

A TRIBUTE TO LAURIE WHITE

Prue Weaver '76, with grateful thanks to members of the KOGU

Laurie (Nyman) White '48 was born on 3 July 1931. She started at Kambala aged five and left in 1948 as a Prefect and Gurney House Captain. She lived most of her life in Rose Bay, including 57 years in the big brown house at 468 Old South Head Road.

Laurie and her first husband, Jim Hunt, had two daughters, Lyndy and Julie, who attended Kambala, and Laurie later married Ted White whose daughter Pele was also at Kambala. In 2011 Laurie moved to Yass to be closer to her daughter Lyndy, and it was there that some of us gathered at St Clement's Anglican Church to farewell her after she passed away on 22 January 2018.

There are many milestones that marked Laurie's life, but they hardly touch the surface of all that she meant to her friends and colleagues, particularly those in the Kambala Old Girls' Union (KOGU). Laurie never wanted to be President, but she filled just about every other Committee position from 1959 when she became Assistant Secretary of the KOGU. She was also KOGU representative on the School Council from 1965 to 1971, a member of the Building Fund, the Kambala Association, Kambala's Development Office and an enthusiastic volunteer every Christmas at the Infants' Home, Ashfield and, of course, in the Archives Room.

Laurie became a close friend of Miss Hawthorne, perhaps from their shared experience during the war years when the number of pupils at the School dropped and those in the boarding house came to feel like family.

For many years Laurie and the eponymous tin trunk were the source of all knowledge about the KOGU and its members, most of whom changed their name as they married, took on a professional nom de plume or were generally known by a more distinctive name than was listed when they enrolled at Kambala. "Oh I'll just go and ring Laurie" was a familiar catchcry whenever information was needed, quickly! KOGU meetings were regularly held at number 468 to prepare the newsletters for mailing. These are fondly remembered as times of much talking and laughter ... although we had to finish writing messages on the newsletters going to anyone we knew. Only after everything was done would Laurie break out



1. Kambala Old Girls at Laurie White's funeral in Yass. Back row: (from left) Prue Weaver '76, Gabrielle (Briger) Thompson '76, Kate Bruxner '03, Janet (Cummings) Macfarlane '62, Elizabeth (Hampshire) Burnett '86, Jennifer Hampshire '95, Elaine (Nicolson) Budd '65. Front row: (from left) Marjorie (Storey) Bruxner '65, Julie (Hunt) Newbury '73, Diana (Winston) Hampshire '55, Lynda (Hunt) Stubbs '71 and Carolyn (Coombes) Williams '62.
2. Laurie (Nyman) White '48 on her 80th birthday.

the Dobinsons cakes, egg sandwiches, tea and coffee and, often, a glass of cask white wine. Laurie was so synonymous with the circulars that she became known as a proofing guru.

It is difficult to sum up Laurie's legacy. She was a caring friend, a wise counsellor, a fount of knowledge, a mentor to many of us, the backbone of the Union, a keen supporter of the Archives Room and the archivists who worked there, but most of all she was a very special lady. Vale Laurie.