

President's Newsletter - September 2019

When I came on board as President in 2016, I was surprised and somewhat concerned that out of around 9,000 living Old Boys, there were only 500 who were financial members.

I asked Bruce Leadley for a breakdown of the numbers of members in each area and which of those were financial. A chance meeting with David McInnes led to David offering to carry out some more in-depth analysis of the situation and this in turn led to the setting up of the survey which was distributed to all members with email addresses. It was also put up on the school website.

So this newsletter is to keep you up to date with that survey and "*The Way Forward Paper*" that was sent to all members of the executive earlier this year.

David spent a huge amount of voluntary time on this project and we also employed Sam Frost's firm Ace Digital Marketing to help set the survey up and to analyze the replies we received.

David wrote a final report in July 2019 which is included in this newsletter. All of the data is very interesting and will be helpful in our objective to expand the membership of the Old Boys Association. We received 245 replies and it is our intention to distribute all of the information not only to these people but also to all Old Boys on the newsletter emailing list.

We now propose to use the information in the survey and plan to approach those Old Boys who have responded but who are not financial members.

Ace Digital Marketing has also provided a spreadsheet for each area which gives the names and contact details of all those who responded to the survey. These spreadsheets show the answers to each question from every person in that area. We will forward the spreadsheets to the convenors in each area so that they can make contact with every person who has responded. Some people indicated they are prepared to help out with functions and re-unions and it will be great to get them involved.

As well as the survey, a "*Way Forward*" paper was sent out to all members of the executive earlier this year with a range of suggestions as to what we can do in the future to increase membership and to keep the whole Association alive.

A summary of the responses to "*The Way Forward Paper*" is included in this newsletter. The upshot of the responses has led to the adoption of PLAN A which is basically a recruitment drive.

There was also a suggested PLAN B which proposed out-sourcing the recruitment drive but this would have been expensive and probably unsuccessful.

To carry out this recruitment drive we need several volunteers to help out.

VOLUNTEERS

To carry out our plan, we need volunteers all over New Zealand to help contact Old Boys with the aim of signing them up as members.

You might be retired and looking for a part-time hobby which can be quite rewarding. Those of us who have been contacting Old Boys find it interesting to reminisce and generally network with the names that people come up with. Use of the internet makes the whole job a lot easier and the electoral roll can be useful as well.

So if you are keen to become involved, please contact:

Chris Moore
06 877 8349 or 027 412 7050
c.g.moore@xtra.co.nz

Membership

If you want to become a member of the Timaru Boys' High School Old Boys' Association you can do so by going through the following steps:

- Log on to www.timaruboysschool.nz

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- Click on MENU in the top left hand corner
- Click on Old Boys
- Click on Membership
- Click on Online Membership Application and fill it in.

Or you can print out the form and pay your \$30.00 by Direct Credit to the bank account shown (with a relevant reference) or post the form with your cheque attached to the postal address shown.

That's all it takes! And that's all it costs for a one year subscription. In return you will receive the *Timaruvian* each year and if you have an email address you will receive regular newsletters keeping you up to date with activities at the school and upcoming Old Boys' functions.

If you're feeling really flush, you can add a donation to your payment.



The photo shows the Executive Committee hard at work at a recent meeting. We tried using Skype through an old laptop but because this was unsatisfactory we, along with the school, decided to purchase an audio/visual piece of equipment which has been installed in the Memorial Library. This makes it easy for members who live out of town to join in and in the photo you can see Chris Moore (Havelock North) and Barry Palmer (Christchurch) at the top of the screen. Peter Mathias usually joins in from Auckland but was unable to do so on this occasion. Also in the photo are Laurie Shanks, Brodie Craig, Ross Stevenson, Bruce Leadley, Jeff Elston and Don Garland (Chairman). The people with their backs to the camera are Edward Patterson,

All this was organized by Carolyn Bunting who works in the school office and as the Old Boys' Association Secretary. Carolyn is doing a great job.

Regards to all of you.

Chris Moore
National President