



**Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 29 October 2013**

President's Report

As the current and outgoing President of the Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc (ESU) I have great pleasure in presenting the 84th Annual Report to members and special guests in attendance here tonight.

2013 has been a year of consolidation. With the appointment of Joy England as a full time Alumni Relationship Officer for the College, we have focused our efforts this year on working together to see what is working well, what has not been working as well as it could, and what we should be doing more of. The ESU has much to be proud of and can look forward to expanding its engagement with our members and continuing to support the work and values of the College.

Membership, Reunions and Communication

Membership

Throughout 2012/2013 our focus has been on our membership. Working through the College we have been able to engage the professional services of a database administrator to update and maintain our membership database. This initiative exemplifies the strong working relationship between the ESU and the College.

With the milestone achievement last year of the College's commitment to supporting automatic life membership for all Year 12 girls upon their leaving the College, the ESU has committed to allocating part of this funding to pay for the database administrator on a part-time basis to maintain the membership records of the ESU.

Perhaps not surprisingly, this led to a realisation at the end of the financial year- that our membership records were not as accurate as we might have hoped. We all grappled to identify these inconsistencies and resolved to ensure that, going forward, all new contact details are captured, all recently updated contact details from all Reunions are captured and updated in our membership database and existing life membership records are identified and maintained with more accuracy. Importantly, the Year 12 girls have been asked to provide their contact details after they leave school. I know for my daughter this was one of the first points of realisation that she will need to have an independent point of contact once she leaves the College.

As at 30 June 2013, our records indicated that we had 6,118 life members. This does not include the current Year 12 girls representing approximately 244 new members who will be added to our database in February next year. From 2014, we will therefore be able to make each and every girl a life member of the ESU with life long connections to the College.

If we take a moment to think about this, estimates have been gathered to date to indicate that approximately 20,000 girls would have graduated from Pymble since its beginnings in 1916. We therefore currently only have approximately 30% of all ex-students on our records. With the magic of statistics and averages, this number will gradually decrease each year as each new cohort of Year 12 girls is added to our membership. However, I think it is important that we all note this “missing” group of ex-students and use the Reunions and the upcoming Centenary of the College to bridge this gap as much as possible.

I am confident that with sustained effort, the ESU will be able to connect with many more former students – no matter what corner of the globe they live in.

Reunions

Another major focus this year, which we could not have achieved without Joy's assistance, is to help organise a number of Reunions. These included:

- Overseas Events in Hong Kong and London
- Regional Events in Griffith, Tamworth, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth
- 12 Decade Reunions from 2003 (5yr) to a 70 year Reunion held on Commemoration Day

Joy has managed this superbly and we extend our thanks to Joy for her energy and seemingly endless enthusiasm in arranging these Reunions.

I have been delighted to attend a number of these events and acknowledge and thank Vicki Waters for her attendance and support of the ESU Reunion program.

Communication

In the space of the last year our Facebook and Linked In memberships have also grown. We now have almost 900 members on the ESU Facebook site, as well as 100 on our Link In site. This reflects our intention for the ESU to move with the times to become more focused on communicating electronically. Joy has also helped us to issue 3 e Newsletters this year sent by email to our ever improving list of email addressees. The content is fabulous and we have had resounding accolades supporting this initiative. This is of course in addition to the three editions of the *Pymbulletin* which continue to communicate a broad range of information to our membership base.

Finances

Our Treasurer, Sabah Hussain with ongoing assistance from our Vice Treasurer Kristen-Faahan Smith (Wood) 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.

Investment advice has also been sought and approved by the Committee to redirect our investments and manage our upcoming subscriptions to maximise returns.

For the current financial year our after tax deficit was \$24,668 compared to an operating surplus in 2012 of \$27,520. As Sabah will explain, we can expect a gross receipt of approximately \$60,000 in early 2014 representing the proceeds of the life memberships for the Year 12 girls from 2013.

On the investments side, we have begun to redeem our investments in Term Deposits and increase our holding in cash as 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. 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.

As a Committee, we remain focused on continuing to host our traditional functions, but to also exercise careful consideration in these difficult financial times on the profitability of each event. Fundraising must of course remain a focus for the ESU.

Summary of ESU Supported Events

As in my previous Reports, I take great pleasure in informing you of the variety of activities and initiatives that have been proudly sponsored or supported by the ESU during this past year. These include:

- Year 12 2013 Good Luck Morning Tea
- Year 11 2013 Welcome to Year 12 Morning Tea
- Foundation Day
- Annual sponsorship of the Indigenous Scholarship program
- Contributions to the *Pymbulletins* issued during 2012 and 2013
- Careers Night at the College
- ESU Artist in Residence grant
- ESU Scholarship awarded – Samantha Macourt (Year 10/11) joining Nicole Drury (Year 11/12)
- The annual Mothers and Grandmothers Morning Tea

- Commemoration Day Chapel Service
- Garden Party including hosting the Chicken & Champagne Stall
- ESU Hockey and Netball Teams, Snowsports and Rowing support
- Continuing support of the National Council of Women
- ESU Networking Lunch

In addition to these significant events throughout the year, we held 6 Committee meetings in addition to this AGM.

Our most recent event, the ESU Networking Lunch was an outstanding success. I hope that events of this kind continue to be hosted by the ESU. They provide an excellent opportunity for our younger members to be encouraged and mentored by those who have gone before them.

The ESU – Governance and Strategy

We continue to focus on a revision of our Constitution 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. This remains a work in progress and I will be happy to continue assisting the new Committee, if required, to bring this to fruition.

A special resolution will be required to amend our Constitution to achieve these changes.

The ESU will need to continue to focus on areas of strategic import in the years ahead. One major area identified in the recent survey of ex-students was to endeavor to reunite the past students with the current students in exploring opportunities for mentoring and networking. Whilst it is true that girls do it differently to boys, we must continue to focus on the quiet yet unshakable potential for *Pymble* girls to help make it happen for their protégés.

ESU Scholarship

This year I again had the pleasure of interviewing candidates for the ESU Scholarship this year. The successful candidate was Samantha Macourt in Year10. She will join our current ESU Scholar Nicole Drury who is currently in Year 11/12.

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 friendship of the Committee members and I never cease to marvel at their capacity to volunteer their time and energy to organise events with creativity and care.

This year Wendy Dreyfus will leave the Committee. I do not think anyone could accurately estimate the contribution that Wendy has made whilst a member of the ESU Committee and I thank her formally and respectfully for her contribution to the achievements of the ESU. For 2013 we have great pleasure in welcoming Christie Charlin, Jennifer Hart, Jennifer Macourt, Karin Attebo and Edwina Fawcett (back) to the Committee. We will have 12 ongoing Committee members and, with the additional support from the College and our ongoing, well-experienced office bearers, I am confident that the ESU can continue to strive for the highest in 2014.

My thanks to those of you here tonight and may I say on your behalf that we are all proud to be, and to continue to represent to the best of our ability the unending chain that is *Pymble*.

All' Ultimo Lavoro

Sue Everingham (Taylor, 1977)

President

Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc