



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

94th Annual General Meeting
7pm Monday 20st November 2023
David Macfarlane Centre,
Pymble Ladies' College,
Avon Road, Pymble NSW



ESU Tech Networking Event, Mar 2023



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94th Annual General Meeting

**To be held on Monday 20th November at 7pm 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 93rd AGM held on 21st November 2022
4. Business arising from minutes
5. President's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Guests
8. General business
9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2023/24
10. Close of meeting



**MINUTES OF THE 93rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
PYMBLE LADIES' COLLEGE EX-STUDENTS' UNION INC. (ESU)
HELD on 21st November 2022 at the College**

WELCOME

Zoë Wang thanked everyone for attending in person and via live stream

PRESENT

- Susan O'Sullivan
- Victoria Muller
- Kate Soonius
- Louise Killaway
- Natalie Brandon
- Rowena Ditzell
- Kris Graham
- Amy Graham
- Sachni Seneviratne
- Brigitte Liew
- Kate Hadwen
- James Hunter
- Gillan Moore
- Margaret Coleman
- Katrina Corcoran
- Fiona Crawford
- Kelly Mancey

APOLOGIES

Philippa Graham

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:

The minutes of the 92nd Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2021 were tabled and moved as a true record of those proceedings:

Moved: Zoë Wang Seconded: Victoria Muller

No business arising from the previous minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Moved: Victoria Muller Seconded: Louise Kellaway

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



GUEST SPEAKERS:

Mr James Hunter, Chair of the School Board

Dr Kate Hadwen, Principal

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE:

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

Fiona Walmsley , President

Victoria Muller, Vice President

Susan O'Sullivan, Secretary

Sachini Seneviratne, Treasurer

Louise Kellaway, General Committee Member

Rowena Ditzell, General Committee Member

Natalie Brandon, General Committee Member

Bridget Lui, General Committee Member

Zoë Wang, General Committee Member

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

Thanks to retiring Committee members Kate Soonius, Alex Walker, Amy Jarvis. Particular thanks to Kate for her outstanding contribution as Treasurer.

Thanks to the College for its ongoing support.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Zoë Wang, Chairperson Susan O'Sullivan, Secretary

Date:

Date:



President's Report – Fiona Walmsley

2023 has been a busy and successful year. The Ex-Students' Union (ESU) has been able to participate in our full-year program of events, with some stability returning after the disruptions of the previous few years during the pandemic. It has been wonderful to have the opportunity to connect in person across our *Pymble* community.

Networking and Mentoring

In March, we held our industry networking event for women in tech at the Stone & Chalk startup space in Sydney. This followed the legal industry event held last year. These smaller, targeted networking events aim to provide an opportunity for *Pymble* alumnae to connect with others in the same industry.

We were joined by around 50 *Pymble* ex-students who were keen to network and hear from our panel of experts. Our panel all generously shared their expertise and experience. A particular take-away was how very different a 'career in tech' can look. Our panellists had all taken extremely different (and not necessarily linear) paths to get where they are today.

The evening was a great success, and a particular thank you goes to Rowena Ditzell (1986) and Brigitte Liew (2014), our ESU Committee members who were responsible for the organisation. We will look to continue to build on this series in the future.

In May, we were proud to partner with the College once again to host our major alumni networking event at the beautiful KPMG offices at Barangaroo. The aim of the event is to facilitate connection between *Pymble* graduates aged between 18 and 35 years, as well as current year 12 students, by enabling mentoring connections and networking opportunities to be built with the more experienced members of our *Pymble* community.

It was a pleasure to participate in the panel discussion to kick off the evening alongside my fellow panellists Melanie Kurzydlo (2001, Executive Manager Project Management, AAP Group Limited), Cristina Carter (20120, Senior Manager Partnerships Westpac), and Hester Leung (1993, Chief Operating Officer My Specialised Accommodation Solutions). A huge thank you also goes to Evie Murdoch (2012, Associate Director KPMG Australia) for her excellent job steering the discussion as the event's MC. We had a wonderful discussion and despite the differences in our individual stories and journeys, the strong common theme was the power that comes with confidently showing up as your authentic self. Following the panel discussion, the participants moved into breakout rooms for the opportunity to meet and connect with leaders in specific industries.

We had an excellent response to the event with over 250 attendees. Thank you to everyone who attended, to everyone at the College and on the ESU Committee who partnered to make the event such a success, and to our College Chair James Hunter and his colleagues at KPMG for hosting us again at such a fabulous venue.

Ex-Students' Assistance Program

We are pleased to continue to provide access to our Ex-Students' Assistance Program (EAP), which offers a team of professional coaches trained to confidentially assist with everything from mental health to relationships to exercise and sleep, in face-to-face sessions or over the phone. The EAP offers an alternative path for support, however, should not replace the clinical care provided by health professionals.

Commemoration Day

In July we held our Commemoration Day service, to celebrate the dedication of the College in 1919. Our guest speaker Helen Jarvis (Fisher, 1989) talked about the significant benefits of volunteering, in keeping with the *Pymble Gives Back* theme for this year, and we enjoyed an impressive musical performance from Annabelle Kim (2018). We were joined on Commemoration Day by our 1953 leavers



who were celebrating their 70-year reunion. It was a pleasure to be able to meet them as they enjoyed reconnecting with each other and being back at the College.

Garden Party

On the last weekend of term three, our Garden Party enables all parts of our *Pymble* community come together to connect, have fun, and raise money for some worthy causes. This year's Garden Party benefited The Smith Family, and Dignity, who empower those at risk of experiencing homelessness.

We had a wonderful sunny – if unseasonably warm – day this year and the ESU ran our traditional Chicken & Champagne stall, offering chicken sandwiches, cheese platters, strawberries & cream, and champagne. The stall was well received and looked fantastic. Thank you to all the ESU Committee who contributed, and to all our ex-students who spend time volunteering on the stall throughout the day. A very special thank you to Lou Kellaway (Sutton, 1988), and Victoria Muller (Murray, 1992) for their hard work in preparing and putting the stall together; and to Cecelia Hutchinson, who volunteers her time every year as our RSA-qualified champagne server.

Grants and Scholarships

The ESU continues to support several grants and scholarships to support current students at the College. We are pleased to be able to hear from Kate Brown, Head of Junior School, at this meeting about the 2023 Artist in Residence grant.

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. This year we have made some changes to the scholarship criteria, removing the academic requirement to focus more holistically on candidates who demonstrate our *Pymble* values.

The alumni dance group, initially created with an ESU 'passion project' grant, continues to go from strength to strength. Created with the intention of supporting ex-students in pursuing their passions following the completion of formal schooling, the dance group has recently staged spectacular performance for the second year as part of the end of year College dance showcase.

Looking Ahead

Everything that the ESU can achieve is the result of the collaborative efforts of many people. I am grateful to all the ESU Committee Members who have made the year so enjoyable as I have learnt the ropes in my first year as President.

I would like to extend a particular thank you Susan O'Sullivan (Kench, 1987), who is vacating the role of secretary at this meeting. Susan has been involved in the ESU for many years, and we are grateful that she will still be a part of the committee in 2024 as an ordinary committee member, however she has gone above and beyond in the secretary's role and her outstanding contribution should be recognised.

Brigitte Liew is also stepping down from the committee at this meeting. We thank her for her contribution and in particular recognise her instrumental work in driving our successful targeted industry networking events.

Thank you also to Katrina Corcoran, our Alumni Relations Manager and Kelly Mancey, Director – Community Engagement & Advancement. Both these ladies, along with our Principal, Dr Kate Hadwen, continue to provide invaluable and ongoing support of the ESU.

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.



Treasurer's Report 2023 – Medani Athauda

Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union (ESU) reported a comprehensive loss for the year ended 30 June 2022 of \$38,397. This loss was mainly due to the bringing forward of scholarship payments into the financial year.

Revenues

We thank the College for their continued support of the Automatic Life Membership Program. ESU membership has returned to pre-covid levels, with nearly all membership forms returned from 2022 Year 12 leavers.

Expenditure

The ESU's primary expense is the funding of two half scholarships for daughters or granddaughters of ex-students, costing \$72,193. This financial year we paid for two scholarships for the second half of calendar 2022, one was pushed into this year due to covid. In addition, the full calendar year 2023 scholarships were paid in this tax year.

The ESU increased its contribution to administration fees to the College Alumni Relations Office to \$20,000 and we are grateful for their continued support of our operations. Other expenditure contributions to the College this year included for the Artist in Residence Program, The Ex-Students' Assistance Program (EAP) program and a number of ex-student networking events. 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 increased by just over 4%.

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.

The ESU has had higher than normal expenses this year however remains in a strong financial position. Next year, we look forward to being able to continuing ex-student support through more networking functions and expanding our Alumni Clubs program. I would like to thank the 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.

Medani Athauda

Treasurer

Pymble Ladies' College Ex-Students' Union