

Sacred Heart College Old Boy's Association 2024 President's Report – Aubrey Donovan

This is the President's report for the 115th year of the SHCOBA. I present this on my 12th year of service on the Committee and the 5th year as President. We have had a busy year with several key highlights.

This will be my last report as president of the SHCOBA as I will step down at the AGM this year.

Last Year, after serving 2 full terms, I accepted the nomination to extend for a further term with the plan being to train up a successor and transition within the 2 year period. Daniel Whittaker (2010) put his hand up for the role and over the last year Daniel has been included in the "behind the scenes" running of the SHCOBA including chairing the last quarterly meeting. Given the success of the past year, I deemed it time, this year, for Daniel to take over the reigns as interim SHCOBA President. We are in good hands with Daniel, who's father is a SHCOBA Honorary Old Boy. Daniel's commitment to SHC, the OBs and his energy will grow the current important functions and also add new and exciting initiatives.

It has been an honour to be President for the last 5 years. Some reflections of that time that the SHCOBA had to navigate were:

- Covid. For some committee members, it was the first time to do a video conference and the hilarious "work arounds" we had to adopt to ensure the smooth running of the OB Committee during these times to continue to deliver a valuable service to the SHCOBA community and SHC itself.
- The SHCOBA has worked with 3 Headmasters over the last 5 years and I thank each of them for their support as we continue to work out how the SHCOBA can be both promoting the SHCOBA to the current students as well as providing an avenue to the past Old Boys to stay in touch with each other.
- The SHCOBA, through support of SHC are now a part of events such as
 - the new student welcome evenings,
 - provide the SHCOBA leavers breakfast,
 - SHC leavers dinner,
 - funding requests for the arts, sports and academia opportunities for SHC students (future Old Boys)
 - Re-imagining the ANZAC Mass to the Old Boys Memorial Mass.
- The SHCOBA said farewell to Br Marcel and Br Gerard. Br John and Br Kevin now provide the OB the Charism, moral compass and Spirit of Marcellin Champagnat to the OB Committee in their absence.
- The culmination of many on the SHCOBA and its past Presidents, since the School of Imagination, is the inclusion of a state of the art Archives room in the new science block. Originally included in the School of Imagination designs, it was unfortunately left out in the final design. Now, thanks to the passion of the Development Foundation (DF), SHC Headmasters, OB and the SHCOBA, the new science block has this Archives room firmly entrenched in its final design. This means that SHCOBA will have a permanent and prominent position to display some of the precious artifacts from our proud history.

I would like to thank our Headmaster, Mr Patrick Walsh for all his support and making his team available for SHCOBA initiatives. Patrick is committed to improving our processes and provide improved support to our community.

A thank you to Lyn Luxton and Paul Greaney of the Development Foundation who provide invaluable support and resources. Lyn retired recently but as an honorary SHCOB im sure we will continue to see Lyn at future SHCOBA events. Kelly Jennings from the PTA team and the SHC Board for their support of the OBA.

I would also like to thank the OBA Committee. The Committee of volunteers give their time freely and willingly to ensure that the SHCOBA remain relevant and central to the growth of our organisation, both locally and internationally. Our mission remains more relevant than ever: “connecting our SHC old boys to the school and to the greater old boys community”.

The OB community is in great spirit, with 170 OB attending the National reunion dinner this year with a very personal and enlightening toast to the Alma Mata from Brian Donnelly.

Some of the other projects we have funded over the past few years.

Scholarships/Grants/Donations/Admin	
Leavers breakfast	\$ 2,610
Reunion attendance, Bros lunch	\$ 7,757
Reminisce support	\$ 2,800
Camera	\$ 3,759
Golfers Support	\$ 1,500
SHC Football	\$ 3,000
Pastoral care - heart of heart	\$ 5,000
Scanner	\$ 5,232
Hostel artificial grass contribution	\$ 3,000
Yr 9 camp contribution	\$ 5,000
AV equipment for chappel	\$ 5,000
Football goals	\$ 4,000
Cricket equipment	\$ 3,000
Science trip	\$ 1,000
Beach Volleyball	\$ 1,000
Misc	\$ 579

With the help of the College, the Marist 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.

Thank you to all I have met on this incredible journey. All I ask is that you provide the same to our new SHCOBA president, Daniel Whittaker as he takes on this new chapter in our proud 115 year history.

Confortare Esto Vir,

Aubrey Donovan, President 2019-2024, 1990 leaver, Boarder.
Sacred Heart College Old Boy Association