

## **St Edmund's College, Canberra—Old Boys & Friends Association** **Presidents Report—2015/16**

It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as the inaugural President for 2015/16. First and foremost this has been an enjoyable journey, where the committee started with a 'clean-slate' and created a unique Association. By unique this is principally due to the 'Friends' component, therefore the Association welcomes and encourages anyone associated with the college to be a part of the Association. This is in line with the community ethos that underpins the college.

Below is a summary of achievements and activities for 2015/16 as well as indicative goals and aims for 2016/17.

### **Summary of achievements and activities for 2015/16**

1. **Adhering to the Objectives:** The primary objective of the Association is to create a sense of belonging and inclusivity within the Eddies community. This along with the other objectives have been achieved.
2. **Inclusivity:** About half of the membership base are not 'old-boys', therefore includes former students, family, friends, teachers both former and current.
3. **Working closely with the college and students:** The committee comprises representatives from the college as well as a student representative. Also the college has assisted in promoting the Association through mediums such as the Vortex, Pelican, 2016 Calendar and college FB page.
4. **Giving back to the Eddies community:** This demonstrates the community and 'giving' aspect of the Association.
5. **Events:** These have comprised the following:
  - a. Col Maxwell dedication, 25 July 2015: Attended by hundreds of old boys and friends, recognising the significant contribution from Col to the college and greater Canberra and Queanbeyan communities. Notable attendees included the Hon. John Barilaro, Br Wallace and the Maxwell family.
  - b. Golf Day, 13 November 2015: Even a torrential-storm could not deter the 70 odd golfers from partaking in this event at the Queanbeyan Golf Club. Which was shortened to a 9 hole-tournament and was enjoyed by all.
  - c. Dinner, 21 May 2016: Attended by 90 and held in the college senior centre. It was a great evening supported by the college Jazz Band and Hospitality Team. The guest speakers of Michael 'Madge' Maguire and Bishop Pat Power were amongst the highlights of the evening.
6. **Committee Achievements:** The committee comprises a diverse range of the Eddies community, including, former and current students, mums, dads, staff and teachers.
  - a. Frequency of meetings: Meetings were held about once every two months
  - b. Minutes and Agendas: These are all on file and available for public viewing
  - c. Terms of Reference: This includes the names and roles of each committee member
7. **Transparency and accountability:** Receipts and invoices have been created and issued to suppliers/vendors for all financial transactions. These are currently available on Google Drive. A detailed financial report has been prepared for 2015/16.
8. **Membership:** Over 100 members, including several lifetime members.
9. **Sponsorship:** The Association has been supported by a variety of generous sponsors, who have contributed to events, auctions and the purchasing of merchandise.

10. Facebook Page and Website: This has allowed the Association to vastly increase its profile. Also streamlined the membership sign-up and event sign-up process.
11. Newsletters: Members have received regular newsletters, providing updates and information on events etc.
12. John Barilaro's Speech in NSW Parliament: The Hon. John Barilaro dedicated a speech in NSW Parliament in July 2015 to Col Maxwell. This speech was 'borne' from the 25 July 2015 dedication to the late Col Maxwell. John mentioned the Old Boys & Friends Association during the speech.
13. Other promotional opportunities that the President attended and presented on behalf of the Association:
  - a. Ed Mums Lunch & Father's Day Morning Tea, St Edmund's College, September 2015
  - b. Class of 1965 – 50 Year reunion, Southern Cross Club, Woden, September 2015
  - c. Class of 2005 – 10 Year reunion, Kangaroos Club, Queanbeyan, November 2015
  - d. Eddies Family in-need \$500 donation, May 2016

### **Goals and aims for 2016/17**

1. Strategic Plan: This will define the direction of the Association and articulate the short, medium and long term goals and objectives. All of the goals below will be a component of the Strategic Plan.
2. Increasing and broadening the membership base: Includes increasing the number of members outside of the 35 to 45 year age bracket. This will commence with the membership of the Class of 2016 and beyond.
3. Improving Events: The events in 2015-16 were very successful, however we need to continually improve, to encourage participation. Suggestions include:
  - a. Replace the dinner with a ball in the college hall
  - b. BBQ lunch at the college, inclusive of working-bee and sporting events for families
  - c. Family Tuross camp, include working-bees and family activities
4. Communication/promotion: The website in particular will grow and provide detailed information on the committee, including meeting minutes, members and sponsors. Inclusive of the voluntary listing of the names of members on the website and allowing for members to communicate with one another.
5. Membership packages: Move toward an annual membership card with membership benefits.
6. Donations to those 'in-need': Refine this process, perhaps liaise with the college directly on those within the college and community who may be eligible for donations.



**Matt de Jongh**  
President  
Old Boys & Friends Association  
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