

Chairman's Annual Report 2013-2014

Welcome to my first annual report as your president.

Regretfully during my first year I have been unable to achieve all that I had initially hoped, however there are many positive things in the pipeline.

We have seen the introduction of the MCOBA card which provides Old Boys' with discounts when buying from businesses owned by or managed by fellow Old Boys'.

During the year we have worked on establishing a database of Old Boys' to facilitate regular contact.

Next month will see the start of our regular "Parapet" which will be emailed to all Old Boys' for whom we hold email addresses, whether or not they are paid up members. We will also be printing a small run, for those locals who have previously had their "Parapet" hand delivered.

To ensure Old Boy involvement with our school, we need their email addresses as we need to create a desire in them to re-establish their relationship with our school community.

Your Old Boys' Association continues to maintain a great working relationship with the college, who this year has appointed an Old Boys' prefect to liaise between the college and your Old Boys' Association.

This past year has seen the long overdue introduction of modern accounting software which unfortunately has taken longer to implement than was hoped. Going forward, your association will be able to provide better financial reporting for the members benefit and incorporated society compliance.

During the year, your association has provided assistance to students visiting Gallipoli, prefect personal development on "Spirit of New Zealand" , academic prizes and staff travel to support college teams.

Our first annual reunion was held for the boys of 1963. What an excellent weekend. My thanks go to Old Boys' Dennis Robinson, Malcolm Adams and their wives for the incredible effort that they put into this reunion to ensure its success.

It is hoped that your Old Boys' Association will convene a reunion every year going forward. Our reunion was a great opportunity to show off the spirit and facilities of your college.

Last year your Old Boys' Association facilitated an emergency fundraising to provide travel funds for our college first fifteen, who had qualified for the prestigious Press Cup South Island playoff. The successful program culminated in raising over \$25,000 in less than two weeks.

Your Old Boys' Association also hosted the first welcome back home function for former pupils returning to Blenheim for Christmas. This will now become a regular event, as it gives past pupils who may have been working or studying away, the opportunity to catch up with old school mates whilst they are in town.

Prior to the end of the school year Old Boys' Association hosted a very successful leavers function in collaboration with the PTA. This was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The college front field has seen your Old Boys' Association working the side line of all rugby games selling raffles, which provide much needed funding to our association.

Thank you to the raffle team, ably managed by Ferg Murray, who has been supported by Don, John and Dominic.

Our relationship with the Marlborough College Charitable Foundation continues to grow, as we work in collaboration to provide facilities that the Government consider non-core to the college.

Going forward, our needs are simple.

We need your support by coming along to our bi-monthly lunch get together at Fairweather's on Scott Street and by providing names and contact details of your school mates that we can contact and involve.

If you have any details of a family member or friend who has been an old boy and would be prepared to share details of what they have done 'after school', we would love to hear from you.

We would like to profile our Old Boys' who have left school and have done interesting things in their career, their community or lived in interesting places.

If you know of someone to profile, please let us know.

Thank you to all of the committee, who have so willingly contributed to the cause.

A special thanks to John Bailey our Secretary, who continues to support the president with untiring commitment.

I look forward to continuing what we have started and to see our college prosper, as the 'school of choice'.

Ross Anderson
Chairman