



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020

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From the President

Hello Gentlemen

We hope this edition of the MHSOBA Newsletter finds you well.



In this issue we reflect on what has been a most extraordinary year. While **our students** have studied online and celebrated birthdays in isolation, they have nonetheless prevailed under most challenging circumstances. To them – in particular our VCE students – we say, “**congratulations and well done**”.

We acknowledge the efforts of **MHS teachers and staff** in adapting to DET and DHHS mandates and reframing classes to deliver online. Their dedication in support of our students is to be applauded.

The **MHSOBA Committee** conducted monthly online meetings from March and rejoiced to meet in person in recent weeks. I sincerely thank all Committee members for their ongoing contribution and commitment to the work of MHSOBA.

Despite the challenges imposed by COVID-19, we have had a productive year. We're proud to have launched our online [Business Directory](#) and an inaugural **Podcast Series “Between Two Unicorns”**. If you haven't experienced either, we encourage you to look and listen.

Mid-year, our Student Engagement team led by Guy Velik (MHS 2016) delivered a comprehensive **VCE Exam Preparation Seminar series**. Delivered by Old Boys and consisting of 16 three-hour online sessions, student participation and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We acknowledge the support of School Captain Shayan Soroush in bringing this series to the student community. To those Old Boys who gave their time to prepare and present at these seminars, we say “thank you.”



From the President (con't)

Our **Annual Scholarship** program generated considerable interest with many quality submissions received. We congratulate this year's recipients and acknowledge the generous contribution of Old Boys and families who sponsor this program.

With the enthusiastic support of MHS Careers Coordinator Mr Bill Theodoropoulos, we delivered our annual **Student Vocational Seminars** online. Open to all students, we thank Mr Theodoropoulos for his assistance and those Old Boys who took time to prepare and deliver these sessions.

True to form, **Honorary School Archivist** Luke Savage has excelled in producing "History Notes" and his regular "Archives Report". He has also compiled a fascinating collection of articles entitled "In the News". This features links to recent news stories relating to Old Boys, MHS and our rich history. As ever, we appreciate Luke's exceptional contribution.

We acknowledge retiring principal Jeremy Ludowyke and incoming principal Dr Anthony Mordini. MHSOBA will further acknowledge principal Ludowyke's contribution in a special edition in the new year.

Finally, we thank all Old Boys (young and old) who have joined MHSOBA this year. As we approach the new year, we warmly invite you to **join or renew your membership subscription** in support of our programs and community.

However you spend this season, we sincerely wish you and your loved ones a safe and peaceful time and an uplifting 2021.

Honour The Work



Peter Stathopoulos
President, MHSOBA Inc.

COVID-19 Update

MHSOBA Reunions and Events

The impact of COVID-19 has been keenly felt this year with the cancellation of all MHSOBA and affiliate club events. This included our Annual Dinner, AFL Finals Luncheon, networking events and Reunions for Classes of 2019, 2015, 2010, 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1970 and Golden Years.

The Unicorn Club continues to be closed as does our office. Current Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines “exclude anyone on school grounds unless directly involved in supporting essential school operations – with the exception of community sport”.

We hope to receive new directives from both DET and MHS in coming weeks and will then finalise our event calendar for the new year. To those Old Boys who missed their Reunions this year, please know we are working to ensure you can come together in 2021.

When we reopen, a reminder events in The Unicorn Club will be delivered with COVID-safe protocols in place:

- mandatory guest registration
- hand sanitising stations
- physical distancing indoors and outdoors
- wearing of face masks where physical distancing of 1.5m from others cannot be maintained
- contactless food and beverage service
- EFT service only (no cash)
- maximum number of guests permitted in the venue (density quotient)
- linen, food and deep cleaning protocols

We look forward to welcoming Old Boys, affiliate clubs, clients and our hospitality team back to The Unicorn Club.



COVID-19 Update (con't)

MHSOBA Student Vocational Seminars

In Term 4 we delivered our annual Vocational Seminar series via Zoom. Thanks to committee members Guy Velik and Simon Anderson for their time in arranging the series, and to MHS Careers Coordinator Mr Bill Theodoropoulos for his support. We are grateful to these Old Boys for giving of their time and experience for the benefit of current students:



Creative Arts
Rex Lee – MHS 2014



Medicine
Dr Seb Belfrage – MHS 2003



Commerce
Sean Lester – MHS 2009



Law and Engineering
Simon Anderson – MHS 2003

Thanks to Joel Tito (MHS 2003) for co-presenting the Law Seminar.

COVID-19 Update (con't)

MHSOBA Office

As noted, our part-time team continues to work offsite until MHS and DET approve access to the school grounds. Please note the best way to contact us during this time is via email – administrator@mhsoba.asn.au

Office Holiday Closure

The MHSOBA office will close on Thursday 24 December and reopen on Monday 11 January 2021.

MHSOBA Memberships

With no access to our offices, our team are unable to process MHSOBA Memberships and send welcome packs. We appreciate your patience under these difficult circumstances and will process all Memberships upon returning to the office.



Dr Anthony Mordini – Principal-Elect



Looking Toward 2021

Dear Melbourne High School Community

It is my pleasure to be writing this letter and introducing myself to you. I am honoured to have been selected as your next principal and I look forward to leading the school through the next stage of its development.

Although I have only met a few of you, I believe we are strongly aligned in what we believe constitutes a strong foundation for a young man's future academic, professional and personal life.

Melbourne High School has a tradition of academic excellence. It is also recognised for encouraging a strong work ethic as encapsulated in the school motto, *Honour The Work*. The school also has a commitment to providing its students with a well-rounded liberal education and a rich array of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. As the school philosophy states, it is *More Than Just Marks...*

...To achieve our broader goals around improving student outcomes, several elements will be critical.

Firstly, the ongoing development of our teaching staff. MHS is blessed with talent. I look forward to working with the staff to explore how we can continue to grow that talent and deepen content knowledge and pedagogy.

Secondly, student voice, leadership and agency. We cannot assume that young people learn, communicate, engage socially, and manage data and information as previous generations did. Accordingly, we must give our young people opportunities to inform decisions that affect them. I applaud the school's recent decision to seek students' involvement in a key pastoral care decision. Co-creating with students may initially seem a little scary. It may feel like handing the keys of your car to your 18-year-old! However, through this act of trust will come a level of ownership and responsibility.



Dr Anthony Mordini – Principal-Elect (con't)

Thirdly, it is about working constructively with our community – families, alumni and other stakeholders. Our community relationships and connections add value to our work and help us achieve our goals and aspirations.

And fourthly, it is about using our infrastructure and resources strategically to maximise their efficiency and effect.

Through these pillars we will fulfil our goals and go beyond where we have been.

Dr Anthony Mordini

Source: Principal's Report, OURS - Friday 4 December 2020

MHSOBA has extended a very warm welcome to Dr Mordini.

We have explained MHSOBA is the guardian of the ethos of Melbourne High School, providing lifelong connections with the school and encouraging involvement of our members for life.

Offering whatever support he may require on his new journey, we look forward to working with Dr Mordini in 2021 and beyond.

Peter Stathopoulos
President
MHSOBA Inc.



Find and be found in 2021. Join the MHSOBA Business Directory.



A bespoke online platform, the [MHSOBA Business Directory](#) will enable you to find like-minded Old Boys to explore business and networking opportunities. It also connects you to the greater MHS community.

Whatever your business or profession, the Directory is designed to support B2B and B2C opportunities.

Add the Directory to your suite of lead generating, networking and marketing tools. Tax deductible and cost-effective, join our growing league of professional Old Boys and List yourself or your business. [Visit the Directory](#), [Search the Directory](#) or [Join the Directory](#) today.

WWW.MHSOBA.ASN.AU

YOU. ME. US

FORREST HILL, SOUTH YARRA 3141



MHSOBA Scholarship Report



*Dr. Peter Douros - MHS 1984
Chair Scholarship Sub-Committee*

This year our Scholarship program attracted significant interest with many high-calibre submissions received.

After an intensive selection process, we are pleased to share the successful applicants of our 2020 program with you. We warmly congratulate these Old Boys on their achievement and wish them well with their endeavours.

We also extend grateful thanks to Scholarship sponsors for their commitment and support of MHS Old Boys and our community – the Mahoney, Verma and Webber families, and Mr John Ly (Nguyen).

Scholarships are a great way to give back to the MHS community. If you would like to contribute and create a new Scholarship, please contact peter.douros@mhsoba.asn.au

The John Ly (Nguyen) Scholarship

Sponsored by: John Ly (Nguyen) MHS 1999 to 2002 graduated on the Honours Roll Board achieving an ATAR of 99.50 and studied a Bachelor of Pharmacy and Commerce at Monash University.

Awarded to: **Glenn Bunyamin, MHS 2020**



I am very grateful to Mr John Ly who has kindly provided this scholarship and the opportunities it has helped open. The scholarship will greatly aid my aspirations of studying and one day working in the health field while alleviating various applications fees required in the process.

I hope that one day I can also give back and help other students as generously as Mr John Ly has done so and aid their pursuits into their desired careers. In the meantime, I wish everyone the very best in their studies and future careers.

With many thanks, Glenn Bunyamin

MHSOBA Scholarship Report (con't)

The Mahoney Family Scholarship

Sponsored by: Jan and Darrell Mahoney, parents of Ben Mahoney who was a student at Melbourne High School between 1988 and 1991.

Awarded to: **Hanford Lam, MHS 2013**



Scholarships mean different things to different people. For me, it is a vote of confidence; someone's belief that I can create positive change in my community. It is deeply gratifying to receive acknowledgement that my ideas align well with those of the assessors'. This bolsters my confidence in continuing to explore, reflect on, and refine the way I interact with the world.

On a practical note, scholarship money means the same thing to different people. Increased resources mean more opportunity. I will be choosing to invest through new experiences so that I may become a great educator in the future. With thanks, Hanford Lam

The Speros Beasley Scholarship

Sponsored by: MHSOBA in memory of Speros who arrived at MHS in 1978 from Camberwell High School having gained special entry into Form 4.

Awarded to: **Lachlan Szigeter, MHS 2017**



I was surprised when I was awarded this scholarship, however very grateful – I would like to thank the MHSOBA community for their selection.

For me this award signifies that my time at school in the past and that my involvement with the community now is something that I can really be proud of.

I hope that given this honour I will try to positively affect the lives of those around me and achieve personal success as great as Speros Beasley did in his life.

MHSOBA Scholarship Report (con't)

The Verma Family Scholarship

Sponsored by: Abhishek, Amit and Ajai Verma all attended Melbourne High School. The three brothers all achieved high scores, enabling them to gain entrance into medical school.

Awarded to: **Nisal Punchihewa, MHS 2014**

It is a great honour to be selected as the recipient of the Verma Family Scholarship during a year that has presented many challenges.



The award recognises contribution towards teaching which has been a passion of mine throughout medical school and is largely inspired by the excellent teaching I have received myself.

Any achievement of mine would not be possible without the extensive support I have received from family, friends and mentors.

I also extend my gratitude towards the Verma Family and the MHSOBA whose ongoing support continues to strengthen the special bond we as old boys have with this school.

Nisal Punchihewa

MHSOBA Scholarship Report (con't)

The Webber Family Scholarship

Sponsored by: Greg Webber (MHS 1991). This scholarship is offered in the egalitarian spirit of the school, of lifelong learning, growth, contribution and a life less ordinary, wherever that journey leads.

Awarded to: **Bowan Hafey, MHS 2017**

To be recognised for the qualities embodied in this award is extremely gratifying.



Now that I am at the end of my undergraduate degree, I find myself having been at university just as long as I was at Melbourne High School – yet somehow my time at school seems more substantial.

It is hard to put into words just how lucky I feel knowing that the school and Old Boys community are always there to support me.

I will always be deeply appreciative for my time at Melbourne High School and this scholarship is a reminder for the values which the school fosters.

Bowan Hafey

The Bluey Truscott Scholarship 2020

The Bluey Truscott Scholarship is awarded annually by the MHSOBA to two Year 10 students. The Scholarship recognises students who display all-round excellence in five areas: leadership; co-curricular involvement; sport; academic endeavour and results; and general school community involvement.

The Scholarship is awarded in memory of Squadron Leader Keith William Truscott, who was killed in an aircraft accident on 28 March 1943. Affectionately known as “Bluey”, Truscott is buried in Karrakatta Cemetery in Western Australia and his first Spitfire is on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

He was serving in the Pacific in defence of Australia at the time of his death, having previously survived the Battle of Britain. Although only 26 years old at the time of his death, he had already been awarded the DFC and Bar whilst serving in the Royal Australian Air Force.

During his time at Melbourne High School, Bluey Truscott was a Prefect, House Captain of Forrest and a member of the First XI and First XVIII. He played football for the MHSOBA and for the Melbourne Football Club, whose best and fairest award is named the Bluey Truscott Memorial Trophy. He was renowned for his sense of humour and practical jokes.



Left:
MHS Cricket Team –
Bluey seated with shield

Right:
Keith Truscott circa 1941



The Bluey Truscott Scholarship takes the form of a \$500 prize, \$250 of which is awarded at the end of Year 10 and \$250 at the end of Year 11. The Scholarship winners also receive a medallion and have their names engraved on the bronze plaque in the School foyer, alongside some of the most distinguished students to have attended Melbourne High School.

The Bluey Truscott Scholarship 2020 (con't)

This year MHSOBA is delighted to announce the Bluey Truscott Scholarship has been awarded to Year 10 students **Magnus Mulhall (pictured left)** and **Nathan More (pictured right)**.



It's always a pleasure to see the high level of leadership demonstrated by students such as Magnus and Nathan. This year the selection panel included Matt Roberts (Year 10 Coordinator) and Peter Douros (MHSOBA Chair Scholarships Sub-Committee). They were faced with the difficult decision of choosing up to two Scholarship recipients. Shortlisted students were of extremely high standard this year, making the final selection challenging.

This award continues to foster all-round excellence and leadership. We congratulate Magnus and Nathan and look forward to working with them over the next two years for the benefit of current students and the Old Boy community.

GM&B Update



Daryl Brooks, Patron-in-Chief

It is customary at end of year to reflect fully on the year behind us, however our recent online Forum provided comprehensive reports to members on the amazing work done in what was a dislocated year with regular events cancelled, and others adapted skilfully. Like many, I am now anticipating 2021 with optimism and excitement as it will bring to fruition a number fresh initiatives made possible by the events of 2020.

We are anticipating the installation the new school organ that has been made possible by the initiative of the Executive Committee and the outstanding generosity expressed by members in response to the recent campaign.

Our Heritage program is developing a strategy for 2021 to embrace virtual access to the school and its rich history through new generation multimedia technologies. Our Mentoring Program will be engaging with students with adaptive approaches in consideration of the interruptions experienced this year.

The Junior Leadership Program goes from strength to strength as evidenced by the huge response to this year's online Symposium for prospective MHS and MGHS Year 10s which has attracted high level contributions from our Palladian colleagues as organisers, speakers and aspirants as 2021 JLP Group Leaders. Planning for our Entrepreneur and Innovations event will advance in accordance with and aligned to the school's offerings in this learning space.

It was a privilege and pleasure for me last week to join with MHSOBA President Mr Peter Stathopoulos to present a gift to Mr Jeremy Ludowyke on behalf of MHSOBA and the GM&B. It provided solemn opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the immense value that the school alumni offer to the success and wellbeing of the school its community. Peter and I affirmed our commitment for our organisations to strive forward in unison in these times of transition with the interests of the MHS family always foremost in our thinking. We thanked Jeremy deeply for the outstanding leadership that he gave to the school, and we spoke with acclaim and confidence of how well placed the school is as the mantle of leadership is handed on to his successor. We wished him a well-deserved, long, healthy and proud period of retirement.



GM&B Update (con't)

My admiration and gratitude go to the members of our Executive Committee for their tireless commitment to GM&B business throughout this past troubled year.

We now look forward eagerly to 2021 that will soon bring our next virtual gathering opportunity, as well as our next opportunity to convene in person eventually.

In the meantime, stay safe and well.

Healthy festive regards to all

Daryl Brooks (MHS Class of 1970)
Patron-in-Chief
Green, Maroon & Black Patrons' Club





Normally at our Annual General Meeting we would look back on how the football season had been launched in April with a memorable Coterie Dinner. Unfortunately, that was the first of many events and activities that did not proceed this year. For the first time since WWII our 2020 VAFA season was effectively shut down before it even started. Sadly, the preseason training sessions were impacted by numerous AFL Victoria and DH&HS safety protocols. Then just prior to a state-wide lockdown the VAFA Board cancelled our season outright.

Preparations for season 2020 actually kicked off on 25 November 2019 and were greeted with the sun shining on our Woodfull-Miller Oval, the home of amateur football. Good numbers and new faces enabled us to make great improvement with skill, craft and fitness underpinning those sessions. Training progressed well following the Christmas break through January and February. We welcomed the Richmond Junior Football Club and were impressed by that contribution of their Colts to our group. Sadly, by March things had started to change and on 16 March 2020, the decision was made to suspend training amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

With high hopes of a season eventuating, we implemented a player driven training system. Our players were divided into 5 groups, each responsible for a one-week block of training and they posted videos of running and skill sessions that could be accomplished individually at home. For many - if not most of our young men - 2020 brought challenges unseen. At no point before had we really comprehended the importance of being involved in a Club; the need for an outlet, the need to belong.

That energy and engagement which fostered following the first lockdown was rewarded when we returned to training on 2 June 2020, albeit under significant restrictions. It commenced with two groups of 10 separated at each end of the ground. We engaged 20 players at 6pm, and another 20 at 7pm. As restrictions eased these grew to groups of 20. The challenge of training with social distancing was overcome with enthusiasm and application from a playing group that revelled in the release of simply doing what they enjoyed. As football leagues around the state made the decision to cancel their 2020 seasons, the VAFA remained silent, and we clung to the hope of at least a shortened season. We enjoyed the company of one another until training was suspended on 1 July 2020 and ultimately our season was done.



MHSOB Football Club News (con't)



On 20 August, we organised a virtual Thursday night dinner with the hope of keeping in touch with our players amidst the disappointment of the cancelled season. Over 50 people joined in that session. It was great to see so many engaged, and we raised over \$2,000 on the night to send back to the club.

Now with an eye to 2021, we have already completed 6 sessions of training and have seen 55 players. Bernie Pretty as Senior Coach will be joined again by Lachlan McKinnon as Assistant Coach and we are excited to announce the return to MHSOBFC of Beau Jellis as an Assistant Coach to the senior group. Pleasingly, Luke Campbell will continue as Reserves Coach along with Adam Tardif and Liam McCoppin who will both return to coach the under 19 team.



2021 MHSOBFC Senior Coach
Bernie Pretty

The entire MHSOBFC community is extremely grateful to our Major Sponsor – NED. The company provides premium quality Whisky & Cola beverages and we appreciate the ongoing support from Life Member and former Club captain Drew Fairchild who is the driving force behind that very successful NED brand.

We also acknowledge the financial assistance provided in 2020 by other key sponsors: the Windsor Community branch of Bendigo Bank, Beasley & Co and Urban Water Solutions.

MHSOB Football Club News (con't)



In conclusion, I would like to pass on my genuine thanks to all those who supported the Club so well during such a strange non-season. In particular the efforts put in by Kylie da Fonte (Secretary), Will Hart (Treasurer), Bernie Pretty (Senior Coach) and Lachlan McKinnon (Football Operations Manager) who will all continue in those roles in 2021.

Finally, to the players, lets aim for some more finals action and success at all levels next season. It was most unusual to have commenced pre-Xmas training prior to our Annual General Meeting and there are already promising signs with momentum continuing to build. I have no doubt that a fully committed approach by all will be very well rewarded in 2021.

Warren Fall
President
MHSOBFC



MHSOB Cricket Club Update



As the public health situation has eased in Melbourne, cricket has once again resumed for the MHSOBCC! Despite a heavily restricted preseason and a late season start, MHSOBCC have come out in fine form, remaining undefeated in the early parts of the season with both teams atop their respective divisional ladders.



With a strong growth in numbers, training attendance and quality, the 1's are looking to go one better than their grand final defeat last season and take the premiership within a strong competition. The 2's are also looking to play finals for the first time in several seasons and have their eyes fixed on a premiership as well.

With strong leadership across the board from our president Duminda Weerasooriya and our captains Arushan Dushyanthan (1's Captain) and Nipuna Liyanage (2's Captain), the club is growing at a tremendous rate and performing both on and off the field. This however, could not be achieved without the continuous support and generosity of our wonderful sponsors –

- NED Whisky (@nedwhisky)
- Hello Sam Burger Bar (@hellosamburgers)
- Oscar Hunt Tailors (@oscarhunttailors)
- Belle Property South Yarra (@belle_property_south_yarra_)
- Pump N Click Physiotherapy (@pumpnclick_physio)!



MHSOB Cricket Club Update



We are incredibly grateful to them.

Special mention must also go to our U17's side who have claimed victory in 4 of their 5 matches this season, wonderfully led by co-captains Gurnaz Khatra and Dhruv Redhu, who are also at the helm of the school's First XI side. The U17's, after going down in 3 consecutive grand finals, are also looking to turn their luck and get that elusive title. The success of the U17 program has also been a major reason behind the resurgence of the club, with many juniors going on to play pivotal roles in our senior XI's.

If you're interested in following the club, we are @mhsobcc on both Facebook and Instagram. If you're looking to learn more about the club, playing opportunities or sponsor opportunities, please email us at mhsobcc@gmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing support and please join us in wishing the boys good luck for the remainder of the season!

MHSOBCC



Men for All Seasons – Summer Luncheon

The year 2020 was an unusual year, to say the least. As the Men For All Seasons (MFAS) Autumn and Spring lunches were cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdowns, the MFAS Summer/Christmas lunch was a welcome return to some normality and time to catch up with our old school mates. We had an amazing attendance of 47 of our Melbourne High School alumni from exit years ranging from 1957 to 1986.

It didn't take long for everyone to hit their stride. Peter (Daisy) Day resumed his usual MC duties and proceeded telling all how the MFAS group started, some 20(ish) years ago. As if we needed reminding. As a mad Geelong man, Daisy then proceeded to get into all Tiger supporters in the room and vowed that the mighty Cats will go one better next year. All attendees then channelled the spirit of Mr Alwyn Mott with a great rendition of the school song, both verses, and "*Gaudeamus Igitur*".

As is now custom for MFAS debutants, we heard some great stories of MHS back in the day and what they've been doing since. Michael (Fef) Feferkranz's football stories were something to behold and his successful performances didn't stop there. His appearance on Perfect Match was interesting to say the least. This left Tim Morgan feeling a little flat, as he also appeared on Perfect Match, with a less than memorable experience of being on that show.

My only TV response to these gentlemen was my appearance on the Price is Right in 2003, meeting Larry Emdur (who I called Eddie McGuire by mistake) and missing out on the showcase by \$1. Doh!!! Anyway, I still have the World at War DVD's and my study desk as something to show for it, which went straight to the pool room.

As the drinks continued to flow and we all started to relax, Nicholas Psychogios, resumed normal service getting friendly with everyone in his company. Ray Knight reminisced about his playing days with Fitzroy and in Tassie. Victor Andreou shared stories about the lovely people he comes across in his line of work. Pity there wasn't a piano around to hear Jack Crawford's rendition of "*You Are So Beautiful*" by Joe Cocker.



Men for All Seasons – Summer Luncheon (con't)

Unfortunately, we missed the great Mr Gary Allen's roll call and his ability to seamlessly roll off long Greek names without breaking stride. "Sir." Hopefully, next MFAS lunch.

All in all, this was a great event to renew our connections and wish each other all the best for the festive season. We very much look forward to the Autumn lunch and getting back to The Unicorn Club at some stage.

Paul Panagiotopoulos (MHS 1983)



MFAS guests listen to Peter Day



Michael Mitchell (front), Simon Duncan (left), Neil Duncan (behind), Ray Knight (back), Tim Morgan (right)



Left to Right
John Bird, Colin Axup, John Katsoulis,
John Adamopoulos, Livio Mazzoni



Left to Right
Sam Theodore, Nicholas Psychogios, Peter Douros,
Mike Troupis, Phil Stott, Victor Andreaou

MHSOBA Podcast Series

In June, MHSOBA launched its inaugural official podcast series [“Between Two Unicorns”](#).



Produced and anchored by Adam Ashton (MHS 2010), the series featured five interviews with distinguished Old Boys who candidly shared fond memories of MHS; their career and life journeys; sage advice and wisdom. We acknowledge these Old Boys and their important contribution to the series:



[Episode Two](#)

John Tasioulas (Class of 1982)

Professor of Politics, Philosophy and Law
at King’s College London



[Episode Three](#)

Ashton Pereira (Class of 2010)

Founder & Partner “Bath Box”



[Episode Four](#)

Charles Macek (Class of 1964)

Director of two ASX companies and
Chairman, Earthwatch Institute



MHSOBA Podcast Series (con't)



[Episode Five](#)

Benjamin Wilson (Class of 2010)

Internet Entrepreneur and Australian
Survivor Champions V Contenders



[Episode Six](#)

Wayne Chow (Class of 1994)

Dentist following an unconventional
career path

“Between Two Unicorns” gives Members, past and present students, parents and teachers an opportunity to learn from remarkable Old Boys. The series is a widely accessible archive of conversations that will contribute to the rich history of MHS and future generations.

We appreciate Adam Ashton approaching us to undertake this initiative and thank him for his time in bringing the series to life. Our sincere thanks again to each Old Boy for their time, candour and willingness to be interviewed.

We look forward to delivering Series Two in 2021. If you have questions or comments at any time, please direct them to podcast@mhsoba.asn.au

Australian of the Year – Victorian Nominations

This year, two Old Boys were nominated in Victoria for Australian of the Year 2021.

Nathaniel Diong (MHS 2018) was a finalist for Young Australian of the Year, and Professor Geoffrey Sussman OAM (MHS 1955) was nominated for Senior Australian of the Year.



Nathaniel Diong



Professor Geoffrey Sussman OAM

Nathaniel is an award-winning “Gen-Z educator”, unlocking the endless potential of youth whilst tackling the unemployment crisis affecting 2.8 million young Australians. Committed to helping young people realise they could make a difference, at the age of 16 he founded the Future Minds Network. Through this they practice future skills including communication and problem-solving to create their own financial freedom.

Professor Sussman’s international career in wound-management spans over 60 years. He is widely acknowledged as Australia’s leading authority in the field. A pioneer, educator, researcher, clinician and author, he has a long career in amateur and professional theatre, and in television as a writer, director and performer. He has also made a significant contribution to the sporting world as a sport administrator and Olympian.

While not selected to progress to the final awards, this does not diminish the excellent work and contribution these gentlemen make to their respective fields of endeavour. We applaud their efforts and wish them well as they continue to Honour The Work.

History Notes

Armidale Survivors

On 1st December 1942 H.M.A.S. Armidale, a corvette, was sunk by Japanese bombers in the Timor Sea. 29 crew managed to escape in the ship's whaler, which spent eight days with little food or water. There was much discussion of good meals post rescue, and Lieutenant Palmer in charge of the whaler promised a lunch at the Menzies Hotel (then Melbourne's best) if they survived.



After being rescued by H.M.A.S. Kalgoorlie, Lieutenant Palmer kept his promise, and a photo of the luncheon group was published in a number of papers. **Second from the right is Old Boy George Richardson Devlin MHS 1929. George was born in London and died in 1961.**

History Notes (con't)

An Oval Named Holmes

Many old boys have been involved in Aussie Rules Football, but not many have an oval named after them. Ernest Stanley Holmes MHS 1931 served in WWII (Army and R.A.A.F.) and moved to Sydney after the war where he married Jean Lawrence Pow in 1950 (below).



In 1966, Ern and several others founded the Pennant Hills Junior Australian Rules Club and the Senior Club in 1971. Ern was described as “a loyal, honest, fair, hardworking and loving family man who made a big difference in his local community” who died in 1985, with an Oval named after him subsequently. His widow Jean died earlier this year.

The Right Honourable Stanley Eskell

In a recent issue of History Notes we told the story of an Old Boy sued for damages by an MP. This time we have the reverse. Stanley Louis Mowbray Eskell attended MHS 1931-1934. He had a dual commercial, parliamentary and military career, rising to the rank of Major-General in the Army and Leader of the Liberal Party in the N.S.W. Legislative Council. In 1970 when a company director, he was charged with fraud for which he was subsequently cleared and was awarded \$30,000 damages from the A.B.C.

History Notes (con't)

The Right Honourable Stanley Eskell (con't)

Stanley died in 2000 in London. At MHS, Stan was in the School Lacrosse Team in 1934, quite an achievement as the team included such famous names Keith Truscott, Len Boyd-Gerney, Paul Walshe, Alan Worcester and Harry Garlick.

Married Once, Married Twice...

Florence Joy Mercer Gaylard married an old boy Alfred Sydney Knapman MHS 1932-1933 in 1941. Alfred enlisted in the R.A.A.F. and during a training flight his plane collided with another plane killing all the crew. His widow Florence then married another old boy, Ronald James Adams MHS 1930-1933. Florence died in 2019 at the age of 101.

From Thief to AM Recipient

A theme of late has been old boys who made good after usually criminal troubled times. Ian Malcolm Leslie Ramsay MHS 1933 joined the 2nd A.I.F. quite early (his number is VX877), but he was discharged in 1940 after stealing books from the Y.M.C.A.

In August that year he stole 23 miniature paintings from a display case in the dress circle foyer of the Regent's Theatre, he was arrested in Brisbane, having sold a number of the paintings and was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment.

He later moved to Tasmania and established an agency, where he became involved in gambling. He was sentenced to three years goal for fraud over a cheque in Adelaide in 1946 and charged with embezzlement in Brisbane of £1,100 from his employer, to which he pleaded guilty.

Many years later he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 1998, for service to the community as a volunteer with the Department of Family and Community Services, and in particular for his involvement with the Central Western Work Program.

Luke Savage, Honorary School Archivist

History Notes (con't)

Addition to Article – September / October Newsletter 2020

“Keeping It in the Family” (page 16)

MHSOBA is grateful to Judith Gregory (nee Stanton) for connecting with us to provide additional details to this article referencing her father Gordon Victor Stanton and his twin brother Roy Alan Julian Stanton (MHS 1929 – 1932).

We often hear of children following their parents' careers, but for the Mason family, the siblings followed each other. The two boys both joined the E.S. & A. Bank, Arthur Ernest MHS 1924-1925 and Donald Sydney MHS 1926-1928. The two girls became pharmacists, Lilian May MHS 1920- 1923 in Launceston and Phyllis Estelle MHS 1923 - 1925 in Orbost.

Judith adds - "Both twins graduated MBBS from the University of Melbourne (in different years) and later both went to Perth. Both Roy and Gordon were Medical Officers in the RAAF stationed in WA, and Gordon returned to Melbourne in 1946.

Gordon has two grandsons (my sons) - Michael Gregory (MHS 1987-1990) and Paul Gregory (MHS 1989-1990) who attended MHS before graduating from the University of Melbourne.

There are other Stanton family members who attended MHS: my cousin Jeffrey Stanton (MHS 1946 - 1950) who is now in his late 90s and nephew of the twins; and my second cousin David Stanton (MHS 1974 – 1977) who attained a Bachelor of Science and is great-nephew to the twins.

P.S. I had great hopes that my grandson, Lucas Gregory, now in Year 8 at Northcote High School would be able to sit for the MHS entrance exam this year and follow in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, Gordon Victor Stanton, his father Paul Gregory and uncle Michael Gregory”.

Judith Gregory (née Stanton), October 2020

Archives Report

This was to have been a year of consolidating the Archive's physical collection, a project started in 2016 with the stabilising of the collection. Previous work has ensured that the collection is safely stored and accessible, though much work remains in sorting and organising.

The COVID19 lockdown though has delayed this for a year or two. At the beginning of the year, with funding from the Green Maroon and Black Patron's Club, an A3 scanner was purchased. The first project was digitising The Unicorn. For text documents, the scanner software creates a PDF which is cropped, rotated and text recognised which means it can be searched.

When the COVID19 lockdown became imminent, the Archivist cleared the Heritage Room, locking away all material, clearing the display cases, and then focussed on scanning as many Unicorns as possible.

The scanned Unicorns have been invaluable for information and photos when writing obituaries, Australian Honours, and other such articles during the year, as well as responding to enquiries. With the lockdown having eased, limited access to the school is possible, but still very restricted.

The archives has two voluntary staff, the School Historian Dr Alan Gregory and School Archivist Luke Savage. Our base is the Heritage Room at the top of the tower, with a storeroom under the lecture theatre. This year is the first time since the Heritage Room was established in 1994 that a majority of the work has been conducted outside of it.



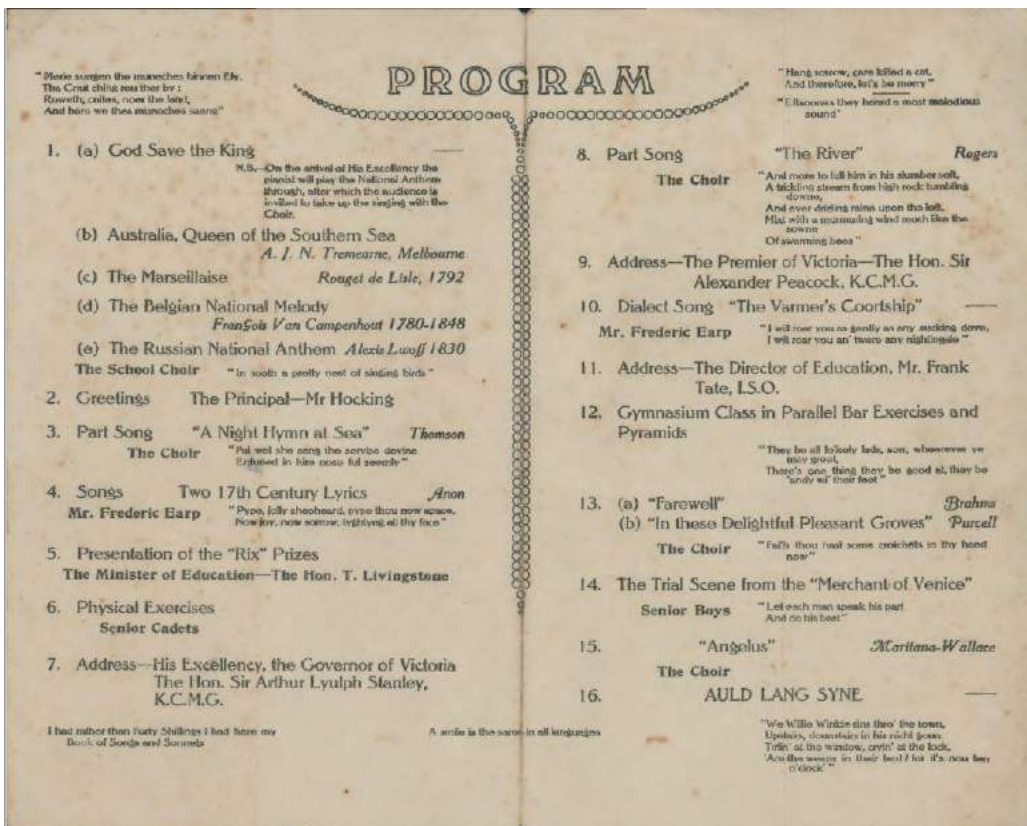
Archives Report (con't)

Collection

19 items have been accessioned this year, our smallest since cataloguing re-commenced in 2018, reflecting the effect of the lockdown. Highlights are:

- Two bronze roundels from the school gates. They date from the 1950's, when Principal Langley ordered them. Two others were removed and placed in the Archives when Ray Willis had a new set made.
- Great War Medals of William Meinardi MHS 1911. These were purchased at auction and donated to the school. They are the first WWI medals donated to the school.
- Photo of Major-General Ramsay inspecting the School Cadet Guard in 1966
- An Australian Bird Book, by former teacher Dr John Leach.
- School Cap and 1953 Unicorn donated by Leigh Hammer.

More material has been received recently but is yet to be catalogued.



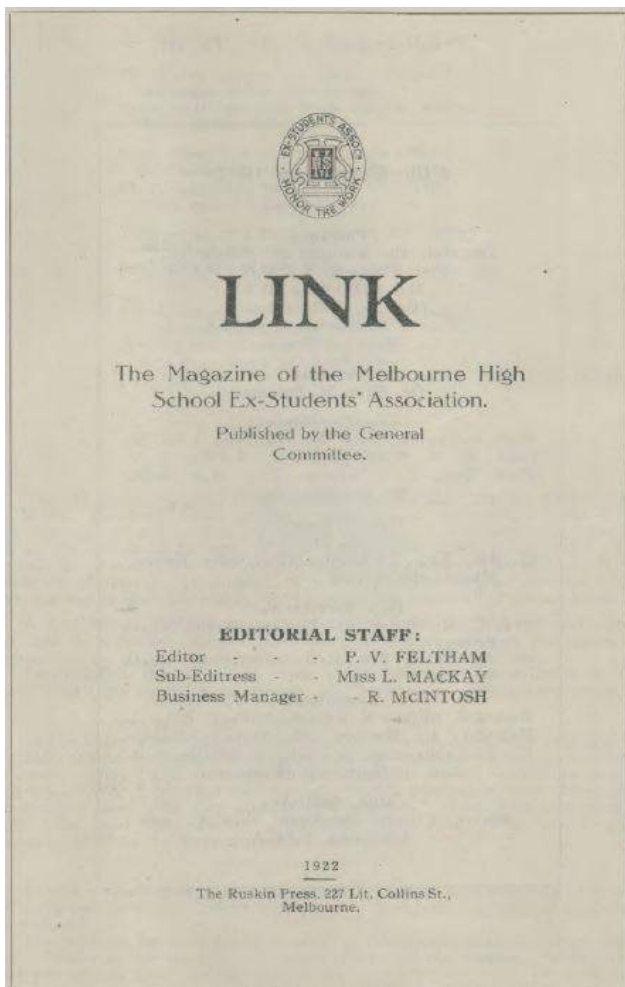
Break Up Concert Program 1914

Archives Report (con't)

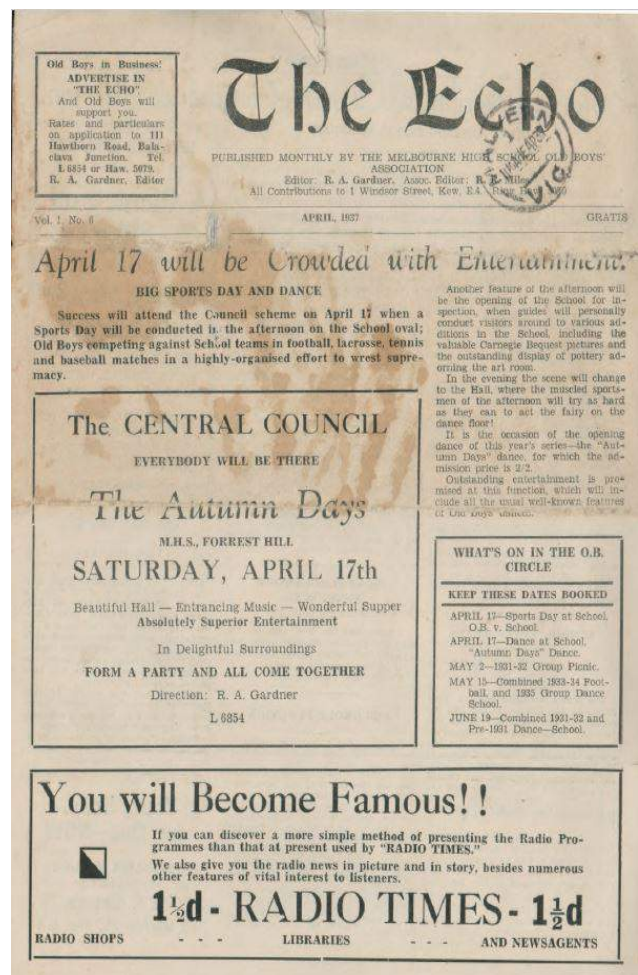
Scanning

- The Unicorn: 67 editions out of 115 have now been scanned.
- Old Boys' Magazines, 234 out of 249 have now been scanned. The missing issues are ones not held in the archives.
- Speech Night Programmes 95 out of 116 have been completed, 8 remain to be done, and there are 13 not held in the archives.

The main projects left are Ours (1907-1927), The Sentinel, as well as filling gaps in The Unicorn and Speech Night Programmes. Once these are complete, the focus will move to photographs, brochures and other material.



The Link 1922



The Echo 1937

Archives Report (con't)

Research

The main work this year has been to build on John Elden's research work on the students. John published this as the School Register in the Old Boys magazine during the 1950's and 1960's with biographical details, war service, honours, degrees, etc.

Starting from the first intake of 1905, every former student has been researched, focusing on Victorian Birth Deaths and Marriages, Public Record Office of Victoria, National Archives of Australia, National Library of Australia Trove database and google, plus other sites as needed such as the Department of Veteran's Affairs WWII, Korean and Vietnam Honour Rolls, the CWGC, etc.

The project is currently up to the 1935 intake with 9,143 students having been researched thus far. The systematic search, covering both the girls and the boys, has found substantial new material and achievement we were not aware of before. This creates a dataset that can now be used for a number of other projects, such as updating the WWI and WWII Honour Rolls. Interesting tid-bits have been published as History Notes in the Old Boys' Magazine.

Communication

A number of articles have been written for the Old Boys' magazine, which has been a great way to publicise the archives. Special projects were the Australian Day and the Queens' Birthday Honours, as well as ANZAC day and George Langley's birthday.

ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and Langley Day (1 May) were each celebrated with an email to the Old Boys' community using material from the archives.

The Archivist was online Guest Speaker to the Port Phillip Historical Society, which focused on MHS's role in State Secondary Education more broadly. The online audience of around 40 included a number of old boys and many others who knew staff or students of the school.

Archives Report (con't)

Enquiries

Enquiries from Old Boys, family of former students and the general public have been steady throughout the year. Some have been initiated by the Archives (such as the Archies 100, but also when finding contacting family of former students).

One interesting enquiry related to Auburn Uniting Church, which was planning a concert for the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, and were researching the names on their Honour Roll, one of whom is an Old Boy.

The researcher turned out to be the son of a famous Old Boy of MHS. Another connection is that former student and teacher, Bruce Macrae, has been musical director at Auburn Uniting Church for a number of years.

A student at Evans River School in Northern NSW made contact about her research project on Hugh Brodie, part of a broader class project on the local Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome. Hugh attended the No 1 Bombing and Gunnery School at Evans' Head from February to April 1941 and the student found the previous [MHSOBA Newsletter article](#) on the donation by Peter and Benita Cater of material relating to Hugh.

Luke Savage, Honorary School Archivist, historian@mhs.vic.edu.au

My Wonderful Years at MHS

From Alan Le Page Morris (MHS 1953 – 1957)
29 November 2020



Alan in 1957

Dear Sir – or is it Dear Madam!

Touching on eighty-two years young(!), I guess I have arrived at the point where travelling down memory lane brings a sense of my formative years and things accomplished thereafter. Perhaps you might be interested to learn a little about how one old boy - me, popping up from nowhere - fared.

Following on from my time at Gardenvale Primary and Central Schools (both located on Landcox Street East Brighton where my parents lived), I was honoured to be chosen to be a student at MHS attending there from 1953 to 1957 inclusive whence I matriculated.

Not particularly academically gifted, nor of strong leadership skills, nor sports motivated, none-the-less, under the tutelage of wonderful teachers I managed to develop a taste for physics and mathematics and these two subjects underpinned my becoming a professional structural engineer specialising in structural dynamics.

In short, following my matriculation in 1957, I completed a Civil Engineering Diploma at the RMIT, thence decamped to London to help upgrade British runways to handle the imminent arrival of the 747 and the Concorde, and where I married. Thence onwards to Ottawa where I lived, studied for my Master's Degree and worked there for seven years.

Eventually, after nigh fourteen years abroad, I, my French wife, (I struggled with French at MHS!) and our daughter removed to Western Australia. Life has gone well, my professional engineering career solidified, my wife worked for the French Trade Commission, and our daughter sharing my wife's smarts gained a Master's Degree in Economics and is now the mother of two great clever little boys with emerging academic and sporting prowess.

My Wonderful Years at MHS (con't)

My wife and I are now long retired living on a large life-style bush block inland from the fabled wine region of Margaret River. Apart from reasonably frequent overseas travel, we potter there in our dotage!

This year has been a hum dinger, what with Covid-19, the move by our daughter's family to Jakarta thence a short order return as COVID refugees, the demise of President Trump [thank god!], but most importantly it marks the 50th anniversary of our marriage in London back in 1970 with congratulations received from the Governor General and the Prime Minister.

That's it in a nutshell and I hope that it reinforces the fact that MHS was - and no doubt still is - a wonderful institution for setting young folk on a rewarding and productive life.

Yours sincerely and best wishes

Alan Le Page MORRIS
Nannup
Western Australia



In the News

Honorary School Archivist Luke Savage has compiled a series of recently published articles featuring - or connected to - Old Boys and MHS. Click the links provided to view the original piece.

Mark Weinberg (MHS 1962-1965) Former federal court judge named as special investigator for Afghanistan war crime allegations. [Click here to view article.](#)

Tom Wodak (MHS 1955-1959) when listening to the cricket noted that one record that fell and was not mentioned was the Woodfull/Ponsford record, which was an *opening* partnership for Victoria. Bill Woodfull was a student MHS 1913-1915, MHS Teacher 1926-1940, MHS Vice-Principal 1948-1953 and MHS Principal 1956-1962. [Click here to view article.](#)

Michael Humphries - librarian at MHS 1982-2000 who died in April this year - a house he owned has been in the news. [Click here to view article.](#)

Nicholas McKenzie (MHS 1995 – 1998) is named Journalist of the Year at the Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism. Congratulations Nick! He also won awards for Outstanding TV Current Affairs and Outstanding Finance Reporting for his work with *60 Minutes* and *The Age*.



[Click here to view the article.](#)

In the News (con't)

Nick Diamantopoulos (MHS 1979-1982) industrial chemist and now Australia's leading garlic researcher, developer and grower. [Click here to view the article.](#)

Dr Brian Moring Wimborne (MHS 1957) has retired as Research Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography after 20 years. His role has been taken over by another Old Boy, Dr Stephen Leslie Wilks MHS 1974-1977. [Click here to view the article.](#)

Why Fox could be driving force behind Dan's next move

While Lindsay Fox may have voted Liberal in the past, rumours are swirling that Daniel Andrews may soon go to work for the trucking magnate.

[Click here to view the article.](#)



TRIBUTES



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Tributes



Blair Maesmore Campbell

20 August 1946 to 3 November 2020

MHS 1960 – 1963

For more information about Blair, [click here](#)



Keith Mills Deutsher

2 April 1922 to 15 April 2020

MHS 1935-1936

For more information about Keith, [click here](#)



Alfred Marshall Jackson

23 July 1919 to 1 July 2020

MHS 1933

For more information about Alfred, [click here](#)



Peter Harry Larsen

1927 to 29 July 2020

MHS Staff 1951 - 1956

For more information about Peter, [click here](#)

Tributes (con't)



Stewart Crawford Merrett

9 July 1943 to 15 June 2020

MHS 1957-1960

For more information about Stewart, [click here](#)



Raymond George Moody

19 November 1935 to 6 November 2020

MHS 1949-1953

For more information about Raymond, [click here](#)



Bruce Malcolm Reid, M.B., B.S.

4 April 1945 to 27 October 2020

MHS 1958-1962

For more information about Bruce, [click here](#)



John Keith Roberts

4 April 1945 to 27 October 2020

MHS 1958 -1962

For more information about John, [click here](#)

Tributes (con't)



Jeffrey Paul Salinger

25 December 1941 to 19 August 2020

MHS 1955 – 1958

For more information about Jeffrey, [click here](#)



Peter Ernest Simpson

14 April 1939 to 20 October 2020

MHS 1953 -1955

For more information about Peter, [click here](#)



Paul William Taylor

27 October 1956 to 16 June 2020

MHS 1971 -1973

For more information about Paul, [click here](#)



Keith Wickenton (pictured centre)

14 August 1939 to 1 December 2018

MHS 1954 -1956

For more information about Keith, [click here](#)



John Wysokier (Jack Wyse), L.D.S., B.D.Sc.

2 September 1918 to 16 January 2020

MHS 1934 -1936

For more information about John, [click here](#)





THE UNICORN CLUB



With sweeping views to the Castle on the Hill, the newly refurbished Unicorn Club is your perfect venue for business meetings, seminars, workshops and celebrations.

When we arrive at "the other side" of COVID-19, we warmly invite you to book The Unicorn Club for your special events.

To discuss your function, contact Jo Malley, Event Manager MHSOBA - administrator@mhsoba.asn.au or call 9824 0480.



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MHSOBA Membership

As we head into the new year, we invite Old Boys to purchase or renew an MHSOBA Membership which includes:

Business Directory	Member-only fees for business or individual Listings
The Unicorn Club	Member-only venue hire fees for business and private events
The Kelvin Club	Complimentary access to the exclusive Kelvin Club in the CBD (annual membership valued at \$800)
Reunions & Events	Member-only ticket prices to select events
Networking	Access to networking events and opportunities
For Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Pack – MHSOBA lapel badge, membership card, a set of Kenneth Jack prints and a copy of “Strong Like Its Pillars – A History of MHS 1905 - 2005” by Alan Gregory • Work experience support • Access to MHSOBA Scholarships • Access to Vocational and Exam Preparation Seminars

MHSOBA MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Type	Term	Investment
Student (SM30)	Valid to a student’s 30 th birthday	\$400.00
Adult	1 Year	\$ 70.00
	5 Years	\$300.00
	10 Years	\$500.00
Concession (Senior / Tertiary)	1 Year	\$ 50.00
	5 Years	\$180.00
Associate (Non OB / Non Voting)	1 Year	\$ 50.00
	5 Years	\$180.00

Explore our Membership options online [here](#).

If you have any queries, email us administrator@mhsoba.asn.au



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Contribute

We invite you to contribute an update or story to our next newsletter. Please email your article along with high resolution images via email to administrator@mhsoba.asn.au

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