

Annual Report 2015 to 2016

It is with pleasure that I present my third Annual Report to the Marlborough College Old Boys' Association.

Today marks a very special day in which we publically recognise two remarkable members with Life Membership. Don McIntyre and Bob Wilson have committed a lifelong passion to their old school. Both have provided an example to us all of what it is to be an old boy of MBC.

During the year we also presented Life Membership to Mike Newman who has over many years, generously supported college activities with his range of sausages for barbeques and meat packs for fundraising raffles.

Another Life Membership is to be bestowed today on a much younger member. Phil Robinson in his role of Board Chairperson guided the College through its dark days. Phil will be seen by all old boys as a very worthy recipient. Without Phil's tireless commitment to his old school, MBC may have still have been carrying the burden of unsustainable debt and humiliation that went with it.

During my involvement with MCOBA over the last few years I have witnessed a school on the road to greatness. Gone is the despair and frustration caused by our previous financial situation. This turnaround in financial position has been matched by improving governance and academic results. Special thanks must go to Wayne Hegarty and his teaching staff, who have embraced the challenges and met them head on.

MCOBA has assisted this attitude turnaround by providing funding for Leadership Development, academic awards, school pool maintenance and other non-core activities.

Funding for this support has come largely from our very successful vehicle deliveries so ably managed by Jill and Malcom Adams and supported by a host of old boys who so generously gave their time to drive the vehicles to their final delivery location. Thank you also to Scott McDermid from Blenheim Toyota who facilitated this fundraising project.

Regretfully over the last year our communication with members has been very poor with the demise of a regular monthly "Parapet". This is being addressed and will be a regular publication again from November 2016.

One of our planned activities is to establish an ongoing annual re-union. Re-unions are seen as an essential part of old boy fellowship. Work is currently underway on this. Details will follow.

Work has been on-going collating and verifying email addresses to ensure current news and information about our school can be delivered economically.

MBCOBA meetings have been held monthly with every second one being a social lunch meeting held at Fairweather's on Scott Street. All members are welcome to our informal lunch meetings which provide an opportunity to have a casual lunch and catch-up with other

local old boys. Check out the dates on our website at www.mcoba.org.nz We would love to see you.

As another year goes by I would again like to thank the committee and especially our Secretary John Bailey for their support. Much of what MCOBA has achieved could not have eventuated without the committee's involvement.

It has been great to see the social media activity that MCOBA site is attracting this year and the engagement of old boys from around the world. Thank you to Logan Anderson for his ideas and time in managing our web and social media activity.

The forthcoming years are full of challenge with the ongoing requirement to support non-core activities and planning for the proposed new college.

Your support for MCOBA is needed more than ever if we are to passl our history into the corridors of the new site.

The proposed relocation has brought with it many questions and a flood of sentiment. As a traditionalist, I love the Stephenson Street site; however the opportunities offered by the new school must become our primary consideration for the future of Marlborough.

Please join with me to ensure MCOBA stamps its mark on the new college, to ensure that past pupils and the history of Marlborough Boys' College is not forgotten.

Ross Anderson

Chairman

25/05/16