



Lauriston

OLD LAURISTONIANS'
ASSOCIATION

2020/2021

ALUMNAE RELATIONS REPORT

OF THE

OLD LAURISTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As I reflect upon my OLA Presidents report from 2020, I can see how much we have achieved and the difference we have continued to make to members of our OL community. I can see how each day we are truly living our mission statement to engage and connect our alumnae while fostering lasting and meaningful relationships with the Lauriston community for life. This makes me proud and committed to keep going.

From lockdown in early 2020 I wrote: **“The purpose and focus of our committee in 2020 and beyond is to make sure we are relevant and engaged with each of you. We can only do that if we are willing to honour our past, while ready and willing to change and listen.”** I wrote that without truly knowing how this global pandemic would alter our lives forever. Upon reflection and even with the enormous challenges COVID- 19 forced upon us, the OLA spent last year listening, adapting, and changing. Like most organisations we used whatever technology was available to us and we actively connected with OLS across the world to show we were here, and you had our support. We stepped up all communication channels uncovering the most incredible stories of our community fighting this pandemic from London to New York, from Sydney to Darwin and everywhere in between. We did interviews from our homes and conducted zoom meetings with our neighbours near and far. Our social channels and website became beacons of support, connection, and great interest. So, we did what we said we would do, and we achieved what we set out to achieve just from the confines of our homes, using a different rule book while deeply missing face to face contact with our Lauriston alumnae community.

During lock down I remembered my amazing Year 11 English teacher Patty Wallace-Smith teaching us about the writings of Plato and spending hours in class dissecting quotes such as “...our need will be the real creator.” With Mrs Wallace Smith ‘s teachings still ever present and coupled with the very real need for the OLA to step up and show the greatest practical support ever given to a group of year 12’s, Mentor for a Moment was born. Our OLA Committee knew these years 12’s had spent much of the year in lockdown and were about to graduate understandably apprehensive about the ‘post COVID’ world that greeted them on the other side of the Huntingtower Gates.

Within weeks the OLA had rolled out a vital mentoring program for our year 12’s over zoom, we had set up LinkedIn accounts for each of them, the committee were reaching out to their networks to offer support and we had delivered care packs and letters to every year 12 making sure they felt that their next steps were ones taken together.

This year marks the 120th birthday for Lauriston. 120 years ago, sisters Lilian and Margaret Irving started our great school when most women were confined to very traditional roles and could only dream of a professional career. To celebrate this milestone and with the philanthropic support of Najla and Shayne Elliott the OLA announced the launch of the inaugural OLA Fellowship. This Fellowship is open to all Lauriston past graduates. The successful applicant will receive \$5,000.00 that will go toward further education, a new business opportunity or travel, supporting her career. Together with the committee we look forward to seeing applications open via the OLA website next month.

Finally, it gives me great pride to continue to lead the OLA in 2021 together with the most amazing, dedicated committee. Not only am I inspired by their passion and commitment to our OL community I am energised by their hard work, determination, creativity, and drive. It remains our unwavering focus and passion to provide the Old Lauristonian community with relevant structures, connections, opportunities, events, programs, pathways and lived values that provide you with REAL support.

Our committee want to provide you, your daughters, your sisters, your family, and friends with the safety net of a strong active alumnae community like that is afforded to our sons and our brothers as 'old boys'. If in 1901 Lilian and Margaret Irving could crash through the thick glass ceiling of their times and start a school, then in 2021, we can provide the same support, the same loyalty, the same access to networks and the same opportunities for all Old Lauristonians, as generations of our male counterparts continue to enjoy.

Together we can achieve this and many more opportunities that engage and connect us as old Lauristonians for life.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna" with a small "x" mark below it.

Anna Wilson (1990)

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following comments outline the current cash position of the accounts as at 31 December 2020:

Bank Accounts	Balance as at 31.12.20
LIFE ACCOUNT – Incorporated Life Member Fund	\$67,216
OLA IRVING SCHOLARSHIP – Trust Fund	\$9,692
TOTAL	\$76,908

As at 31 December 2020, the Old Lauristonians' Association had investments with market value of \$176,872, inclusive of the OLA Irving Scholarship Fund. There are portfolios of Fixed Interest Term Deposits with interest paid at maturity and hybrid instruments. The target yield on our investments is approximately 2.1-3.2% p.a.

Investment Accounts	Balance as at 31.12.20
Life Account	
RAC Investment No. 483073951	\$67,306
ANZPE Capital Notes	\$20,159
CBAPD Capital Notes	\$33,062
WBCPE Capital Notes	\$30,291
SUB-TOTAL	\$150,818
Irving Scholarship	
RAC Investment 483070254	\$6,813
BENPF Preference Shares	\$19,241
SUB-TOTAL	\$26,054
TOTAL	\$176,872

The OLA Scholarships and Bursaries for 2020 were as follows:

Prize	Amount
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award (Year 6)	book
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award (Year 7)	book
OLA Gladys Davies Bursary (Year 8)	\$500
OLA Kirkhope Bursary (Year 8)	\$500
Howqua Bursaries (Year 9 - 2019)	\$5,000
Howqua Bursaries (Year 9 - 2020)	\$4,000
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award (Year 10)	book
OLA Irving Bursary (Year 11)	\$1,000
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award (Year 11)	book
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award (Year 12)	book
OLA Merrifield Award for English	\$40
Total cost for books in 2020	\$133
Total	\$11,173

The OLA Howqua Bursaries for 2019 of \$5,000 was paid by OLA in January 2020, and therefore is included in this list.

Caroline Morrison
Honorary Treasurer OLA

OLA Committee (as at 10/5/2021)

PRESIDENT	Ms Anna Wilson (Murray)	1990
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/COMMUNITY	Ms Lisa McLellan (Dean)	1981
TREASURER	Ms Caroline Morrison (Hatfield)	1984
SECRETARY/YOLs	Ms Molly Temay	2010
BUSINESS NETWORKING LEAD	Ms Claudette Leeming	1991
BUSINESS NETWORKING PORTFOLIO	Ms Steph Phillips	2004
BUSINESS NETWORKING PORTFOLIO	Ms Melanie Davey	2004
COMMUNITY RELATIONS LEAD	Ms Sarah Smith (Telford)	1989
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PORTFOLIO	Ms Rachel Irons (Polke)	1989
COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO	Ms Alex Harvey	2002
COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO	Ms Juliette Tan (Lee)	1984
YOLs PORTFOLIO LEAD	Ms Charley Lupson	2015
YOLs PORTFOLIO	Ms Caroline Ramsden	2010
YOLs PORTFOLIO	Ms Steph Aitken	2015
YOLs PORTFOLIO	Ms Jacqui Jiang	2015
CHAPTER RELATIONS PORTFOLIO	Ms Amanda Smith	1993
OLA GENERAL COMMITTEE	Ms Xing Zhang	2000

CHAPTER RELATIONS

After the Class of 2000 reunion on Zoom, Catherine connected with Ellie Hartmann (2000) who is living and working in the UK. Ellie, being so passionate about the School, offered to become the UK Ambassador and head up the UK Chapter. She is a member of a social club where she is able to host some events, but due to COVID, nothing has eventuated as yet. Since then, Ellie has returned home for a visit at the end of 2020 and was delighted to be asked to be part of the 120 “I Found My” video which was produced, highlighting a number of past students who explained what they found when they were a student at Lauriston and how Lauriston has shaped them as a person. Ellie has since returned to the UK and continues to remain connect and is still passionate about connecting with other UK-based alumnae, once COVID restrictions ease. Catherine has since provided Ellie with a list of UK-known alumnae so that she can reach out to them in the meantime.

Alice Hong (2011) is in Singapore and through volunteering as a Careers Expo panellist has enquired as to starting a Singapore Chapter. Following the Careers Expo, it would be beneficial for this initiative to be followed through by the Chapter Portfolio groups.

BUSINESS NETWORKING

Late in 2020 the OLA undertook a Business Networking Survey to establish the need and energy surrounding business networking amongst Old Lauristonians. The Business Networking Portfolio will be developing a proposal with a plan going forward, taking into account the different aspects of Networking, such as networking for young alumnae; networking for experienced professionals; mentoring opportunities, etc.

YOLs – YOUNG OLD LAURISTONIANS

The YOLs group is currently assessing initiatives for supporting senior school initiatives as well as supporting very young alumnae, and especially Class of 2020 who suffered through a year of online learning.

The YOLs are also involved in assessing the Constitution to ensure that it is relevant and that it meets the needs of the alumnae community and the School.

Networking events and initiatives for young alumnae are also being assessed, as well as other social justice opportunities.

The YOLs are also interested in establishing a process for finding and reconnecting with disconnected alumnae.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS - OLA AWARDS

The Community Portfolio of the OLA reviewed the Awards that are offered by the OLA to current Lauriston students and were proud to present the following awards for 2020:

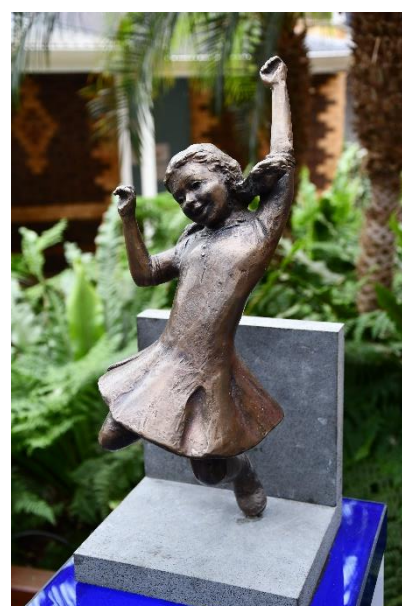
<u>NAME OF AWARD</u>	<u>Year level</u>	<u>2020 Prize</u>	<u>2020 Recipients</u>
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	6	book	Mary Dannaoui
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	7	book	Annabel Reith
OLA Gladys Davies Bursary	8	\$500	Kathlin Qiu
OLA Kirkhope Bursary	8	\$500	Holly Alder
OLA Howqua Bursary	9	\$2,000	Eloise Thompson
OLA Howqua Bursary	9	\$2,000	Tara Sedy
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	10	book	Tegan Gheri
OLA Irving Bursary	11	\$1,000	Charlotte Smith
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	11	book	Olivia Bisko
OLA Merrifield Award for English (historical)	12	\$40	Bridget Clarke
OLA Outstanding Citizenship Award	12	book	Anna Mitchell



The OLA also acknowledges the generous creation of artwork, etched by Rachel Irons (Polke, 1989). The etching of 3 Lauriston girls with backpacks has been used as a watermark printed on all award certificates presented to recipients.

Heather Ellis Sculpture “Jump for Joy”

The School also acknowledges and thanks the OLA for their contribution to the Heather Ellis sculpture ‘Jump for Joy’, of which OLA Committee Member Rachel Irons (Polke, 1989) has been part of the process.



OLA FELLOWSHIP



The Old Lauristonians' Association (OLA) has established a Fellowship program to support the professional development of past Lauriston students.

In line with the OLA vision and mission the Fellowship program will provide a financial contribution of \$5,000 to the successful applicant.

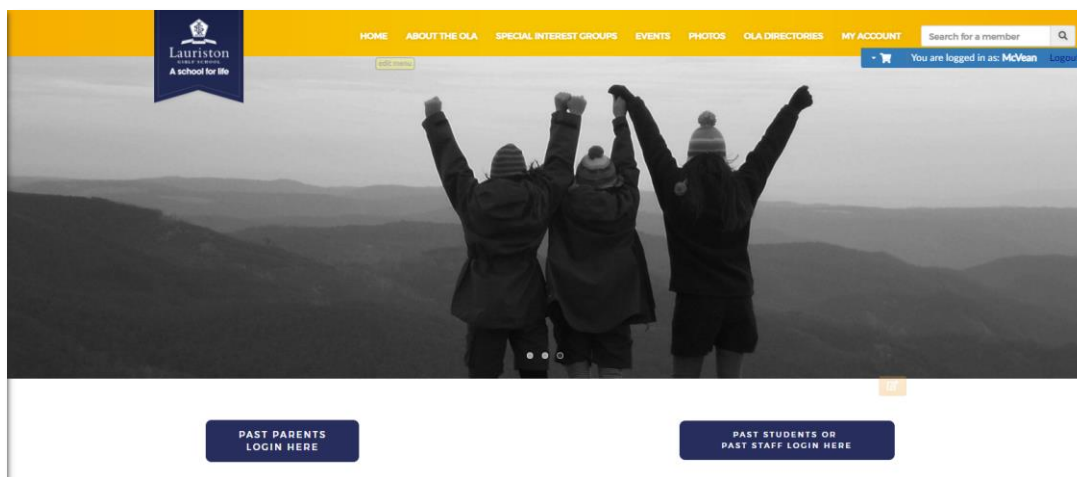
This Fellowship is to be used to support professional development, to help deliver a unique project, research or further study undertaken by an OL in her related field.

This Fellowship has been generously funded by School community members Shayne and Najla Elliott. Without their support this Fellowship would not be possible, and the OLA acknowledges them personally for their foresight and their support of the Old Lauristonian community.

The successful recipient will be announced in September 2021.

COMMUNICATION

OLA WEBSITE



The OLA website is managed by Potentiality. Data from the School's Database Synergetic is synced to Potentiality regularly, ensuring past student details are managed efficiently. The Potentiality website is fully customisable and as such the Alumnae Office often creates, modifies, and removes pages and information throughout the year.

Over the course of the past 12 months:

- The website has been modified to aesthetically compliment the Lauriston website;
- A Past Parents login has been created and a new Past Parents skin has been created;
- The LPSG (Lauriston Past Staff Group) has launched. The LPPG (Past Parents) group is due to launch shortly.
- Additional pages highlighting the 120th Anniversary of the School have been added, such as 120 Objects and Captains' Corner.
- Most pages have been reformatted with the inclusion of more photos making it visually more appealing.
- New pages such as "News from Lauriston", "Shine a Light On" and "Lauriston Spirit Project" have been created as a way of highlighting and promoting past student successes.
- The Community Support pages have been created displaying how the OLA supports its community. This also includes the addition of a facility to administer any non-tax deductible donations from Old Lauristonians.
- The implementation of a merchandise module is currently being reviewed.

BEYOND THE FIG TREE eNEWSLETTER



In 2020 the office published 5 editions of Beyond the Fig Tree. These eNewsletters contain information about past student activity, OLA activity, School activity and is a way to increase community engagement. In 2021 the office published the first edition for the year. Another 3 editions will be distributed at the end of each term. Whilst readership has been maintained, it is to be noted that data integrity has improved over the course of 12 months and eNewsletters have been modified to limit the amount of click-throughs, which can impact reader-continuity of the eNewsletter.

- Edition 1 2020 – Sent 3901; Read 1465 (clicks 559); Approx read 1827.
- Edition 2 2020 – Sent 3824; Read 1222 (clicks 447); Approx read 1723.
- Edition 3 2020 – Sent 3921; Read 1416 (clicks 319); Approx read 1557.
- Edition 4 2020 – Sent 3787; Read 1293 (click 403); Approx read 1393.
- Edition 5 2020 – Sent 3959; Read 1112 (clicks 139); Approx read 1444.
- Edition 1 2021 – Sent 3921; Read 1429 (clicks 257); Approx read 1782

SOCIAL MEDIA



The OLA is active on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn with a LinkedIn page and a LinkedIn Private Group. There are also private Class Groups on Facebook. Below is a snap shot of social posts from 1 March through to 13 May, 2021:

- Instagram: 28 posts; 705 likes. Most popular post = Captains Evening Photos – 59 likes.
- Facebook: 36 posts; 1667 Engagements; 13,678 Reach. Most popular post = Beattie Goad post – 166 Engagements; 1,243 Reach
- LinkedIn OLA – Most popular post: 1 March IWD post – 183 Impressions

As of 13 May, 2021:

- Facebook: 1,253 followers
- Instagram: 423 followers
- LinkedIn Page: 112 followers
- LinkedIn Group: 315 Members

LAURISTON ADVANCEMENT

Director of Advancement: Ms Marina Johnson

Alumnae Relations Manager: Ms Catherine McVean

Fundraising Coordinator: Ms Zafreen Khan

Advancement Associate: Ms Bo Rutecki

School Archivist: Ms Lisl Bladin

The Lauriston Alumnae Office was unable to conduct face-to-face reunions nor events between May 2020 and January 2021, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. During that time however, the alumnae office conducted the following initiatives, while working remotely:

- Class of 1980 40-Year Reunion via Zoom
- Class of 2000 20-Year Reunion via Zoom
- Careers Expo 2021 – online
- Webinar – Kat Vuong
- Launched Lauriston Spirit Project Initiative
- Published 5 editions of ‘Beyond the Fig Tree’ eNewsletter
- Continued Social Media presence – Facebook, Instagram, OLA & Lauriston LinkedIn
- School Webinar featuring Emily Atkins from LinkedIn
- Created Facebook Groups for all year groups with 2020 reunions
- Reformatted and reenergised the OLA Website via Potentiality
- Commenced the creation of Past Parents and Past Staff Groups
- Contributed to Lauriston Life Magazine with alumnae content
- Created content for numerous initiatives published on website and eNewsletter
- Conducted a variety of surveys to gain alumnae feedback
- Commenced preparations for 120th Year Celebrations
- Commenced formulating and implemented the Mentor for a Moment initiative
- Prepared numerous videos and slideshow presentations to publish online
- Conducted an Intergenerational online photo shoot for The Lauristonian
- Prepared and started working on Lost Lists for 2021 reunions
- Coordination and launch of the UK Chapter with Ellie Hartmann
- Commenced research and formulated a plan for an OLA Choir
- Communicated with 2020 Year 12s and offered support
- Revamped the Babysitting and Tutoring programs.
- Commenced preparations for a Captains event to be held in 2021
- Contacted and researched external venues for reunions going forward
- Supported the OLA by holding meetings remotely

Heading into the new year, the COVID pandemic restrictions started to ease so we were able to invite alumnae and past staff to a wonderful Founders’ Day lunch at the beginning of February, featuring guest speaker and Old Lauristonian Kate Fitz-Gibbon, where guests were able to watch the assembly in the downstairs dance studios, separated from the students seated in Irving Hall. This proved to be

a wonderful success and the office received numerous positive notes of thanks from Old Girls who had remained connected to the School over the past 12 months of lockdown.

In Term 1 the newly formed Huntingtower Singers, a group of up to 30 past students spanning 6 decades (1950s through to 2010s), commenced weekly rehearsals at the School, in preparation for their inaugural performance at the 120 Anniversary picnic in March. The School supports them with the facilities and instruments to conduct their rehearsals, including the provision of refreshments. The School encourages Old Lauristonians to return to the School for occasions that build community engagement and reconnection with each other and the School.

The School was delighted to host a very successful International Women’s Day celebration featuring guest speakers who were all Old Lauristonians – Jane Hume, Emma Belcher and Katie Blunt - and a couple of weeks later the School held the 120 Anniversary picnic, where Old Lauristonian Heather Ellis unveiled her new sculpture ‘Jump for Joy’. Both occasions were mostly attended by current School community with minor restrictions in place. The OLA had a brand-presence at both events, and it was wonderful that the OLA President announced the launch of the new OLA Fellowship at this 120-anniversary celebration. The OLA was also encouraged to procure and sell merchandise at the picnic as a way of creating a physical branding presence on the day.

After months of preparation, on 5 May the School hosted a wonderful occasion for past School Captains and Vice Captains – inviting them to return to the School for an enjoyable occasion in celebration of 120 years of leadership at Lauriston. The event was held inside Irving Hall which proved to be very appealing to guests, as a change from the Mountain Room. During this evening, the OLA Fellowship was announced, and with the encouragement of an OLA Committee member, all School Captains were encouraged to look at reconnecting their disconnected peers going forward. The Huntingtower Singers performed 3 songs and were outstanding! Again, a wonderful occasion for Old Lauristonians with 46 School Captains in attendance, including the oldest known School Captain June Danks (1948).

As of 10th May 2021, preparations are underway to host the Careers Expo for senior students on 24, 25 and 26 May where 26 young Old Lauristonians will be participating in panel discussions online. The following week, the Alumnae Office will be hosting a reunion for Class of 2013 to celebrate their 10-Year Howqua Reunion, at Howqua. During this day, there will be a film crew in attendance and the girls will be participating in a 2-hour hike, to enjoy their day, to reconnect with each other during the hike, and to return to the campus for a lovely lunch.

Reunions for 2021, hosted by the School will commence each Friday from Friday 16th July for the rest of the year. We will be conducting last year’s and this year’s reunions concurrently.

Going forward the School would like to invite an OLA Committee member to represent the OLA at all reunions and events, as a way of encouraging OLA presence.

DATA COORDINATION

The personal information of all past students is contained on the School's database Synergetic. The Alumnae Office uses the OLA Website, hosted by Potentiality, to manage past students and to provide a platform for alumnae to connect, reconnect and stay connected to each other and to Lauriston. Any data updates on Synergetic are automatically synched to Potentiality each day.

As of 10th May 2021, please note the following:

- From Peer Year 1940, there are 7,160 past Lauriston students, known to be still living, who attended senior school (Years 7-12).
- We have addresses for 4933 of these members.
- We have email addresses for 3,937 of these members.

Going forward the Office will be developing a shareable working document so that OLA Committee members can assist in finding lost and disconnected members. During this process, it is also encouraged to learn about alumnae life experiences, professional development, and their life experiences since leaving Lauriston. Stories that can be noted, published in eNewsletters and possibly promoted via Social Media platforms.

CLUBS

The OLA is indebted to those who work behind the scenes to ensure that OLA clubs are functioning at the standard required to exist in their various competitions and environments. As of 10 May 2021, the OLA was fortunate to have the following clubs represent the organisation:

CLUB	CONTACT
OLA Huntingtower Singers	Susie Hill (1969)

Going forward the School encourages the development of further clubs such as sporting or recreational clubs, for the purposes of building community engagement, goodwill towards the OLA and to the School, and to connect and reconnect alumnae worldwide. Clubs to be considered are:

CLUB	CONTACT
OLA Netball Club	
OLA Rowing Club	
OLA Book Club	
OLA Social Justice Club	

OLA Huntingtower Singers

It was pleasing to see the launch of the Huntingtower Singers at the beginning of 2021. The group is made up of over 30 past students spanning 6 decades. Not all can rehearse at once, so each rehearsal and performance usually has approximately 50% of the group participating. This group is not exclusive and is open to all past Lauriston students irrespective of experience, talent and there is full flexibility and ease of any restrictions joining the group. With support from the School the Huntingtower Singers rehearse weekly or fortnightly and as of 10 May 2021, have performed twice. The Huntingtower Singers intend to perform at several reunions in Semester 2 as well as the Inaugural Lauriston Luncheon in October at The Gables. Since conception, each member of the choir has been self-funded with the School supporting them with all facilities and with some costs such as accompanist and music licensing costs.

On 12 May 2021, the OLA voted for the OLA Huntingtower Singers to receive funds up to \$750 for costs incurred over the next 12 months. A 'Clubs Grant' process is to be implemented by the OLA in 2021/2022, as a way of supporting the development of new clubs and groups, to further engage the alumnae community going forward.

Photos:



Suzie Hill (1969) Conductor & Choir Leader



The Huntingtower Singers



Mother and daughter singers – Michelle Staughton (Dundas, 1984) & Brooke Staughton (2015)

FUTURE EVENTS

Several events are currently being planned for the remainder of 2021. These are:

- 24-26 May – Careers Expo
- 5 June – Class of 2013 10-Year Howqua Reunion
- 16 July – Class of 1995 and 1996 combined 25-Year Reunion
- 23 July – Class of 2000 and 2001 combined 20 Year Reunion
- 30 July – Class of 2011 10-Year Reunion
- 6 August – Class of 2016 5-Year Reunion
- 12 August – Class of 1980 and 1981 40-Year Reunion
- 14 October – Class of 1990 and 1991 30 Year Reunion
- 8 October – Class of 1970 and 1971 50-Year Reunion
- 17 October – Class of 2014 10-Year Howqua Reunion
- 27 October – Inaugural Lauriston Luncheon at The Gables
- 7 November – Multi-generational Luncheon
- TBA – Lauriston Past Staff Event
- TBA – Lauriston Past Parent Event
- TBA – Chapter Events (Adelaide/Perth/Brisbane/Sydney)

PHOTOS

Founders' Day Luncheon



International Women's Day Breakfast



Captains' Evening:

