45th and 60th on Commemoration Day.

Joy, John and Gayl have attended many of these and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to them for making the effort and growing these events with such success. I was thrilled to attend both the Canberra and Melbourne reunions this year and it really showed me the strength and bond that carries through us all. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Vicki Waters for attending several reunions and showing her support on behalf of the College for the ESU Reunion program.

Finances

With incredible diligence and commitment, our Treasurer Sabah Hussain with assistance from our Vice Treasurer Kristen Faahan-Smith has maintained and attended to the financial records of our incorporated entity. Her Treasurer's Report is being tabled at this meeting together with a copy of our audited financial statements.

As always, we have had continued investment advice from Tynan Mackenzie about our investments and consolidation of our various accounts and maximizing our returns from our Life Member subscriptions.

For the current financial year, our after tax deficit was \$2,323.04 compared to a net operating loss before tax of \$20,383.06 generated for the year ended 30 June 2013. We are delighted to have executed an Automatic Life Membership Agreement with the College in which the College issued payment of \$64,500 in life membership fees together with the ESU partially funding the costs of the Database Administrator in the amount of \$35,000. We have also begun implementation of the ESU's Investment Strategy as has been discussed and proposed to the Committee in prior years with a view to maximizing the ESU's cash balances effectively. All these details will be covered in further detail in the Treasurers Report.

This year, we as a Committee, have remained focused on hosting our traditional functions whilst also adding an extra event that is coming up in the next couple of weeks, the ESU *Pymble* Corporate Golf Day at Avondale Golf Course. The aim behind this is to raise funds on behalf of the ESU towards the Centenary Precinct Project. We will do this event again next year to raise the 2nd half of our proposed donation. Also instigated this year and superbly managed by Kristen Faahan-Smith, is the new range of ESU Merchandise by way of aprons, ESU-embossed woolen tartan blankets, tea towels and Coffee-to-go mugs. These have so far proved to be very successful and all profits will also go towards the ESU contribution to the Centenary Precinct Project. Finally, we have also re-introduced the lovely *Pymble* Camellia for sale and likewise the profits from these will go towards the Centenary Precinct Project too.

Finally on the Finances, I would like to take this moment to sincerely thank Sabah for her dedication, passion, commitment, professional attitude and patience in dealing with the Finances of the ESU. It truly is a big job however Sabah has never faltered and has been extremely professional and diligent always.

ESU Supported Events

Once again we have had a very busy year with a variety of activities and events that have taken place. These have all been sponsored by the ESU and very efficiently run and managed by volunteers on the Committee. The impressive lineup includes:

- Annual sponsorship of Indigenous Scholarship Program by providing uniforms
- Contribution to the Careers Night at the College
- Annual Mothers and Grandmothers Morning Tea
- Year 12 2014 Good Luck Morning Tea
- Year 11 2014 Welcome to Year 12 Morning Tea
- Contributions to the *Pymbulletins* issued during 2013 and 2014
- ESU Scholarship awarded – Madeleine Payne (Year 11, 2015) joining Samantha Macourt (Year 12, 2015)
- ESU Golf/Tennis/Bridge/Bushwalk Day
- ESU Merchandise Stall and Chicken & Champagne Stall at Garden Party
- Year 2012/2013 Leavers Cocktail Party
- Commemoration Day Chapel Service
- Support of the National Council of Women
- ESU Artist-In-Resident (AIR) Grant
- ESU Netball and Hockey Teams

In addition to these continued significant events throughout the year, we held 8 Committee meetings and 1 extra-ordinary meeting in addition to this AGM.

ESU Scholarship

This year was my first year in the selection process for our new Scholarship recipient. The selection came down to two very competent candidates and the successful candidate for the Year 11, 2015/Year 12, 2016 Scholarship is Madeleine Payne. She will join our current ESU Scholar Samantha Macourt who is currently in Year 11, 2014.

Centenary 2016

Today we are exactly 468 days from the College's 100-year birthday on 8 February 2016. With this approaching, 2015 for the ESU will be one of focus on the Centenary Year. We will of course continue to do our regular events however there will always be an underlying acknowledgement and awareness of the Centenary. We will be fundraising throughout the year, as we have started this year, for our Centenary contribution and shall no doubt form many ideas and plans for events to celebrate in 2016.

Committee Members

Finally, my sincere thanks goes to the Committee. You have all made my first year as President thoroughly enjoyable and supported as I have navigated my way through the year and always with my focus on the Centenary in 2016. You have all committed yourselves and followed through with hard work, dedication and passion. You have made me so proud to be associated with you all in this connection we have with the ESU. It is no small task to take on a volunteer role of such a large organisation representing the past girls and history of such a prestigious school, however you have all done it with finesse and passion.

Sadly this year Ingrid Rosewarne and Apoorva Kallianpur are leaving the Committee and Edwina Fawcett is stepping down from the role of Secretary but staying on as a general Committee member. I would like to thank these ladies for their commitment especially Ingrid and Edwina who never faltered in providing outstanding support. At the beginning of this year we welcomed Simone Brian to the Committee and Simone has been a fabulous help with our Artist-in-Resident Grant. Also joining the Committee tonight are Larissa De Carle (mother of our recent Scholarship awardee Madeleine), Robyn Whyte who shall be taking on the role of Secretary and Joanna Bertoline. Welcome ladies, we are thrilled you have joined the Committee. We shall therefore have a total of 13 Committee members going forward into 2015. And the final Committee thanks go to Vice-President Karin Attebo, Margie Drury, Jennifer Macourt, Annie Corbett and Christie Charlin for their support and hard work throughout the year.

My final thank you is to the College; Vicki Waters, John Da Cruz, Joy England, Gayl McLachlan and Suzanne Lambert who all believed in me, supported me, encouraged me and have been behind us as we continue to strive for the highest in all we do.

Thank you everyone for attending tonight and showing your support of the ESU in the unending chain that is *Pymble*.

All' Ultimo Lavoro

Katrina Corcoran (Hum, 1987)

President

Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc.