



**Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc  
Annual General Meeting  
Thursday 25 October 2012**

**President's Report**

As the current President in 2012 of the Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc. (**ESU**), I have particular pleasure in presenting the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report to members and special guests in attendance here tonight. The cause of my excitement this year comes from late breaking news of a decision by College Council earlier this week to endorse a recommendation for automatic life membership of the ESU for all girls leaving Year 12 from 2013. This proposal came out of the Effective Engagement Stream of the College's *Pymble 2020 Strategy* work stream. It is the culmination of many years of discussions and lobbying and provides the ESU with an impetus for growth and engagement that has simply not been possible before now.

Another exciting development is the recent appointment of the Director of Development and a full time alumni officer at the College. These appointments in themselves are great steps forward for the ESU in terms of assisting us to fulfil our goals and visions of engaging with past and present *Pymble* girls in a relevant and vibrant manner.

In combination, these two developments are momentous. Our challenge for 2013 will be to develop a plan for the most effective engagement we can achieve with these additional resources and to identify what further activities, scholarships and sponsorships may be possible.

**The ESU – Governance and Strategy**

The Committee has engaged a legal firm specialising in advising not for profit (NFP) entities such as ours to provide us with advice and guidance on any revision to our Constitution and governance frameworks required in order to comply with the upcoming changes to the regulation of the NFP sector. We are encouraged by the potential for amendments to be made to our Constitution to enable us to offer tax-deductible gift funds for efficient fundraising by the ESU and, potentially, sponsorship of additional scholarships.

At our annual strategy day held in April this year we also discussed the benefits of having a more streamlined Committee structure with fewer but

more focussed Committee meetings. These will be incorporated in the review of our Constitution. A special resolution will be required to amend our Constitution to achieve these changes.

The College also kindly assisted in sending out a survey to all ESU Life Members in August this year on a broad range of issues impacting the effectiveness of the ESU. I am pleased to report that the average satisfaction score for the ESU was rated "very high". There was also a pleasing response to the request for interest in working with the current students to provide mentoring and career networking opportunities. Certain additional areas have been identified for consolidation and improvement and I am confident that, with the additional financial and physical resources obtained by the ESU in recent times, the ESU and the College can tackle these areas with gusto. One final point to note was the indication by 77% of respondents that they are happy with the current name of the ESU with only 23% agreeing another name should be explored. The second most favoured name was Pymble Old Girls.

## **Events**

As another year draws to its conclusion I can report on a variety of activities and initiatives that have been proudly sponsored or supported by the ESU during this past year. These include:

- Year 12 in 2012 Good Luck Morning Tea
- Foundation Day
- Annual sponsorship of the Indigenous Scholarship program
- Contributions to the Pymbulletins issued during 2012
- Careers Night at the College
- ESU Artist in Residence grant  
ESU Scholarship awarded – Nicole Drury
- ESU Strategy Day
- The annual Mothers and Grandmothers Morning Tea
- AlumNOW Art Show
- Commemoration Day Chapel Service
- Garden Party including hosting the Chicken & Champagne Stall
- ESU Hockey and Netball Teams, skiing and rowing support by ex-students
- Year 2009/2010 Cocktail Party
- Continuing support and attendance at the National Council of Women

A special thank you to Gill Ross-Edwards for her organisation of the AlumNOW Art Show held in May this year. In addition to being our most successful fundraiser ever, it brought together the talents and networks of our ex-student artists.

A special thank you also to Annie Corbett who organised the Garden Party and the ESU's hosting of the Chicken and Champagne Stall this year.

Both these events were spectacular successes and I also thank the Committee members who have volunteered their time through the year to support and promote the ESU.

In addition to these significant events throughout the year, we held 8 Committee meetings in addition to this AGM.

The College also assisted with organising 11 reunions during the year.

### **Membership**

As at 30 June 2012 we had an estimated 6,106 life members. This represents an increase of 134 new members since 2011. We intend to focus on developing our database of members to improve the accuracy of our records and to improve the relevance of the data we hold for each member.

### **ESU Scholarship**

This year I again had the pleasure of interviewing candidates for the ESU Scholarship this year. The successful candidate was Nicole Drury in Year 10. She will join our current ESU Scholar Ellie Walker who is currently in Year 11/12.

### **Finances**

Our Treasurer, Sabah Hussain, with ongoing assistance from our past Treasurer Gill Ross-Edwards, has diligently attended to the proper management of 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.

Our after tax surplus for the year was \$27,519 compared to \$14,967 in 2011. The majority of our investments remain in Term Deposits and cash and our intention is to revisit our investment strategy with a view to diversifying our investments to gain exposure to greater potential for longer-term growth. Investment advice has also been sought in this regard and approved by the Committee to redirect our investments and manage our upcoming subscriptions to maximise long term returns. Our taxable status remains a consideration in this regard.

We have also renewed our insurance cover to ensure that the ESU and its Committee members have appropriate cover at reasonable rates.

## **Committee Members**

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to each and every member of the Committee for their dedication, eagerness and willingness to assist with the many and varied activities of the ESU. I continue to truly enjoy the companionship of the Committee members and never cease to marvel at their capacity to organise events and still come back for more.

This year Gill Ross-Edwards, Edwina Fawcett, Pauline Jackson, Angela Bean, Amelia Jacka, Sheridan MacMahon, Cath Parker and Julie Opie have left or will leave the Committee. We have however welcomed Apoorva Kallianpur, Annie Corbett, and Ingrid Rosewarne to the Committee. We will have 11 ongoing Committee members and, with the additional support from the College and our ongoing well experienced office bearers, I am confident that we can achieve great things in 2013.

My thanks to those of you here tonight. May I say on your behalf that we are all proud to be, and to continue to be, the mortar between the bricks.

All' Ultimo Lavoro

**Sue Everingham (Taylor, 1977)**

**President**

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