



Pymble Ladies' College **EX-STUDENTS' UNION (ESU)**

Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union Inc **Annual General Meeting** **Tuesday 25 October 2016**

President's Report

Welcome and thank you for coming to the Ex-Student's Union Annual General Meeting (AGM) in this exciting Centenary Year of the College. Tonight I have great pleasure in presenting the 87th Annual Report to members and special guests in attendance.

The Centenary Year of the College certainly has been an exciting one in every area of College life. The ex-students have been incredibly engaged with wonderful attendance at the various events throughout the year. I would like to take the opportunity to recap these because each event was an exciting occasion for all.

For ex-students, the year started off with a Foundation Family Luncheon on 17 February for all ex-students, their families and current girls who are relatives of a Foundation Pupil from 1916. There were 31 people who attended and it was a lovely way to start the year celebrating the relationships of those who have the honour of being *Pymble's* inaugural students.

Following on, the ESU hosted the Indigenous Scholars Morning Tea in March with several committee members and donors attending to get to know and chat with the current Indigenous scholarship recipients. The ESU contributes to the Indigenous Scholarship Program (ISP) through providing the girls with their uniforms when they commence at the College.

All ex-students who attended Ingleholme during their Prep and Junior School years when Ingleholme was open, were invited for an exciting day of lunch in the Ingleholme grounds in March. This event was sold out almost immediately with the day proving to be an enormous success.

The Centenary Precinct Opening on Friday 8 April was a monumental occasion for the College and one that I hope resonated strongly with the ex-student community particularly through the Centenary statue. This statue has been placed in the piazza in honour of all ex-students throughout the 100-year history of the College and it was a privilege to unveil the statue on the day.

In June the Sydney Opera House was packed to the rafters with the *Pymble* community whilst they were entertained at the Centenary Gala Concert. The

massed choir of 550 voices and 100 piece orchestra brought the concert to a thrilling finale and it was lovely to see so many ex-students who participated on the night.

On the weekend of Commemoration Day, there was also the Back to Boarding event in which all ex-student boarders were invited back to the College to sleep in the Boarding Houses. There was a lovely age range who attended and then majority of them finished the day on Sunday at the Commemoration Day service and Centenary Luncheon that followed.

In August, the ESU hosted a fabulous Art Exhibition titled alumNOW in the Gillian Moore Centre for Performing Arts (GMCPA). Again this ex-student event proved to be highly successful through the attendance it attracted and also the variety and number of ex-students who displayed their work.

Under the banner of the Centenary Year of the College, the ex-student engagement has definitely grown. Through the variety of Centenary and usual ex-student events, we have noticed a broader reach to our ex-students locally, nationally and internationally with all events strongly represented.

Going forward into 2017, we have several changes within the Committee. After 8 years on the Committee as a General Committee member for 1 year, Secretary for 4 years and President for 3 years, my time has come to an end, certainly not in my 'unending chain' as an ex-student, but as a Committee member and I shall be standing down effective from tonight. I have thoroughly enjoyed and relished in every moment I have spent on the Committee, through the variety of Committee members who I have been honored to work alongside, to all the exciting events and ex-students I have connected with and the excitement of the Centenary Year and of course the collegiality of working with the College, in particular the Principal Vicki Waters, in my capacity as President. Tonight I am thrilled to be handing the baton onto Li-Enn Koo (1991) who has been nominated as the incoming President effective from this evening. Congratulations Li-Enn, you will be wonderful in the position and shall no doubt lead the Committee and ex-students in an exciting direction next year.

Sabah Hussain, our dedicated Treasurer of 5 years (6 years on the Committee) is tonight finalising her time on the Committee as well and stepping into Sabah's big shoes is Katie Schliebs (1991). Welcome to Katie, I hope you thoroughly enjoy your time on the Committee. Sabah, I have really enjoyed our time together, particularly in the last 3 years where we have discussed plenty, anguished a little, challenged ourselves and foremost enjoyed working together. Thank you for walking alongside me in this journey, you truly are an inspiration and I appreciate everything you have done for me, the Committee and ex-students.

The current Vice President Priscilla Taylor has stepped down from her role as and I am pleased to announce that Danielle Ainsworth (Kelly, 1987) is the newly elected Vice President for 2017. Congratulations Danielle.

Both Sue Everingham, National Council of Women Liaison and Kristen Faahan-Smith, Merchandise Officer are also ending their time as sub-committee's of the ESU and I would like to thank both of them for their inspiration, dedication and loyalty to the ESU and Committee over the last several years. Joanna Bertoline will be taking on the role of Merchandise Officer. Thank you Joanna.

Thank you also to Simone Brian (Park, 1988) for continuing on as a sub-Committee member and specifically looking after the Artist-In-Residence (AIR) Grant. Simone has been doing a spectacular job over the last couple of years with the AIR Grant and has definitely raised its profile within the College Community.

Continuing on with the Committee are Janet Stanley (1986), Larissa de Carle (1987), Joanne Bertoline (Mason-Jones, 1988), Shilpi Sanghera (Chakrabarti, 1998) Assistant Treasurer and our wonderful Secretary Robyn Soonius (Whyte, 1983). Welcome to Peppy Mitchell (1987) who is joining the Committee tonight.

We saw the departure of Byron Barnes, Director of Development in April, Gayl McLaughlin, Alumni Relations Manager and also Joy England, Alumni Relations Manager however we have gained a wonderful resource at the College through the employment of an Archivist, Enid O'Carroll and a new Alumni Assistant Sally Long. I took on the role of Alumni Relations Manager replacing both Joy and Gayl and I shall continue on at the College in this capacity and also being the College Liaison for the Committee.

Membership

Again this year our membership numbers grew with the 2015 cohort of 251 girls who became automatic life members. As at 30 June 2016, our records indicated that we had 6,749 life members. Our growth also includes the engagement of the ex-student body through 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.

With the implementation in 2013 of the Automatic Life Membership of each outgoing Year 12 girl, each year our ex-student database grows by approximately 260 members. All Year 12 girls still need to fill in a Life Membership form with their contact details and this current years cohort have been very efficient with all but a handful who have done so (they will become Life Members as at 1 January 2017). This Life Membership form is part of the constitution and something that has been diligently followed up and achieved through the Alumni Office.

Social Media

Again this year social media has played an enormous role in our communication to our ex-students. Each year our benefits from social media grow and grow and it truly brings our global connections closer and closer. We are now at 2,052 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, ask for help for the Garden Party and post news about ex-students and also about current College occurrences. It steadily grows month by month and we rely heavily on this to make the world a smaller place by having such personal contact with ex-students in all corners of the world.

We still utilise LinkedIn which has over 300 members and also *Pymble Connects* which is a mentoring and networking program for ex-students.

The ESU eNewsletter continues to be a vital and informative way of keeping in touch with ex-students and at present we email it to approximately 5,500 ex-students and mail it out to VIP's. We still receive feedback that has been incredibly positive with many engaging back with the College due to this. The content is 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. We also rely heavily on telephone and email communication and also the *Pymbulletin* which shows that we are part of the College community.

Reunions

This area of the ESU seems to be substantially growing locally, nationally and internationally. These Reunions have included (October 2015 – October 2016):

- Canberra, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Toowoomba, 1976 Orange
- New York (new this year)
- London
- Hong Kong
- 13 Year Group Reunions.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Vicki Waters for showing her support on behalf of the College for the ESU Reunion program.

Finances

Our Treasurer, Sabah is truly so efficient and dedicated to the preservation and growth of our Finances. During the time she has been Treasurer, we have consolidated our various accounts and she has also maximised our returns and invested wisely. We have continued again this year with sound advice from Tynan Mackenzie about our investments, Life Membership subscriptions and financial future.

Sabah has been wonderfully assisted by our Vice Treasurer Shilpi Sanghera. Together they have maintained and attended to the financial records of our incorporated entity. The Treasurer's Report will be tabled at this meeting together with a copy of our audited financial statements.

For the current financial year, our after tax profit was \$10,880.74 compared to a net operating loss after tax of \$16,673.89 generated for the year ended 30 June 2015. We have continued to execute an Automatic Life Membership Agreement with the College in which the College issued payment of \$71,320 in life membership fees together with the ESU partially funding the costs of the Development and Alumni Assistant in the amount of \$35,000. Sabah will cover further financial information in her report.

This year, we as a Committee, have again remained focused on hosting our traditional functions and also our 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 and the statue dedicated to ex-students in the Centenary Piazza. Our first year through the Golf Day we raised \$23,355 net profit, and last year we raised \$18,895 net profit both of which have been paid to the College towards our ESU Centenary contribution. In a few weeks we will hold this event again as our final Golf Day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the College for their incredible support of this event, in particular David Sexton, General Manager. Merchandise sales and *Pymble* camellia sales will also continue to contribute towards our contribution.

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

ESU Supported Events

Due to the Centenary Year this year, we have found our social calendar has been even busier than usual. These have all been sponsored by the ESU and very efficiently run and managed by volunteers on the Committee with the support of the Alumni Office. The impressive lineup includes:

- Annual sponsorship of Indigenous Scholarship Program by providing uniforms
- Indigenous Scholars Morning Tea
- Networking Breakfast
- Contribution to the Careers Night at the College
- Annual Mothers and Grandmothers Morning Tea
- Year 12 2016 Good Luck Morning Tea
- Year 11 2016 Welcome to Year 12 Morning Tea
- Contributions to the *Pymbulletins* issued during 2015 and 2016
- ESU Scholarship awarded – Kate Soonius (Year 11, 2016) joining Emily Ainsworth (Year 12, 2017)
- ESU Merchandise Stall at the Garden Party
- Commemoration Day Chapel Service and Centenary Luncheon
- Support of the National Council of Women
- ESU Artist-In-Resident (AIR) Grant
- *Pymble* Golf Day

Through the College Centenary Events, we have also been involved in:

- Foundation Day Service and Morning Tea
- Foundation Family Lunch
- Centenary Chapel Service
- Ingleholme Reunion
- Centenary Precinct Opening
- Centenary Gala Concert
- Commemoration Day luncheon
- Back to Boarding Weekend
- ESU alumNOW Exhibition
- Longest Lunch
- Upcoming Past Presidents Lunch

In addition to these continued significant events throughout the year (from last AGM October 2015 to present), we held 9 Committee meetings in addition to this AGM.

ESU Scholarship

Again I was incredibly impressed by the caliber of girls who sat for this Scholarship last November. I can truly say that all were very worthy candidates however unfortunately there can only be one recipient and the successful candidate for the Year 11, 2017/Year 12, 2018 ESU Scholarship is Kate Soonius. She will join our current ESU Scholar Emily Ainsworth who has just commenced Year 12 for 2017.

Committee Members

My sincere thanks goes to you all. You have again made my journey as President thoroughly enjoyable and supported as I have navigated my way through the year as both President and Alumni Relations Manager. Your support has been greatly appreciated. To be a volunteer on a committee of a large organisation certainly takes dedication, commitment, passion and hard work. You have all shown this and taken on tasks, questioned processes, contributed physically and verbally and always supported each other and me. For all of this I thank you very much because my role I feel is only as strong as the support, encouragement and strength of the Committee that I have received. I feel very proud to stand alongside all of you as we have supported and grown the ex-student awareness, contribution and commitment. I would like to make a special acknowledgement and thank you to Robyn Soonius (Secretary) for her amazing work behind the scenes, always so efficiently and promptly.

As I mentioned earlier in my report, we have several members stepping down and also a new member joining. The Committee therefore will have a total of 10 members going forward into 2017.

My final thank you is to the College; Vicki Waters, Julie Shaw, David Sexton, Kelly Mancey, Sally Long and Enid O'Carroll who all believed in me, supported

me, encouraged me and have been behind us, the Committee, as we have continued 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*, and on a final note and certainly my final note

“The future of Pymble need cause us no fears; ‘Twill grow ever greater and live through the years, And new girls will follow in unending chain, And Youth be renewed again and again”.

All’ Ultimo Lavoro

Katrina Corcoran (Hum, 1987)

President

Pymble Ladies’ College Ex-Students’ Union Inc.