

St Edmund's College, Canberra—Old Boys & Friends Association **Presidents Report—2016/17**

The Association has only been running since July 2015, therefore in its second year the Association has grown in membership and has greatly increased its profile among the college community.

The primary objective of the Association is to create a sense of belonging and inclusivity among the Eddies community. Therefore increasing the awareness among the college community that the Association is open to anyone involved in the Eddies community, is an important aspect to being involved in the committee. As President I would like to thank the committee and the Eddies community in general for supporting the Association and recognising the contribution that the Association is making to the community.

I would like to acknowledge the passing of Br Don Gallagher in May 2017, who provided over 40 years of dedicated service to the college. His legacy lives on within the college particularly within the Br Don Gallagher studio and the annual college yearbook which Br Gallagher is largely responsible for today's format.

Below is a summary of achievements and activities for 2016/17 as well as indicative goals and aims for 2017/18.

Summary of achievements and activities for 2016/17

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, 2017 Calendar and college Facebook 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. **Golf Day – 11 November 2016:** The format was a 9 hole event, with a mid-afternoon tee-off and was a huge success, with many new participants, having not played in the 2015 event. About half of the participants were not old-boys, but rather parents of students at the college.
 - b. **Pink Stumps Day, Cricket– 19 February 2017:** The Association was present and supported this event, which culminated in a students v parents/old boys/teachers match. The event importantly raised valuable funds for the research into breast cancer.
 - c. **Eddies v Marist Rugby Match – 30 July 2016:** This event has become an annual occurrence and was well supported by the Eddies community. This event provides a great opportunity for the canteen to reap the benefits of the largest home crowd, however more importantly it is another great event bringing the Eddies community together.

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 2016/17.
8. Membership: Over 120 members, including several new 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.

Goals and aims for 2017/18

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 commenced with the membership of the Class of 2016 and beyond. Membership will be offered to the Class of 2017.
3. Additional Events: The events in 2016-17 were very successful, the Blue & White Ball was reinvigorated in August 2017, (this will be reported in the 2017/18 report). Suggested additional events include:
 - a. BBQ lunch at the college, inclusive of working-bee and sporting events for families
 - b. Family Tuross camp, include working-bees and family activities
4. Communication/promotion: I would like to see the committee increase the level of promotion of the Association with the Eddies community. We have the marketing tools such as a website and Facebook Page, however spreading the word and communicating with the community via word-of-mouth, will greatly assist in increasing the profile of the Association.



Matt de Jongh

President

Old Boys & Friends Association

16 October 2017