

## ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE KYABRAM

### PAST STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE ASSOCIATION 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

#### Annual Report

Welcome to the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Past Students and Friends; we are only a very young association and we are still learning about how to develop an alumni association in a small country community.

Last year, the major achievement of the group was the extremely successful celebration of the beginning of the Mothers' Club 50 years ago. This event was managed by the College and the Past Students and it was an excellent collaborative project. The guests attended Mass for St. Augustine's day and then enjoyed reminiscing over lunch; numerous congratulatory messages were received.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that we have presented Past Students and Friends Awards and our process is evolving. There has been a change made to the number of different awards that the Association wants to present; there will now be three categories: Service and Achievement, Sporting and Young Person's Award. One of the important purposes of these awards is to demonstrate to the current students that St. Augustine's College has many high achieving past students.

Our Committee had hoped that the Chapel and other rooms in the convent might be suitable venues for showcasing St. Augustine's story and providing a safe storage area for archival records. Currently the Convent is being used as a child care centre and the historical records will be moved from the Convent to an area of the College, when the new building is completed.

The Memorial Service and Mass are now firmly established on the school and parish calendar. Both services provide an important remembrance for our past students.

This year, there will be a change in relation to publicity for the past students and friends. Previously newsletters had been published exclusively about the past students. After a discussion with the College Principal, it is now decided that articles could be included in the general school newsletter and a few pages of past students' news would feature in the School Magazine.

At a meeting in 2017, we read about '*A New service to help state schools build valuable networks.*' Ourschool, which is funded by the Education Department and philanthropists, has launched a two-year pilot that will involve alumni experts spending one day a week in eight Victorian state schools. Our members believed that a similar idea would be valuable in this diocese, especially for small schools like St. Augustine's College, and we wrote to the Catholic Education Office to ask for support for Alumni Associations in the Sandhurst Diocese.

Since I accepted the role of coordinator of the Past Students and Friends, I have been energetically and enthusiastically supported and encouraged by members of our small, dedicated committee. Now there will be changes in the Association and some plans for the future are highlighted below.

#### Future Directions

- Invite members to take responsibility for a particular 'portfolio,' e.g. contact past students for articles, liaise with groups organising reunions, chair meetings, manage the Memorial Service and Mass, manage the mentoring system
- In 1919, it will be 100 years since the Brigidine Sisters arrived in Kyabram and our Association is committed to honouring their story and celebrating this event.
- Actively invite College Graduates to join the Association by writing to all Year 12 students, attending their end of year event and talking about the Association

- Arranging for the move of the archival material when the new buildings are completed at the school
- Management of the data base and the school website for the Past Students and Friends
- Preparing articles and providing photos for publicity.
- Focus on the development of a Mentoring Program

There are challenges in beginning a new venture and I am profoundly grateful to everyone who has supported the establishment of the Past Students and Friends Association at St. Augustine's College. I would like to congratulate all the committee members on their achievements since we began in 2013. We are very aware of the commitment of the previous Principal, Oronzo Farina, who decided to develop this group in the school community. Luci Quinn and the staff have shown the same dedication to the Association and we value their attentive listening to our ideas and requests and their practical assistance.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has worked with me to establish this group; I have enjoyed your passionate support for St. Augustine's College. I am not a past pupil, but the school is exceptionally important to me and I have appreciated being given the opportunity to work with the committee to begin this initiative at St. Augustine's College - a school that is committed to its students and to change, growth and development. I pray that this Association will continue to treasure the value of the education provided at St. Augustine's College and that further possibilities will continue to be explored in the future.

Maureen Atkins Member: Past Students and Friends Association 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018