

CHRIST'S COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION
CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND

President's AGM Report, February 2023:

To: The Christ's College Old Boys' Association.

From: Angus Dysart-Paul, President CCOBA.

Date: 01 February 2023.



Introduction

There is no doubt that 2022 was a uniquely challenging year in the history of the Christ's College Old Boys' Association. The rapid rise of COVID-19 cases throughout New Zealand in the early months of last year forced the postponement of many CCOBA events, including the annual reunion weekend. The calendar of activities was rearranged. Patience was tested. Yet despite a challenging 12 months, the Association is in good heart. The CCOBA continues to communicate, connect, and celebrate the successes of alumni of all ages. In this report, circulated in advance of the AGM, I provide a short, written update to members on the affairs and life of the Association over the past 12 months. I also discuss some of the Committee's ambitions for the future.

Events in New Zealand, and around the world

After many COVID-19 postponements, CCOBA events resumed throughout New Zealand as winter turned to spring. Successful College Community events, which are supported by the Association, were held in Auckland, Hawke's Bay, and Wellington in August. Later in the year, there were events in Nelson, Blenheim, Ashburton, and Wanaka. The visits proved popular and were an occasion for Old Boys to hear about Christ's College and meet the Executive Principal.

It has now been five years since CCOBA Young Old Boys (YOB) events were introduced. The events continue to grow in popularity. YOB drinks were held with St Margaret's in Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin. Engagement with young Old Boys is a focus for the CCOBA. Other events, from the Old Boys' cricket match against St Andrew's College in March, to sports and branch events in Christchurch, Auckland, New South Wales and South Canterbury were well enjoyed and successful.

In January 2023 Alumni Manager Lizzie Dyer travelled to the United Kingdom to meet Old Boys living in Britain. St Margaret's and Christ's College jointly hosted a function at "The Gherkin" in London. By all accounts it was a successful evening, and brought together the College diaspora in London. The event was well attended and symbolised the Association's commitment to meeting and engaging Old Boys all around the world. Lizzie was also able to visit some of England's great educational institutions and learn about how schools from Wellington College to Eton engage with their alumni.

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College, the CCOBA and Old Boys

The relationship between Christ's College and the Old Boys' Association is collaborative and productive. Three years ago, the CCOBA Secretary was given the new, additional title of "Alumni Manager". The Alumni Manager joined the College Advancement Office. Since then, the Association has been able to utilise the resources and skills of College staff, enabling us to produce more Old Boys Posters, develop the *Quadrangle* newsletter, and interview, write and publish stories about Old Boys.

In 2022, 36 different stories were published for Old Boys in the *Quadrangle* newsletter. Those stories range from celebrating alumni successes to reports from events and activities. The *Quadrangle* records steady engagement from hundreds of Old Boys. In addition to our newsletter, a different approach to the *COLLEGE* magazine was launched in 2022. It is now an annual publication. Last year's magazine featured over 10 stories dedicated to Old Boys. The stories discussed careers and reflections of Christ's College.

As regards Old Boy successes, I also note that the Senior Honours Tie was awarded to Sir Andrew Tipping in May, in recognition of his contribution to New Zealand law and society. Sir Andrew was a Judge of the Supreme Court from 2004-2012. He is regarded as one of New Zealand's greatest jurists. Sir Andrew is the third Supreme Court Judge to receive the Senior Honours Tie.

In the recent January *Quadrangle* I gave notice that the Committee had recommended Alec Bruce (8461) be nominated for Honorary Life Membership. Alec has made a significant contribution to Christ's College and the CCOBA. He has designed and helped preserve the school's buildings, and he has greatly contributed to the life of our Association. A brief biography about Alec can be found in the AGM papers.

Finance

The Treasurer will report on the Association's finances at the AGM. The accounts will be presented at the meeting. However, I note two points in this report. First, uncertainty in equity markets and global inflation over the past 12 months has impacted the Association's investment holdings. Despite the fall in the portfolio's value, the Association remains in a strong financial position. And as the economic outlook slowly improves, we expect the financial position to also improve.

Second, last year College began construction on the Upper West sports facility and gymnasium. Many Old Boys made contributions to the project. The Association donated \$250,000 towards the building. The gym will enhance the College experience for the next generation of Old Boys. Guided by a proud and long tradition of the Old Boy community contributing to College, and in keeping with the Association's objectives, the Committee was proud to make the donation on behalf of all its members.

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The future

The CCOBA remains focused on its objective of furthering the interests of Christ's College and Old Boys. We continue to hold events that unite Old Boys, and steward the Old Boys' Scholarship Fund. But new laws, practices and understanding bring about change. This year, the Committee adopted a new privacy policy, which is published on our website. We are mindful of protecting every Old Boy's privacy.

When the Committee met in August to review the strategic direction of the Association, it was evident that preserving long standing events – from the famous long lunches to golf tournaments and reunions – will always be fundamental to the role of the CCOBA. Some of our events are enduring, good traditions. But the Committee is also mindful of the constant challenge for a society founded 145 years ago to remain relevant to new generations of Old Boys.

With that in mind, over the next year, the Association will particularly focus on engaging young Old Boys and creating opportunities for recent graduates – and College boys – to meet alumni working in the same profession and industry. “Career Convos” successfully brought many Old Boys back to College to speak to senior students about career pathways. Connecting the Old Boy community, which has never been more disbursed and global, is a priority. Such connections create opportunities for mentorship and career growth. Further, the Committee will also continue to support branches to remain relevant and ensure that the Association has a presence throughout New Zealand. Lastly, College and the Association will work together to establish a museum in the Hare Memorial Library. The Museum, celebrating the school's long history, will open in 2025, when the College celebrates 175 years since its founding.

Conclusion

My grateful thanks go to the Committee: Andrew Henderson, Mac Bolderson, Jono Blyth, Tim Daley, Michael Fisher, Richard Polson and Nigel Tayler for their contribution to the CCOBA. I also thank CCOBA Board representatives Mark Cox and Tim Kerr. I acknowledge Mac Bolderston in particular, who will stand down after five years as Treasurer. Jono Blyth will also stand down after three years on the Committee. This Association owes a great deal of gratitude to volunteers whose remarkable loyalty to College and Old Boys enable this society to serve its members. I acknowledge and thank the branch presidents for their contribution. I also thank Lizzie Dyer for her hard work, patience, and dedication to her role in our Association. Finally, I acknowledge the passing of Sir Miles Warren and Dr Shailer Weston, Honorary Life Members of the Association who passed away in 2022.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the CCOBA over the past year. I look forward to meeting Old Boys at the AGM at College.

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Notice of nomination for Honorary Life Membership of the CCOBA:

To: Members of the CCOBA.
From: The CCOBA Committee.
Date: 01 February 2023.
AGM: 17 February 2023.



The Committee of the Christ's College Old Boys' Association (CCOBA), in accordance with rule 5.2 of the CCOBA's Constitution, recommend that Mr Alec Bruce (8461) be elected an Honorary Life Member of the CCOBA.

Alec Bruce was born in Blenheim, the son of M. B. Bruce (4308). Alec boarded at Christ's College from 1971-1975 in Richards House. He was head prefect in 1979, and was awarded colours in basketball and rowing.

He completed a degree in architecture (B.Arch) at Auckland University and has been a practising architect in Christchurch since 1985. He collaborated with Sir Miles Warren in 2000 and became the Christ's College architect after Sir Miles. Significantly, he designed the Sir Miles Warren Building which was opened in 2015, and was instrumental in the rebuild of the campus following the Canterbury earthquakes in 2011. Alec has made a significant contribution to Christ's College. He has also greatly contributed to the life of our Association.

Alec has received numerous awards as an architect. In 2021, Alec and Sir Miles published "Architectural Drawings of Christ's College". The book captures the architectural art and history of Christ's College.

In recognition of his service to College, a motion to elect Alec Bruce as a Honorary Life Member of the CCOBA will be moved at the AGM.