

PRESIDENTS REPORT
Saint Patrick's College Old Boys Association
Annual General Meeting
2025

Tena koutou katoa,

Ko Ngati Kahungunu ki Waiora toku Iwi, Kei Orongomai ahau e noho ana,

Ko Manuel toku ingoa, tenei ka mihi.

Rectors, Chairs, Committee members, College representatives and fellow old boys, nau mai ki te hui.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge Brad Hudson, my predecessor, for his hard work as President of the Association, and thank him for his time in this seat. Sectare Fidem Brad.

Having been President of the Old Boys Association for a year now, I would like to acknowledge the Executive Committee; Fr Peter Ewart, Luke Meredith, Chris McCarthy, Sean Mahoney, Evan Bayley, and George Collins. And mention goes to Ankit Bhasin who has taken a sabbatical due to work and family commitments. These are all extremely busy gentlemen in their professional and personal lives, and the contribution to this committee is done completely voluntarily, and the work here takes effort, which sometimes is not recognised. Thank you gents for all that you do for this organization and our brotherhood.

However, being analytical of what we do, and wanting efficiencies in place to improve the efforts of our outputs, I needed to understand the bigger picture. So, at the beginning of this year a strategic planning conference was arranged. It occurred over a weekend and I now have better understood our commitments, funding streams, and responsibilities. Also as a result, I have put our committee under pressure and scrutinized our purpose. Founded initially in the late 1800's early 1900's, but dissolved due to World War One, the Old Boys Association re-established 14th March 1929. This current Old Boys Association has been here for 96 years. But, a lot has evolved over those years, and the establishment of additional organisations in the Colleges have emerged, times have changed, and society as a whole has evolved to a much different world compared to almost 100 years ago.

At the strategic planning conference we dove deep into our mission, our values, and our purpose. We discussed what we needed to improve, what we needed to get after in the immediate future (1-5 years) and what we needed to look like moving forward (5-10 years). While a draft plan has been agreed, as time allows it will continue to be fleshed out, and worked on in the 'back office'. No point 'launching' half cooked and falling short, so we continue to strategise and when ready, there will be some subtle, progressive changes to 'front of house'.

Some of the things that will be worked on as this strategy progresses are:

- Better engagement with organisations at the colleges,
- Improved engagement within organisations outside of the colleges, that have affiliation with the Old Boys Association, and old boys networks,
- Better strategy around communication on social media platforms,
- Improved database for distribution of information.

If anyone wants to climb on board this executive committee and help shape what we do to better our fraternity, get in touch, please email secretary@spcob.org.nz

Sectare Fidem.

In the meantime, we continue what we do.

Just some highlights to mention:

- We celebrated the Old Boy of the Year, His Worship the Mayor of Upper Hutt, Wayne Guppy. It was a good celebration, enjoyed by all those in attendance. Nominations for this years Old Boy of the Year is open, please get in touch with our Secretary, George Collins at secretary@spcob.org.nz

- Funding and presenting the Old Boys tie to the leavers of each college, they were auspicious occasions and a pleasure to be a part of.

- We finally got the Patsman out, that was slightly more prolonged than anticipated, and plans are afoot to ensure the next edition is in a timelier manner.

And coming up we have:

- The Old Boys Associations support to the Winter Sports exchange continues, and again, the old boys rugby teams square off for its 10th match as curtain raiser for the respective first fifteens. The score is tied 5 games each so Stream are praying to Patrick for home ground advantage.

- The year 9 scholarships for each school. Myself or George will be in touch with the colleges shortly.

In closing, we will continue to work on ourselves, so we can continue to provide a valuable contribution to our Colleges, our old boys, and our Marist fraternity here and abroad.

Tena koutou, tena kotou, no reira, tena tatou katoa.

Sectare Fidem

Manuel Dalton.