



Lauriston

OLD LAURISTONIANS'
ASSOCIATION

Old Lauristonians' Association Inc.

SANCTE SAPIENTER STRENUE

109th Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date:	Monday 17 May 2021	Location:	Via Zoom
Time:	6:30pm	Chair:	Anna Wilson (1990)
Attendees:	Anna Wilson (1990) Steph Phillips (2004) Charley Lupson (2015) Melanie Davey (2004) Claudette Leeming (1991) Caroline Morrison (1984)	Amanda Smith (1993) Mel Dunlop (1989) Steph Aitken (2015) Suzie Hill (1969) Lisa McLellan (1981) Xing Zhang (2000)	
Apologies	Susan Just (Principal), Molly Temay (2010), Caroline Dowling (1988), Alex Harvey (2002), Rachel Irons (1989), Jacqui Jiang (2015), Caroline Ramsden (2010), Sarah Smith (1989)		
Guests	Marina Johnson (LGS)		
Moderator	Catherine McVean (LGS)		

Minutes and Matters arising

Meeting commenced at 6.34 pm.

2020 AGM Minutes was circulated to alumnae community via email on 15th April 2021.

Reviewed minutes of June 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Approved and accepted.

Moved: Anna Wilson

Seconded: Amanda Smith

Thank you from The Huntingtower Singers

Suzie Hill (1969) expressed gratitude to the OLA for approving a \$750 club grant to be provided to the newly formed club, The Huntingtower Singers, for expenses incurred over the coming 12 months. *"The Huntingtower Singers are very grateful for the grant given to us by the OLA Committee. Already looking at some new music going ahead"*. Anna Wilson responded saying how excited the Committee is, to be supporting a group of OL singers and suggested that due to its popularity, the group will continue to grow and is a terrific way to engage with more and more alumnae.

Presidents Report – Anna Wilson

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.

Anna also reflected:

- Chapter Relations Portfolio is about to launch UK with Singapore Chapter in the making;
- Business Networking – conducted survey looking at mentoring and professional opportunities for OLs going forward.
- YOLs – assessing the Constitution – will be renewed and past over the coming weeks. Engaging with young alumnae re social justice initiatives.
- Community Relations – reviewed awards; launched OLA Fellowship; sketching by Rachel Irons now used on all certificates; ‘Jump for Joy’ Sculpture will be launched next week, where the OLA has financially contributed.
- Catherine has re-worked the OLA website to make it more user friendly and relevant; committee profiles are now updated.
- Communications – Beyond the Fig Tree – 5 editions in 2020; 1 so far in 2021.
- Social Media has been fantastic to tell stories of OLs across the world and to keep OLs connected.
- Most popular post – Captains’ Evening photos on Instagram.
- Most popular post – Beattie Goad soccer player on Facebook.
- FB – 1253 followers; IG 423 followers; LinkedIn 112 followers; LinkedIn Group 315.
- 7000 OLs across the world.
- Now that we can have face to face opportunities, we’re excited to have launched and to support the Huntingtower Singers. Hoping to launch more clubs in the future.
- Careers Expo has been a highlight including 26 OLs volunteering.

Approved and accepted.

Moved: Anna Wilson

Seconded: Melanie Davey

Treasurers Report – Caroline Morrison

Financial Statements prepared by Caroline Morrison, as attached and circulated prior to AGM on 15th April 2021.

All accounts have been approved by the auditors as confirmed by the School.

Approved and accepted.

Moved: Caroline Morrison

Seconded: Claudette Leeming

Election - Members of the Committee

President: Anna Wilson (unopposed)

Vice President: Lisa McLellan

Treasurer: Caroline Morrison

Secretary: Molly Temay

General Committee:

Xing Zhang

Communications Portfolio

Alexandra Harvey

Young Old Lauristonians (YOLs) Portfolio

Charley Lupson (Portfolio Lead)

Caroline Ramsden

Molly Temay

Jacqui Jiang

Steph Aitken

Community Relations Portfolio

Sarah Smith (Portfolio Lead)

Lisa McLellan

Rachel Irons

Business Networking Portfolio

Claudette Leeming (Portfolio Lead)

Steph Phillips

Chapter Relations Portfolio

Amanda Smith

Sophie Rice (currently unavailable)

LPA Representatives – Anna Wilson

OLA Nominee on Foundation: To be confirmed.

Moved: Caroline Morrison

Seconded: Caroline Ramsden

Election – OLA Representative for Lauriston Council

OLA Representatives for Council: Claudette Leeming and Rachel Irons

Moved: Anna Wilson

Seconded: Melanie Davey

The OLA would like to note our thanks to Fi Finster and Juliette Lee who have both resigned from the OLA. Both have been on the OLA Committee for over 7 years and have contributed significantly. They have both shown commitment and loyalty to the School and to the OLA and will be missed. Flowers were sent to each of them today in appreciation of their service to the OLA and we extend our very best wishes to them.

Other business:

The Director of Advancement Marina Johnson on behalf of Principal Susan Just offered congratulations and thanks to the OLA for their contribution over the past 12 months. *“It is wonderful to have the OLA connecting the alumnae and supporting the School throughout the year and being involved in the many initiatives for the benefit of the wider School community. It is very much appreciated.”*

Annual General Meeting closed at 6.47 pm