



Gabrielle (Briger) Thompson '76

Gabrielle is a proud Wentworth girl who attended Kambala from 1967-1976. When she first arrived Miss Hawthorne was the Principal and even though she knew her for only a short time, Gabrielle says that she made an enormous impact on her life.

In Gabrielle's time at school Judy Playfair proudly showed the girls her Olympic medal in swimming from the Mexico games, she watched man walk on the moon on a television bought for the event, and, the first Blue pocket was awarded for debating to her and her team in their final year. Upon leaving school, Gabrielle joined the Kambala Old Girls' Union and served in many roles including President from 1981-1983 and again from 1992-1996. She was also a member of the School Council from 2000-2006. One of her proudest moments was being chosen as the Speech Day speaker in KOGU's Centenary year.

After leaving school Gabrielle became a banker and in 1985, with the deregulation of the Australian banking sector, she moved into the international banking and finance arena predominantly specialising in trade finance, commodities trading and shipping. In 1993 she was promoted to the Head of Trade for Australia and New Zealand at Citibank, one of the largest banks in the world at the time. Gabrielle worked in that sphere for both local and foreign banks and represented Australia on the International Chamber of Commerce. In 1997 Gabrielle left her career in banking to spend time with her two young children including daughter Bhanu Thompson '16. Gabrielle also worked on a voluntary basis with the NSW State Government working group on The Hague Convention on Adoption, and with her husband Neil on the running of an orphanage in Sri Lanka through a Non-Government Organisation, the International Children's Aid.

In the 2000s, Gabrielle returned to the arts, which had been her passion since childhood and her feature credits include the rockumentary *Razzle Dazzle: A Journey Into Dance* (2005) and the romantic-comedy musical *Goddess* (2010). On both films she worked with Andrena Finlay another 1976 Kambala Old Girl and fellow Wentworth girl. Gabrielle also worked on a short film called *Snookered* (2007), which won second place at the Tropfest@Tribeca short film festival.

In 2009 Gabrielle co-founded the Australian World Orchestra (AWO) in conjunction with her brother Alexander Briger AO and is currently its CEO. The purpose of the AWO is to bring together Australia's finest orchestral musicians from home and across the world, to perform in Australia and overseas with the world's greatest conductors, soloists and composers, while encouraging and developing young talent. Its formation took the Australian classical scene by storm as it is the only one of its kind in the world. In recent years she has managed performances in Sydney and Melbourne, and tours of India and Singapore. This was part of an Australian Government Cultural Exchange with both countries and it was the first and only Australian orchestra to take part. Gabrielle has now been appointed to the Advisory Panel of the Australia India Institute. She continues her film career through work on a documentary entitled *Bringing Them Home* which charts the history of the AWO, in short vignette style.