



108th Annual General Meeting, 25 May 2020

OLA Presidents Report

It is the legal and moral responsibility of the President of any organisation to compile and deliver an annual report that is circulated to all members and presented at each AGM.

The following is my report.

While I *must* do this, I want you to know how excited and proud I am to be delivering you the 108th OLA President's report at this year's AGM.

There are over 6000 Old Lauristonians scattered across the globe. Vastly different in a million ways we are all bound together by the shared experience of education at Lauriston Girls' School. We have all walked through the gates at Huntingtower Road, shared classrooms, teachers and worn the same uniform. We have all sat in long assemblies considering the portraits of past Principals that line the Irving Hall walls, while singing the school song we need no written words to complete.

It is this shared education and experience that binds us together forever.

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, be ready and willing to change and listen.

In the past year I am so grateful to have had the growing support of 19 other OLs who have joined our committee to make sure we are delivering on our strategies, that we remain relevant and accountable to you, our members.

Together with the incredible support of the School we have continued our wonderful reunion program but with a twist! After listening to feedback from you we have introduced some off-site reunions, school tours, dinners, drinks, morning teas and online reunions. We have solidified our portfolio groups within the committee. Each OLA committee member has a focus, such as Young Old Girls, Business Networking, Communications, Chapter Relations (including an international focus on members in London, Singapore and New York) and we are reviewing our scholarships and awards for current students. We also continue to acknowledge the significant contributions of our OLs, throughout the world. Our committee is planning to implement a community grants program for our OLs as well as creating 'The OLA Medal' that will be presented annually. Details and a request for your nominations will follow soon.

In the past year we have made significant inroads on all social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. We have also launched our new OLA website that allows you to make vital connections with other OLs across the world, view a growing gallery of photos, offer and access mentoring, book tutoring and babysitting services as well as make important business networking opportunities. You will all be receiving the new online newsletter 'Beyond the Fig Tree' that has been designed to showcase our community and keep us all informed. We welcome all your ideas and any content you might like to contribute. We look forward to resuming our successful events such as 'The Guard of Honour' prior to valedictory, The Huntingtower Luncheon and networking occasions when restrictions have eased. Our Lauriston Spirit Project continues via all our social media channels and within the current parent body to showcase and support community members and those with businesses.

As I write this report in lockdown due to the worldwide spread of COVID- 19 it seems noticeably clear to me what is important. We need to be kind. We need to connect and support each other so we can continue to create meaningful relationships with our families and our community. The OLA mission statement has never been more important and relevant to us all.

'The OLA will engage, connect and provide relevant support to our alumnae and students, to foster a lasting and meaningful relationship with the Lauriston community for life.'

Together with the School and the engaged OLA committee, I look forward to connecting with you all over the coming months as we continue to value our shared education as Old Lauristonians' beyond the gates.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anna'.

Anna Wilson (1990)
30 April, 2020