

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-2020

TOWARDS 2021



WHAT A YEAR!

Probably sums it all up. Due to COVID-19, we had fewer committee meetings but lots more emails/phone calls and our last meeting, held on June 19th at Jenny Schonfisch's home did require some organising—likewise this AGM which is held much later than usual, because of the pandemic restrictions.

Thank you all again for making the effort to be here.

I MUST SAY IT IS GREAT TO HOLD THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HERE IN TOOWOOMBA – particularly good to see so many Toowoomba locals here. I did think quite a few of those present might have been at home working on their gardens for next week's Carnival of Flowers albeit in a different format this year! What a lovely city this is.

AGAIN, I WISH TO THANK EACH COMMITTEE MEMBER for their input, time, effort, friendship, and above all, for their commitment to the betterment of all things connected with past students of Slade Campus. It has been a long-standing committee and so very easy to work with. We have had a lot of fun in our six-year journey and a good many group decisions have been made as we have moved forward.

SOME ROLES ARE MORE TAXING THAN OTHERS and I particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of **JOAN** and **JOHN**. They initially accepted roles on the committee which have "morphed" into much wider/broader responsibilities. Joan's efforts are constantly on display with her regular and magnificent Kinawah which is no doubt appreciated by all. I have in fact sent one to Federal Member for Maranoa, David Littleproud, in our efforts to secure government grants to help refurbish the War Memorial Building and Science Block.

JOHN OPERATES MORE AS A "BEHIND THE SCENES" MAN. He has performed roles as diverse as fulfilling all the legal requirements necessary for changing the Name and Rules of the Association to be in accordance with Office of Fair Trading regulations. He has also negotiated our website design, carrying out repairs on the Slade badge on the War Memorial Building with a ground crew comprising myself, Peter Ramsay and Leigh Nisbet as well as selecting and nurturing replacement trees for Memorial Drive at the Warwick Christian College Campus and so it goes.

ANOTHER VERY TIME-CONSUMING ROLE John accomplishes in conjunction with our Treasurer of 20 years, Nigel, is our money. By this I mean the invoicing of membership fees and follow up on the collection thereof and our cash flow, in general, updating and keeping on top of our contact records. I sometimes liken him to a dog with a bone, such is his motivation to grow our financial base of members. Another area he has overseen is the sourcing and printing of name tags for various Association functions as they arise.

AS YOU WILL SEE LATER IN THE MEETING, many of this committee are standing down in 2020 after wonderful long term service to the Association but I've confirmed with each and every one of them that they are not going anywhere and all will be available for assistance to the new committee.

AS THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT, I become the Immediate Past President and as such I remain a committee man with a voice and no power. Much like some of our politicians I'd say!

PETER, NIGEL AND HELEN are all long-term committee members. Thank you all for your input and advice over many years.

JENNY has been our wonderful secretary for the last six years and we have often had meetings at her centrally located home availing ourselves of the outstanding services of Schonfisch Catering.

LEIGH is our Warwick-based Museum/Memorabilia man and has done a wonderful job at Slade Campus.

JACQUE has been a Special Projects lady and has fulfilled her role admirably.

TIM SOMMERLAD is our WCC Representative and will prove invaluable in years to come.

IT WOULD BE REMISS OF ME NOT TO MENTION the wonderful relationship we have developed with Warwick Christian College, particularly with the College Principal, Carmelo Rubio. WCC are the owners of the property that is such a huge part of our history. They value our heritage and welcome visits from us with open arms but please remember we are just that, **VISITORS**. It is no longer our school. If you have the opportunity to call into WCC for a look around, please show the College the courtesy of calling into the office first to introduce yourself. In today's environment, this is a requirement right across the board of the education sector for all schools.

ON ANOTHER ESSENTIAL NOTE, I would like to once again, stress the importance of letting us know when your contact details have changed as soon as you are able to do so. It is a huge task to keep our data base up to date and any assistance you can provide to assist with this makes a huge difference and one that is greatly appreciated.

BEFORE I DEPART THIS POSITION, I want to state that that this committee has left the Association in a strong position both numerically and financially, enjoying great rapport with WCC, the present owners of our old Campus.

AT THIS POINT, as I look back on my time as President of the Association, I would like to outline some of the achievements that this committee has brought to fruition during its tenure:

1. **The relationship formed and ongoing support of WCC** is worthy of mention (4 different Principals)...massive to keep our Heritage/History on Slade Campus.
2. **Attendance** at Anzac Day services/Awards nights/Open days/Remembrance Days.
3. **Integration** of ALL contact details to one compact list and growing this LIST in numbers.
4. **Association name change to SCPSA/Rules to SCPSA** to include WCC students which are our **FUTURE**.
5. **Financial membership** (with actual monetary payment of fees) up a massive percentage including 12 members from WCC, several members who live overseas and one Committee member from WCC.
6. **Repair of SLADE School badge** on War memorial Block.
7. **The procurement and installation of an all weather "buddy bench"** with plaque in appreciation of Kel Williamson.
8. **Clean out** of storeroom and update of Memorabilia room.
9. **Regular and newsworthy Kinawahs** (especially in 2020).
10. **Introduction of annual Bursaries**.
11. **Further financial Assistance towards the War Memorial Building restoration** so as to complete the project to help cover repairs/replacement to tower, plaques and trees.
12. **Purchase of SCPSA laptop** for more expedient production of Kinawah.
13. **SCPSA Website** is well on the way to being updated and upgraded.
14. **Three thoroughly deserved and long overdue Honorary Life Memberships** awarded.
15. **Renaming of the hall** relocated from St Catharine's campus, subsequently labelled Slade Hall, to now read **WCC Assembly Hall, formerly of St Catharine's** as part of the girls' highly successful 100yr celebrations in 2018.
16. **A Sub-Committee** is being formed to oversee the planning for the 95th celebrations 9th October 2021.
17. **And now, my final task** is to right a wrong of over fifty-six years. I am reliably informed by none other than the man himself, that he was the winner of the Walker Shield for "Best Boy" (I've got it down twice so he **MUST** have been good!) in Highfields in 1964. **HOWEVER**, that Walker Shield was never ever engraved. So John Bayliss, we are all witnesses to this belated formal congratulations and visible recognition of an honour which might have been overlooked **BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN!**

