

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Constitution Adoption.

The upcoming AGM will include a motion to adopt the Draft Constitution developed in 2022 to guide in a more formalised way the OBU, although it remains an 'unincorporated' association. The drafted Constitution has guided the OBU Committee's interim activities over the period from late 2022 to 2024.

Successful Reunion Lunches post covid

After a COVID caused hiatus, the Annual OBU Reunion Lunch has returned in 2022, 2023 and now 2024. With good numbers, our format has proved successful with guest Old Boy presenters, Michael Tomalaris and Warren 'Sticks' Daly providing excellent keynotes. This year, we will have a series of smaller presentations, one of which will be of the school's 80 pax visit to NASA's headquarters in Florida, earlier in the year. The regular school Principal's report and senior Prefects' presentation will also feature. Please see the attached invitation details for RSVP/booking details and we look forward to your attendance.

Legacy Fund established with 6 x support recipients to date

1965 OB Phil Pomfret presented the OBU Legacy Fund's development to the October lunch last year. As a sub-committee function of the OBU and driven by Phil's enthusiasm, a genuine place in the school's programmes has been found for this initiative, with 6 recipients for support having been identified since then, These recipients have been financed primarily through donations from Phil's cohort of 1965 Old Boys (who get together informally on a near quarterly basis), last year's Reunion lunch attendees and respondents to various in person or emailed requests for support in the last 12 months. The sub-committee of Phil, myself and John Coleman together with co-opted assistance of '55 OB David Ross, '65 OB Clive Guthrie and '65 OB Charles Ovidia have explored in considerable detail the need to formalise the Fund, targeting gaining tax-deductable status for donations for the fund, in its long-term interest. The path to this status requires greater formalisation of the OBU as an (incorporated) association, with other requirements, needing considerably more time input and probable significant expenditure which, this year we have halted at but next year we will further explore. Phil will present to the upcoming Reunion Lunch the development of the Fund and financial details of the Fund to date which are also in the attached Financials summary.

I commend to you support of the fund (we nominally ask for a \$100 per annum donation from Old Boys). *It has already proven its place.* Details are in an attachment for your consideration.

Alumni Awards nominations (x 2)

As a committee, we have responded to the school's request for nominations for Annual Alumni (significant achievement awards). In 2023, we assisted in Richard White '72 agreeing to and receiving this Award which was presented at the December Presentation Day. Richard is a highly successful business entrepreneur in the Software and Logistics fields, primarily through his founding of Wisetech Limited. We have also nominated for this year's Awards and we presented the 2022 awards on stage that year's Presentation Day.

Year 12 Graduation cards and ties

Committee members attended the Year 12 graduations in 2022 and 2023, where a congratulatory cards, advising to the boys as to their immediate Old Boy status and an 'Old Boys tie' were distributed, as is mentioned in the Constitution. Committee members will similarly attend Year 12-year end events again this year. This initiative has been designed to engage on initial level with each STHS student upon their graduation.

Annual Presentation Days awards and presentations

The OBU has funded for many years a group of academic and service awards across the school Forms, distributed at the Presentation Days, which are now held late in the school year. Committee members have attended to personally present these awards. The details of these awards are listed in the Presentation Day programmes and are available by enquiry from the school.

Anzac Day Ceremonies

Committee members attend each year's school Anzac Ceremony, held in the school auditorium. The 2022 ceremony included the unveiling of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Board, the initiative of '63 OB, Ken Stephenson and the school's History Head Teacher, Robert Devlin. This was a notable event, attended by the NSW Governor Margaret Beasley, with entourage and other notable guests. The programme on the day was excellently presented with the turnout of students including the school military cadet corps' involvement being top class. The OBU contributed to the Memorial Board by way of three excellent bronze military service badges featuring at the bottom of the listed serving Old Boys.

School Alumni Day attendances and presentations.

The school holds 'anniversary year' alumni days on an annual basis and the committee has attended these events to personally meet attending Old Boys, advise them of OBU activities, advertise the Annual Reunion Lunch, supporting this school initiative. The school offers a site tour at these events with the visiting alumni able to update themselves with the developing school facilities.

'Tech Talk' column; notification of year reunions and alumni events (The Interceptors)

The monthly school 'Tech Talk' now features an Old Boys column. John Coleman has written our regular contributions which have highlighted 'save the dates' for the Annual Reunion Lunch, the development of the Legacy Fund, other Old Boy events, single year reunions etc.

More to Do.

Our experience in the last three years indicates that there is more to do, such as improvement in the master data base for Old Boy contacts, utilizing the school's website; Facebook and LinkedIn pages; careers support and further student support assistance; annual dinner or event for younger Old Boys (at the school).

Committee Election (AGM)

To maintain the current Old Boys commitments and move on with other potentials, the Committee is presenting the following Committee member nominations for the next three-year term, as per the Constitution:

John Coleman '65

David Knox '65

Neville Shooter '63
Jerry Mouzakis (School representative) '82
Mark Shoolman '74
Andrew Campbell '95
Peter Claxton '56
David Ferrier '75

I commend this team to you as a cross section of experience and new input for the full number of positions, as per the Constitution.

Also, as per the Constitution, Old Boys can nominate for the committee. Nominations which must be received by the committee by 14 October. Any nominations would therefore require an election for the available positions to be held at the AGM. Nominations from the floor are not envisaged.

John Harrison '56OB, who has been on the interim committee since 2022 is standing down and we thank him for his service to the Committee and the Annual Reunion Lunch organisation prior to the Committee's formalisation. Old Boys from John's 1950's cohort have remained a core of the Annual Lunch's attendance for so long.,

I wish to express the Old Boys thanks to the current committee for their involvement and attention to the spirit of OBU. Also, to Keith Powell '65 for his long-term involvement in the OBU Lunch Committee and of course, Philip Pomfret for his originating vision and outstanding work with the Legacy Fund to date. Also, thanks to the school's Principal, Steven So, Executive, faculty and administrative staff for their ongoing support and assistance.

David Knox '65
Interim President 2024
STHS OBU

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