

Sacred Heart College Old Boys Annual Presidents Report

AGM – 14 August 2025

This report commemorates the 116th year of the Sacred Heart College Old Boys Association (SHCOBA) and marks the conclusion of my inaugural year as President. Upon my election, I expressed the deep honour I felt in receiving the chains of office from Aubrey, continuing a legacy of commitment and leadership upheld not only by him but by the 50 Presidents who came before us. Over the past year, I have proudly worn the chains at many significant events in the College calendar, and I do so with enduring respect and reverence for all Old Boys—past and present—who remain at the heart of everything we do.

A Year of Continued Growth and Connection

2025 has been another outstanding year for the Association. While financial contributions to the College and its community remain a key measure of our success, I believe our greatest achievement continues to be the strength and visibility of our presence within the College itself. We have maintained and deepened our engagement with the College leadership—particularly with Headmaster Patrick Walsh, Mick, and the wider staff. This partnership ensures that our young men remain connected to the Sacred Heart whānau long after they leave the gates of the College.

Committee Acknowledgements

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated members of the Old Boys Committee. Special mention must go to:

- Chris Lynch, our Vice President and First XV correspondent extraordinaire.
- David Anderson, our diligent Treasurer who will be stepping down at this years AGM.
- Matt Kelly, our ever-reliable Secretary.
- Your commitment and energy are the backbone of our Association.

Honouring Service and Legacy

This year, we were privileged to welcome Terry Carter as an Honorary Old Boy. Terry's decades of service to Sacred Heart—spanning governance, financial stewardship, and strategic development—have left an indelible mark on the College. His leadership helped bring to life key facilities such as the Marist Brothers Sports Centre, the

Auditorium, and the School of Imagination. Terry's dedication exemplifies the spirit of service we hold dear.

We also launched a new tradition: the **Vita Honoris Award**, recognising extraordinary contributions by Old Boys beyond the realm of sport. The inaugural recipient, Br Richard Dunleavy, has devoted over 75 years to the Marist mission, both in New Zealand and globally. His leadership, humility, and unwavering commitment to education and faith are an inspiration to us all.

Celebrating Our Community

The National Dinner once again brought together Old Boys across generations, with a remarkable 53-year spread of leavers represented. It was a joy to see the Old Boys Blazer worn with pride and to formally present new recipients with theirs. We also acknowledged our leaver groups ending in 5 and 0, and celebrated the enduring bonds that unite us across time.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, our focus remains on strengthening our network, supporting the College, and fostering lifelong connections among Old Boys.

Thank you all for your continued support, your presence, and your passion for Sacred Heart College. Let us carry this momentum forward into another year of service, celebration, and brotherhood.

Daniel Whittaker

President

Sacred Heart College Old Boys Association