

ASC Old Bathurstian's Union

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015/20016

It is with great pleasure that I present my fourth annual report chronicling the activities of the OBU committee throughout the last year.

There has been considerable consolidation of our database of ex-students which has been the focus for our committee during the past couple of years. There are now 6,423 entries including 664 from Marsden and 5,560 from All Saints. Of these just over 1,000 have validated email addresses. There have been almost 700 updates on the newly established OBU website and the Facebook group has 715 'likes'. This enabled the sending of a first ever Christmas message to members from your president and also notifications and invitations to the Dubbo and Bathurst reunion dinners. A workable OBU email address has also provided a means of communication for queries, general catch ups and the sending of cohort information for reunions. Another huge thank you to Jock Crossing for organising the database and OBU email address for without his expertise none of this would have been possible.

Sadly the OBU Bathurst dinner last year had to be cancelled due to minimal numbers. I'm pleased to report that it will be well supported this year. The committee funded the mounting and framing of two Greg Hyde prints of the school last year, one of which was raffled at the Spring fair and the other will be raffled this year at the dinner and Spring Fair.

In September I attended the Valedictory dinner and presented the year 12 students with a gift from the OBU. I also emphasised the benefits of the OBU and their continuing association with the college. Their future contact detail sheets are now collected at the beginning of their HSC exams and entered into the database.

A proposal for a reduced \$150 payment of Life Membership of OBU on entering the senior school was lodged with the school council in September for consideration. Unfortunately, this was finally rejected at their February meeting mainly because it differed from what was stated in our constitution! The letter to parents asking for the \$200 membership payment of the OBU was consequently sent out later than usual this year in March.

The Head, Peter Miller, was farewelled in December, sadly without representation from several of the Old Bathurstian's committee. A disappointing lack of communication from the school meant that most of us were unaware of the farewell

until it was over! Along with several other members of the committee, I attended the Senior school speech day and the service at the beginning of the year for the inauguration new head Steven O'Connor.

Another very successful dinner was held in Dubbo in March and thanks must go to the organising committee Judy Jakins, Glen Stockings and Michael Doyle for an excellent night and their annual contribution to the OBU finances.

In July, Head Steven O'Connor attended our meeting and was asked to let staff know that we were keen to assist with new initiatives or "wish lists" which would enhance the relevance of the OBU. A grand piano for music was initially mentioned as a possibility.

Tim Sargeant represented the OBU, in my absence, at an important meeting with the council, foundation and other key players in August to discuss the future of the school. Hopefully, this matter will be settled very soon as the uncertainty of the outcome is worrying for all parties concerned with the school.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to fellow committee members for their loyal contributions this year. The treasurers Rosemarie, ably assisted by David Provost, have kept us in a very sound financial position, secretary Memory, who not only keeps the minutes but is a great connection with the school for reunions and communication, Paul who spends hours on the phone chasing up ex-students, Tim who quietly goes about resurrecting and restoring old trophies, John and Shirley who represent us on the School Foundation and the other loyal members who attend meetings and represent the OBU at numerous school functions.

Anne Llewellyn

President

10/9/16