

Sacred Heart College Old Boy's Association
2018 President's Report – Simon Hayden (dip. Bus) 89 Pompallier

This is the President's report for the 109th year of the SHCOBA. I present this on my 10th year of service on the Committee and President since September 2014.

A change to our structure to which our committee members take on portfolios has been a success. More involvement across the group brings better knowledge and experience for achieving our goals.

Over the past few years the energy, enthusiasm and progress of the Old Boys Association's activity and involvement in the school community has increased in a very positive way. There have been several highlights to our activity.

Our Annual Dinner which has been renamed the National Dinner with a change to an evening before a 1st XV rugby home game had an excess of 165 attendees. The Foyer and Auditorium is an excellent venue, as was the meal. The mood was very jovial, and it was a great chance to catch up with Old mates. It was a real coup for our Association to have the then New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English as our guest.

The regional reunions have been well attended with a common comment being the gratitude the Old Boys have for receiving updates on all aspects of the college. Dunedin and Christchurch reunions were organised by younger Old Boys who ensured there was plenty of good humour and fun for all in attendance.

Once again, this year, in association with Lyn Luxton from the Development Foundation, we have held a reunion a term for groups of old boys; 40-50, 50-55, 55-60 and 60-65. The men who attend all mention how much they enjoy the informal format and the opportunity to see the school close up.

Reunions were also held in Hong Kong and the UK in 2017 with Melbourne and Brisbane to take place in 2018. These will be conducted in conjunction with the kind support of the Development Foundation. The feedback is that distance has not diminished the pride these Old Boys have for our College and its activities. We had over 20 separate reunions over the 2017 year many of which are organised and run by the Old Boys themselves who should be thanked and commended. The SHC Old boys Rugby Club page on Facebook has over 1000 members and has become a hub for connectivity.

We had a change to the OBA event at the fair to a dunk tank which was a fantastic entertainment portion of the day rather than a fundraiser. The PTA has asked that we retain this next year. The annual Golf tournament was held at Howick, a great day with a full field. Thank you especially to Brian Donnelly for running an exceptional and enjoyable day.

The annual ANZAC memorial Mass was a fantastic and moving event, it does an exceptional job of showcasing the history of our college. This is a very important event on the school and Old Boys calendar and it would not be as successful if it was not for the work of Jim Mullane and Mrs Margaret Graham. I must make special thanks to Margaret for allowing my sons and wife Melissa to present the wreath with me as it is the last year all three boys will be at the college. It is a moment my family will cherish forever.

We have made small steps in continuing to evolve and drive this Association to support our Old Boys and school community in more ways. With support of the College, the Development Foundation and SHC Limited the business plan for a donation to the OBA each term for each student's time at the college, provides him with a 'Paid life time membership' to the SHCOBA. This will provide the Association with a regular funding stream for Hardship Scholarships, Old Boy engagement and support of the Marist Brothers and School Community. With this created we must conscientiously, dutifully and transparently utilise the generous amount of money we are being donated in the best possible way for our community.

We have an excellent opportunity with the extension of the sports seating to make a continued difference to the college. This is our most pressing challenge and needs a concerted effort by the entire committee to ensure we reach the target amount.

A thanks to our Principal Mr Dale and Vice Principal Mr Pepping, for their contribution to and support of the Old Boys involvement in the school. It is appreciated, and we are thankful for your steadfast support of the Old Boys committee and community.

Mr Kelsen Butler, Board Chair for always considering his fellow Old Boys when leading the Board of the College. His support is valued.

The Teachers and Staff of the College continually provide us a friendliness and inclusion as part of the wider school community, that shows a pride in the college, as it is now, and of the history and tradition of Sacred Heart.

A thank you to Lyn Luxton, Jennifer Roshan, Paul Greaney and Chris Klaassen from the Development Foundation who provide invaluable support and resource to continue us moving forward. Without their hard work, organisational and administrative support, we could not continue to function and achieve the great results.

Kelly Jennings and John van Meeuwen with the PTA team who are always willing to give their time and resource to help the Old boys.

Our presence through newsletters, social media and through the College Communications would not happen if it was not for Mrs Angela Little.

These people enable and assist us through the goodness and actions of a wonderful Marist and Catholic community and on behalf of all our old boys, I thank you.

Thanks to Vice President, Aubrey Donovan whose positivity and approach has been very helpful over the past year.

Mark Williams our Secretary for his excellent support and advice.

Kerry Plamus for ensuring our OB community is kept up to date and aware of all that is happening.

David Anderson is doing an excellent job as Treasurer.

Mike Dale for making sure there isn't a cheque or letter missed at the post box and Paddy Dawson for being Paddy!

This will be my final year as President of the OBA and I feel very privileged to be leading the Old Boys Association into a position where we are seen by our fellow Old boys, our College and the wider community as a positive and beneficial organisation. Through our actions and our activity, we are showing that Sacred Heart has a history, a faith and a community like no other.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their efforts over the past years. The wisdom in regard to our traditions, our history with the genuine support for Sacred Heart College and its people is what enables this Association to continue.

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Simon Hayden

President

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