

## **2022 President's Report – Aubrey Donovan**

This is the President's report for the 113th year of the SHCOBA. I present this on my 10th year of service on the Committee and President since September 2019. We have had a busy year with several key highlights.

Thankfully, the OBA has been able to get back to an almost full year for our Old Boys community. Some of the actions are below:

- Our OBA Golf Day was a huge success. A full field of 100 Old Boys, teachers, friends, Marist brothers, SHC staff took over Whitford Park Golf Club on a fabulous blue-sky day. Tickets sold out within 36 hours. A big thank you to Brian Donnelly and his team for putting another great day.
- Br Marcel unfortunately passed away just before our National Reunion dinner. Br Marcel was a familiar face in the OBA association for many years, having been its President and attending many reunions around the country until he could no longer do it. I was honoured to be invited to be a pall bearer with previous OBA presidents (Simon Hayden and Kerry Plamus) who, with members of his family carried Br Marcel out of the Church. Confortare Br Marcel. "Rest in Joy, be Joyous in Rest"
- Our National Dinner went ahead this year. Over 110 SHC Old Boys made the event. Our honorary Old Boys were Lyn Luxton and Jim Dale with Bill Tapper completing the evening with a rousing Toast to the Alma Mater. Headmaster Patrick Walsh was welcomed to the dinner and gave us a great insight into his goals. We had the SHC Kapa Haka group welcome us in this year and a tribute to Br Marcel was the centre point of the Haka. A big thank you to Ben Christie and the boys in the group, some of them stayed behind from school to perform for us at 6:30 pm!
- A few regional reunions have taken place and we will be focussing on these important events around the country now that local travel is more predictable.

The SHC OBA has also been busy with funding applications from the school. The grants are funded out of the \$10 per term per student donation while attending SHC. This means all SHC students, at the completion of their years at College are automatically SHC Old Boys. This \$10 donation is then used to support the SHCOBA and its initiatives. These funds are the Br Clement Fund and the SHCOBA Fund, each with its own specific funding goals. There is clear governance around how these funds are granted and executed, with proof of execution. These requests require the sign off from the SHC Senior Leadership Team before being presented to the OBA for consideration. This way the SHC OBA is assured that what we fund is approved by the school and aligns with its goals as well as ours.

This year some of the requests we have funded are:

\$5000 donation to students to attend the AIMS games in Tauranga this year. Those attending the AIMS games all undertook volunteering work and activities to help with the funding of this, however some students still came up a bit short. Mr Nick Guise and Mr John Sullivan were able to ensure that those students who deserved, through sheer determination and showing true Marcellin Champagnat spirit, were able to attend the games and represent our College with a little help from the SHC OBA. Thank you, Nick and John for your support of our young Marist Men who wouldn't otherwise get a chance to see their name in lights on a national scale.

\$2000 to the SHC math department for scientific calculators to be loaned out to boys who could not bring their own and returned each class. Level 1 - 3 Mathematics and exams are written by NZQA on the assumption students are using calculators. Therefore, those students that don't have them could be at a disadvantage in achieving their best. I caught up with Susan Hurring recently who told me that these calculators are having an immediate and positive impact on the students. Thank you, Susan, for your support of our young Einstein's.

\$3000 to the Science lab for Vegi pods. The Vegipods will be used by 150 Year 7 students as well as 32 Agriculture students in Years 11-13. In addition, around 25 Young Vinnies will also use the pods. As they are self-enclosed, we will be able to grow produce all year round which will allow this large number of students to use them on a rotational basis. The produce grown will be used by our Food Technology department as well as by the Young Vinnies when they are making meals for the community. I was recently taken by Anna Mortiaux to where these Vegipods are and they look fantastic and will provide a fabulous service to many students for many years to come. I also hear that some of the Brothers enjoy fresh veges from time to time Thank you Anna for your support for Science, Young Vinnies and our greater community.

\$3000 for a sport performance camera for the Football Institute and First XI training. This camera records the full game and can perform team and individual player analysis. This benefits all SHC football players and is now part of the high performance training for our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI teams. Thanks Michael Built and Nick Croxford for your support of our Football teams

\$4000 Camera Lens for SHC marketing. This is so the communications department can take better photos for both College and OBA events for Confortare.

\$3000 for Gym equipment for the SHC boarders. We plan to purchase new gym equipment, exclusively for the Hostel boys to ensure that they can properly train for their sports. There are 8 members of the 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby panel who are boarders and last year's captain was a boarder, numerous squads of soccer, rowing, water polo and a range of other sports are made up by hostel boys and as such we need to be able to provide proper facilities to these boys that is not always available during the year due to the number of teams training in the gym and crowding that occurs. Mr Aidan Kavanagh has a plan to teach the year 10 boys how to lift and properly perform exercises ensuring the training is done not only as safely as possible but also building great spirit and teamwork among the boys. Thank you Aiden for your support of our boarding community.

I would like to welcome our Headmaster, Mr Patrick Walsh. Mr Walsh has already shown his support for the SHC OBA and its community and has attended many functions since arriving. I look forward to working with him and his team to continue to provide support to our community.

A thank you to Lyn Luxton and Paul Greaney of the Development Foundation who provide invaluable support and resources. Kelly Jennings the PTA team who are always willing to give their time and

resource to help the Old Boys. I'd also like to thank the SHC Board of Trustees for their support of the OBA.

I would also like to thank the OBA Committee. My Committee of volunteers give their time freely and willingly to ensure that our Committee remains relevant and central to the growth of our organisation, both locally and internationally. Our connections with the Marist Brotherhood, the College and our greater Old Boys community are why we do this. Our mission remains more relevant than ever: connecting our SHC Old Boys to the school and to the greater Old Boys community.

I would like to thank the new members of our committee that have recently joined up this year, their input is invaluable, and it is great to see them contribute so freely. To my new officers:

- Peter Fa'fiu - Vice President
- Matthew Kelly - Secretary

Thank you for your support and guidance. We have had several different challenges this year and I very much appreciate you helping me navigate the internal, external and legal pitfalls as we worked through these.

The Old Boy community is in great spirit, it is very active and it is with great pride that I come to the end of my 3rd year tenure as your President. With the help of the College, the Brothers, the OBA Committee and the Spirit of Marcellin Champagnat to guide us, I look forward to the coming year and the opportunities it brings us all.

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**Aubrey Donovan, President**  
**Sacred Heart College Old Boys Association**