

ASC OLD BATHURSTIANS UNION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2006/2007

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is again a pleasure to present my third Annual Report chronicling the activities of your Committee throughout the past year.

Further consolidation has taken place during the year, with a focus on an initiative to update the College's history. The Committee welcomed two new members at the beginning of the year, Christine Fitzsimons and John Cranfield, but sadly, farewelled two stalwarts, Dawn & Barry Lamph, after many years of sterling service. In December we farewelled our Secretary, Vanessa Pitt, who relocated to Gladstone. Our thanks are due to Vanessa for her excellent contribution over a number of years. Rachel McMahon was appointed the new Secretary, a task she has approached with youthful energy and enthusiasm. The Committee met in Bathurst on four occasions, in September, December, March and July.

During the year, the Committee resolved to proceed with the updating of the College's history from 1963 to the present time. A sub-committee was formed comprising Rodney Templeman (Convenor), Tim Sargeant, Christopher Morgan, Memory Sanders, Helen Baber, Trevor Press, Bruce Clydsdale, Rachel McMahon and your President. It is with pleasure that I can report that Christopher Morgan, the President of the Bathurst Historical Society, has agreed to be the Project Coordinator. Work is underway with the preparation of a time line and budget for this major undertaking, and an archive room for storage of information and records has been made available by the College for which we are most grateful. A call for contributions to the history was included in the August VIM and in due course, a selection of members will no doubt be approached for interview.

The Finance Sub-committee under Treasurer, David Provost, continued its diligent work with regard to the OBU's finances, with the value of funds under management approaching the minimum corpus set out in the Constitution, although there has been some decline in recent times due to the fall in the Australian Stock Market. Nevertheless, the OBU is in a sound financial position as we move forward into a new year.

The Committee ratified the introduction of a third centenary scholarship for 2008. These scholarships are worth \$1,000 per annum to a child or grandchild of a current OBU member, who are of good character and prepared to contribute to the life of the College and the affairs of the OBU after they leave school. In future, the scholarships will be awarded to students entering Year 10, and will have a tenure of three years. However, as there are no current centenary scholars, in 2008 scholarships will be awarded to a student entering each of Years 10, 11 and 12. It is hoped to announce the recipients shortly.

In my absence, the OBU was represented at the 2006 leavers Valedictory Dinner by former Secretary, Vanessa Pitt who emphasised to the students present the benefits of membership of the OBU and their continuing association with the College. Last

year's initiative of presenting a gift to the departing Year 12 students was repeated this year with great effect.

A new initiative this year was the issue of a letter of welcome by the President to new life members from the class of 2006, and the subsequent issue of a Membership Certificate. I also wrote to those students who decided not to join the OBU, urging them to reconsider before too much time elapsed. I will also be writing to parents of the class of 2007 seeking their support for their son/daughter to become members of the OBU by paying the once-off life membership fee included in their final school fees invoice

Along with a number of Committee members I again represented the OBU at the Senior School Speech Day. This event continued the tradition of excellence of previous years, with quality speeches by all involved.

The major social event during the year was organised by our sister association, the Marsden Old Girls Union (which is now included within the OBU), to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the closure of Marsden School in 1977. On May 6th, more than 140 past students, former teachers and friends gathered for a service in the Holy Trinity Church at Kelso, followed by lunch at the College and a visit to the old school. I understand that a most successful day was experienced by all who attended, full of recollections and reminiscences of bygone days.

Another successful dinner was held in Dubbo on Saturday, 24 March, attended by some 50 members and partners and my thanks are due to the organising committee for an excellent evening, an entertaining speech by David Foreman relating to his experiences in the RAAF and for the contribution by Dubbo Branch to the OBU finances.

Despite retiring from the Committee, Dawn and Barry Lamph continue their long association with the OBU by hosting an annual dinner at their home in Nyngan. Another excellent dinner was held on Saturday, 4 August attended by some 35 guests, including the Head of College. Unfortunately, I was unable to be present this year. Our thanks are due in no small measure to Dawn & Barry for selfless efforts and I hope that they will continue to organise future dinners.

Again, it is disappointing to report that no social event was held in Sydney in the past year, although I'm pleased to report that there are moves afoot to hold a dinner for the older OBU members in Sydney in November.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to fellow Committee members for their contributions this year. The year ahead holds much promise and excitement, as we progress the History project and look for other initiatives which will enhance the relevance of the OBU in today's world.

Ken Conway
President, OBU