



Pymble Ladies' College

EX-STUDENTS' UNION INC. (ESU)

**93rd Annual General Meeting
7.00pm Monday 21st November 2022
Heritage Centre, Pymble Ladies' College,
Avon Road, Pymble NSW**





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93rd Annual General Meeting

To be held on Monday 21st November at 7.00pm in the Heritage Centre, Pymble Ladies' College, Avon Road, Pymble NSW

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Open and welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the 92nd AGM held on 22nd November 2021
4. Business arising from minutes
5. President's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Guest
8. General business
9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2022/23
10. Close of meeting



MINUTES OF THE 92nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
PYMBLE LADIES' COLLEGE EX-STUDENTS' UNION INC. {ESU}
HELD on 22rd November 2021 7pm, online

1. WELCOME

Zoë Wang thanked everyone for attending the AGM remotely.

Moderated by Rowena Ditzell

2. APOLOGIES

Gill Ross Edwards, Helen Gibson

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:

The minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting held on 23 November 2020 were tabled and moved as a true record of those proceedings:

Moved: Zoë Wang Seconded: Victoria Muller

No business arising from the previous minutes

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Zoë Wang delivered the President's report. Move to accept the tabled report.

Moved: Susan O'Sullivan Seconded: Victoria Muller

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Kate Soonius delivered the Treasurer's report.

Kate tabled the accounts signed off by the Auditor. The report and accounts were accepted as a true and accurate record of the financial status for the year ending 30 June 2021.

Move to accept financial statement as true and accurate record

Moved: Zoë Wang Seconded: Victoria Muller



6. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mr James Hunter, Chair of the School Board

Dr Kate Hadwen, Principal

7. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE:

Nominations received by the Secretary for the 2022/23 Committee were

Zoë Wang (1994), President

Victoria Muller (1992), Vice President

Susan O'Sullivan (1987), Secretary

Kate Soonius (2019) Treasurer

Sachini Seneviratne (2018) Assistant Treasurer

Louise Kellaway (1988) General Committee Member

Rowena Ditzell (1986) General Committee Member

Natalie Brandon (1992) General Committee Member

Bridget Lui (2014) General Committee Member

Amy Jarvis (2022) General Committee Member

Alex Walker (1995) General Committee Member

All the above Office Bearers and General Committee Members were elected unopposed.

Thanks to retiring Committee members Emma Partridge, Catherine Yang and Helen Jarvis. Particular thanks to Helen for her support of the Committee and her drive and enthusiasm in establishing the Ex-students Assistance Program.

Thanks to the College for its ongoing support

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

Zoë Wang, Chairperson

Susan O'Sullivan, Secretary

Date:

Date:



ESU President's Report 2022 – Zoë Wang

It has been a wonderful year with the opportunity to connect in person, whether at a networking event; Commemoration Day; through a dance class or at our fabulous Garden Party. The Alumni office was also kept very busy with many reunions organised, including several that were postponed due to pandemic restrictions in 2020 and 2021.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the ESU or would like to find out more about any of the programs, events or grants mentioned in this report, please get in touch. You can contact us by email at pymble.exstudents@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can contact us via the Alumni Relations office at the College on (02) 9855 7799.

Networking and Mentoring

In early April, the ESU hosted a Networking event for the Legal Industry in the Hall & Wilcox Sydney office. This event aimed to be the first of a series of smaller networking events, where Pymble Alumni have the opportunity to connect with others in the same industry. In the first half of the evening, a short panel discussion featured Pymble Alumni including Jacqui Barrett (1996), Jennifer Degotardi (1982), Alex Letham (1993), Jasmine Logaraj (2010), and Laura Newton (2006). Key takeaways from the discussion included the importance of culture and integrity in the workplace, the power of networking, and knowing one's value. The panel event was followed by networking between attendees and panellists over wine and canapes. There was a real sense of the Pymble community in the room. The event was a great success and a truly inspirational night. A further industry specific networking event is being held in early 2023 focussing on connecting ex-students working in the Tech industry or technology / IT related roles. Thank you so much to our tireless committee members, Brigitte Liew and Rowena Ditzell for organising this event.

'Wow', 'Inspiring', and 'Thought provoking' – these are just a few of the descriptions along with much laughter heard from the 280 strong audience at the Alumni Networking Event held at the stunning KPMG offices at Barangaroo in May. A magnificent panel of Pymble ex-students had the Alumni audience completely engaged whilst they discussed the power of networking, the inspiration of mentors and the twists and turns your career can take when you least expect it.

After a two-year hiatus, the ESU was very proud to host this valuable event in partnership with the College and College Chair James Hunter. The brainchild of James and former ESU President Liane Khoo, the aim of the event is to help accelerate the careers of Pymble graduates aged between 18 and 35 years as well as current Year 12 students.

The panel, expertly emceed by Felicity McVay (Carr, 1995) Director of Content for Tic Toc, included Alena Bennett (Schedlich, 1997) The CFO Boardroom/Leadership Speaker, Author, Mentor, Facilitator and Trainer, Sarah Di Lorenzo (Cassimatis, 1990) Resident Nutritionist at Weekend Sunrise and Author, and Evie Murdoch (2012) Food Agribusiness and Sustainability.



Our creative and motivating ex-students bantered for over an hour whilst entertaining and informing us about their journeys – the good, the great and sometimes the ugly. They shared what had worked for them and what hadn't worked and how to use networking to your advantage and making the most of the connections we all have. The opportunity to breakout into rooms and meet with leaders in specific industries was embraced by all present and the energy and laughter coming from everyone was infectious. Feedback has been very positive, and we know some valuable connections were made.

Thank you to everyone who attended, the Mentors for giving up their time and everyone at the College and KPMG who assisted to make the event such a success.

The College continues to provide the 'PymConnect – Linking our Pymble Community' mentoring platform. The ESU encourages our alumni community to participate, either as a mentor or mentee. This online platform has been designed to link our alumni community and facilitate mentoring opportunities to build a sense of belonging, create a culture of shared learning and enhance personal and professional growth within our Pymble community.

AlumNOW

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to hold the AlumNow exhibition this year, despite the ongoing efforts of Committee Member Natalie Brandon and Gill Ross-Edwards. We are looking at opportunities to partner with the College in holding an art exhibition at the College with a broader remit than AlumNow. We are in early discussions regarding this exhibition, and we look forward to being able to share more information in 2023.

Ex-Students' Assistance Program – Supporting the mental wellbeing of our community

We continue to provide access to our Ex-Students' Assistance Program (EAP). From July 2022 this service has been fully funded by the ESU. We thank the College sincerely for their support in providing 50% funding for the service in it's first 12 months. We are very pleased the trail was successful and that this is now an ongoing service provided to Pymble Alumni. The services are currently provided by Benestar under the MyCoach personal and confidential coaching program. MyCoach offers a team of professional coaches trained to assist you with everything from mental health to relationships to exercise and sleep, in face-to-face sessions or over the phone.

Ex-Students who access the service are offered up to three funded 1-hour coaching sessions. All sessions are confidential and neither the College nor the ESU Committee will be provided with the names of ex-students accessing the service. The EAP offers an alternative path for support, however, should not replace the clinical care provided by your GP and other health professionals. Support is not limited to mental health, the program can also provide members with coaching support in relation to money; health & nutrition; sleep and parenting.



Commemoration Day

We also held our Commemoration Day service for the first time in person after two years of online services. The service was wonderful and Emma Maple Brown was an excellent guest speaker. I am so happy that this long standing tradition has returned to its prominent position in the College calendar.

Thank you to ESU Vice President, Victoria Muller, for stepping in for me at the service. I was extremely sorry to miss the service after two years of online events during the pandemic. Ironically, I missed our return to an in person service this year as I was in isolation recovering from COVID 19.

Garden Party

We were all so excited that Garden Party was back this year! For the first time since 2018 Garden Party returned to its traditional place in the College calendar on the last weekend of Term three. The ESU ran our traditional Chicken and Champagne stall on the Gloucester lawn with a couple of new offerings. In addition to sandwiches we expanded our offering to strawberries and (for the first time) cheese platters. The stall was extremely successful as was the entire event. Congratulations to the entire Committee, and particularly, Louise Kellaway who led the immense amount of work coordinating the stall and Victoria Muller who organised the wonderful cheese platters and made the stall look so welcoming.

Thankyou to all the Committee members and other ex-students who gave up their time to assist in running the stall.

Grants and Scholarships

The ESU continues to support a number of grants and scholarships to support current students of the College.

Our Artist in Residence this year is Peter Sharp. Peter is working with Year 11 and 12 students and staff this term. The grant funded a 2 Day workshop including an artist's presentation that addresses the notion of artistic practice. Peter is a highly recognised Sydney artist who is represented in 2 major galleries. He works in paint and drawing, on paper and uses the natural world for inspiration. The workshops will take place at Vision Valley and funds will also be used to acquire one of his pieces created during the workshop period.

The 2023 grant, has been awarded to Kate Brown, Head of Junior School, to engage a picture book illustrator, Josh Langley, who has written and illustrated a number of picture books: Being Wildly Kind, Magnificent Mistakes and Fabulous Failures, Being You is Enough and other titles. His illustrations appear simple but they're very humorous. It is likely to be



for Year 2 and Year 4 in workshops form and presentations will go into the Festival of Creativity as a celebration of a kindness gallery of the girls' images.

The Artist in Residence Grant can truly spark something special. Several years ago, back in 2017 the ESU provided funding to support the College in starting a Robotics Program. Asaph Mross Becker and Christhina Boni Lavritti were our first ever Robotics Mentors. Six years later, our wonderful mentors are still leading the Robotics Program and our Pymble Pride Team were part of the winning Australian Alliance at the Southern Cross Regionals. This amazing result meant they were able to attend the World Championship Event in Houston, Texas. The phrase 'from little things, big things grow' comes to mind. How wonderful that the ESU was able to contribute to starting such a successful program.

Our ESU scholarship continues to be an important part of our connection with the College. The ESU funds a scholarship providing 50 per cent remission from academic tuition fees (excluding extras) to a student who is entering Year 11 and who is the daughter or granddaughter of an ex-student of the College.

The ESU also provides up to \$5,000 per annum to support tutoring of Indigenous Scholars at the College. All tutors currently employed by the College within this program are ex-students.

Supporting our alumni to continue to pursue sporting and creative passions

Our Grant Program 'The ESU Passion Project' aims to bring ex-students and friends together to pursue sporting and creative interests after finishing school.

Program Objectives

To enhance social connections between ex-students of Pymble Ladies' College (ex-students)

To support ex-students in pursuing their sporting and creative passions following the completion of formal schooling

To maintain connections with the College and provide existing students of the College with a visible pathway to continue their engagement with sporting and creative pursuits beyond the College gates

Our first Passion Project grant has supported the creation of an Alumni dance group. The group is offering open classes with guest teachers and will potentially enter a group into Open Age eisteddfods in 2023. Congratulations to Phoebe Walker for getting this group up and running. I am looking forward to seeing Pymble girls continue their love of dance after they leave school in the years to come.



Looking towards 2023

The last few years have been anything but ordinary and have tested us all in ways we could never have imagined. I am so grateful to the many wonderful Committee Members who have made the role of President so enjoyable over the past three years. All that the ESU is able to achieve is truly a group effort. I am looking forward to continuing my involvement in the ESU Committee as an Ordinary Committee Member next year and handing over the reins to a new President.

Thank you to Kate Soonius, our Treasurer, who is also stepping down this year. Kate has been extremely diligent in this role and has ensured that the ESU's funds are managed with prudence and good governance. I also wish to particularly thank Sue Kench, who has been an outstanding Secretary for the last two years. Victoria Muller has also stepped up this year as Vice President and has been an amazing support. All these ladies have gone above and beyond in so many ways and I truly don't know what I would have done without them.

Thankyou also to Katrina Corcoran, our wonderful Alumni Relations Manager and Kelly Mancey, Director – Community Engagement & Advancement. Both these ladies, along with our Principal, Dr Kate Hadwen, have provided ongoing support of the ESU. We truly value the close and collaborative relationship that we continue to have with the College.

All Ultimo Lavoro



Treasurer's Report 2022 – Kate Soonius

Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union (ESU) reported a comprehensive loss for the year ended 30 June 2022 of \$9,759, compared to a profit of \$24,798 in the previous financial year. This comparative change in results has mainly been driven by investment losses in the current volatile investment market. Many of these losses were offset against significant investment gains in the previous year with stronger markets coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The current year loss continues to be impacted by significantly lower subscription fee revenue.

Revenues

We thank the College for their continued support of the Automatic Life Membership Program. ESU membership revenue in this and the previous year is approximately 30% less than pre-FY21 levels. This is due to fewer 2021 Year 12 graduates and difficulties in obtaining new membership forms, caused by COVID-19 restrictions on the annual Year 12 event when sign-up forms would normally be collected. In FY22, 76% of membership forms were returned from 2021 Year 12 leavers.

Revenues were also significantly impacted by \$49,177 unrealised losses on investments. However it should be noted that these losses were largely offset by transfers from the asset revaluation reserve of \$43,487.

Expenditure

The ESU's primary expense is the funding of two half scholarships for daughters or granddaughters of ex-students, costing \$23,211. The ESU has also continued to contribute \$15,000 in administration fees to the College Alumni Relations Office and we are grateful for their continued support of our operations. Other expenditure contributions to the College this year included \$7,200 for the new First Nations Tutoring Program and \$5,000 for the Artist in Residence Program. For ex-students, the ESU incurred a net \$8,887 in function expenses (mainly relating to the KPMG Networking event) and funded \$2,220 towards the Ex-Students' Assistance Program (EAP). Other expenses mainly related to investment fees, and statutory and compliance expenses such as audit fees, insurance and income tax.

Balance Sheet

The ESU's financial assets are mainly managed by PSK Private Wealth through MyNorth Investments. This financial year, these assets fell in value by around 7% in line with poor market conditions caused by general uncertainty surrounding the impact of inflationary and interest rate pressures on worldwide economies.

Independent Auditors' Report

The auditors have issued an unqualified audit opinion that the Financial Statements provide a true and fair view of the financial position of the ESU as of 30 June 2022, and its financial performance for the year then ended.

Although current year results have been impacted by poorer investment performance, the ESU remains in a strong financial position. Next year, we look forward to being able to raise subscription revenue to pre-FY21 levels and increasing ex-student support through more networking functions and awarding grants through the Passion Project grant program. I would like to thank the ESU



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

Committee for their dedication and collaboration, and the College and Council for their ongoing support in ensuring the ESU's continued success in engaging with the College and ex-students.

Kate Soonius (2018)

Treasurer

Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union