

SHSOBU PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2016

This is a report for the 12 months ending June 2016.

The Sydney High School Old Boys Union had a very good year as it continues to make progress with its engagement, the programs that are offered and the events organised and funded.

Growth in membership continues on the back of increased levels of engagement with our old boys and current students. This was assisted by the establishment of a new member category, Senior Life Member, ensuring the SHSOBU continues to grow the membership base amongst older old boys in addition to the growth in the student life membership program, which continues to be a major focus. The old boys' database is getting better each day after the purchase jointly with the Foundation in 2015 of sophisticated relationship management software.

Geoff Andrews has been key in strengthening our database and membership along with the communications program.

The SHSOBU website continues to get better and more active. The collection of most membership subscriptions through the website has made administration so much better than it ever was. It has also facilitated the development of the database and all other electronic communications with old boys.

The 'Sydney High School Old Boys Union Events & Information' Facebook page continues to grow its reach and connections with old boys and the community. With this page, the SHSOBU is able to communicate on an almost daily basis. There are currently 743 followers of the page and through the page the SHSOBU regularly engages with over one thousand unique Facebook users.

This year the SHSOBU published 2 issues of the High Bulletin for SHSOBU members. While we are working on electronic distribution, we still have many members that rely on our hard copies. The High Bulletin is particularly popular amongst our older old boy community.

Also this year, 7 E-bulletins were published. These are sent out electronically to the full old boy community, not just members. These have market-leading 'open' rates which the SHSOBU can be very proud of.

In 2015 the SHSOBU ran a successful 'High Achievers' event for students of the school. This has become a regular feature of the school's and SHSOBU calendars.

Representatives of the SHSOBU attended many other events involving the school and old boy communities including: High Presentation Day where numerous old boy awards were awarded to current students, the ANZAC Day service (**Paul Harapin**), Year 7 Orientation Day, meet the Year 7 parents day, the Year 12 Assembly, the medical students at High 'preparation for interview' workshop, the student mentoring day (**Eric Wong** and **Ivan Hung**) and the GPS Head of the River (**Geoff Andrews**).

Representatives of the SHSOBU attended the Shore Sports lunch in Sydney and the GPS Presidents reception hosted at Newington.

One of the year's highlights was the purchase of an historic, Sydney High Sports Cabinet from the 1930s for \$4000, with funds donated by old boys and the cabinet then donated to the school. Thanks to **Joseph Waugh** for alerting the SHSOBU about this opportunity.

The SHSOBU continues to work with the Foundation assisting in particular with the Governors' Centre project and chairing the Fundraising Management Committee.

This year the SHSOBU supported the screening of the movie 'Concussion' for Necksafe, a charity run by **Adrian Cohen** 1978.

The SHSOBU hosted its first Hong Kong old boys gathering, with another planned in July 2016.

There was the first tentative steps to organise the US old boys group, with **Tim Olshansky** 2003 in California supporting us.

The High Old Boys Legal Group on LinkedIn was established, with over 120 members and with plans to establish more of these groups and building specialised databases.

This year, the SHSOBU has reinvigorated the Mentor program, led by **Eric Wong** and **Ivan Hung**.

There has been more active support of the old boys' reunions, where the SHSOBU now offers financial support for reunion groups as well as providing other information and support.

The SHSOBU hosted a Christmas Function in 2016 at The Bourbon in Potts Point.

The 2016 GPS Gold Challenge is receiving support and the SHSOBU continues to support the GPS Old Boys Association.

A very special thanks to the following:

Geoff Andrews for massive commitment to the High community including the OBU.

Eric Wong for all the work he does to manage SHSOBU finances.

Ross Bowey for ensuring as the GPS representative that the SHSOBU is well represented amongst the GPS old boys unions.

Dennis Briggs who faithfully attends the School Council meetings as an old boy's representative.

Doug Richards for mail collection for over 9 years.

Joseph Waugh who continues to provide support and information to the SHSOBU.

Tim Montanaro (database management).

The SHSOBU is thankful to outgoing Council members **David Scribner**, **Matt Ling** and **David Vien** but it is hoped that they can stay closely involved.

I commend this Report.

Paul Almond
President
29 June 2016