

NELSON COLLEGE OLD BOY'S ASSOCIATION INC

MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 07 JUNE 2023

Meeting of: The Executive Committee
Where: Nelson College Scriptorium
Meeting Opened: 5.30pm
Present: Iain Graham, Rob McKegney, Chris Harvey, Paul Bromell, John Brydon, Richard McLaren, Richard Dykes, Kieran Cleary, Mike Neale, Lucy Jackson (minutes)

Apologies: Paul Sturrock
Moved: Chris Harvey
Seconded: Iain Graham

Chairmans' Welcome: Chris Harvey welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a special welcome to Mike Neale.

Minutes of 01 March 2023 Meeting:

The Minutes were confirmed as a true and correct record.
Moved: Iain Graham
Seconded: Rob McKegney

Matters Arising from 01 March 2023 Meeting Minutes:

GST period change

This was suggested to look into, however John Brydon reported that the timing wasn't going to work, so the GST period has been left at the status quo (6 monthly).

Letters sent to contractors and donors

Check that this has all been completed, including from the BOT.

Front Field Report – Iain Graham

Iain gave a verbal report, advising that the field is now in use, and doing well, and the grass is holding well. There will be a review done at the end of the season for any extra work required. There will be the restitching with 250kg more grass seed in 2024.

The college is hosting Quad in 2024, so the aim will be to have it in top condition for then.

Finance:

The 2022 Annual Accounts and Performance Report was re-presented, following the AGM and the work to align them. Chris thanked John Brydon for the extra work involved.

John Brydon presented the revised report, and advised that several issues were highlighted with the change of software and personnel in the treasurers role.

There was some discussion and questions around the various Funds, including the A M Gawith Outdoor Expedition Fund, and the Nelson College Old Boys Rugby Club Fund. The history of these were explained to the meeting.

It was agreed to check with Andrew Gawith, the Gawith Fund donor, if the description is still valid, or if this should be updated. Rob McKegney to do this.

There was also discussion around the Front Field project, and this being treated differently in the accounts so it does not distort the financial reporting in the following year, and indicate a dramatic loss in 2024, and not be part of the main accumulated funds. It was agreed this was a timing issue, but that the way the income and expenditure has been treated will be clarified.

Motion:

To clarify the separation of the Front Field Project from the accumulated funds of the Association. The new accounts will be circulated to all financial members, along with a copy of the President's report from the AGM.

Moved: Richard McLaren

Seconded: Chris Harvey

The current financial summary for the month ended 31 May 2023 was presented and accepted.

Moved: John Brydon

Seconded: Paul Bromell

Payments to Ratify:

- Payment to Matt Donald (head boy) for the JG McKay Scholarship: \$2000
- Payment to Nelson College for Placemakers invoice for bollards – Front Field: \$588.40
- Payment to Wellington Oaks Hotel for catering for the 2023 Quad Function: 290.00
- Reimburse Rob McKegney for catering for the AGM and Field Opening catering: \$295.00
- Reimburse Paul Sturrock for wine for the AGM and Field Opening Functions: \$95.96
- Payment to Super Liquor for function supplies: \$328.37
- Payment to Donaldson Civil for bollard holes:
- Payment to Endurance Spraying for the Front Field maintenance:

Moved: Chris Harvey

Seconded: Paul Bromell

General Business:

- Richard Dykes presented his discussion document (attached), which had also been previously circulated, for discussion.

Points discussed:

How is the new donor engagement officer funded and who are they working with?

Funded by the Trust Foundation, and working with Old Boys and the wider community.

Discussion around the idea that young old boys aren't engaging, this was disputed, and advised that they are on a number of levels, particularly the number of old boys in their 20s and 30s attending rugby games and engaging on social media. It was agreed that the challenge is how do we grow the membership.

The point to establish the Trust as the single Trust for all gifts donations and sponsorship was discussed, as a concern, and that the Association did not want to remove the ability and opportunity for Old Boys to donate and contribute to them if they chose to. That there was still confusion about there being two philanthropic arms.

Mike Neale presented a letter outlining his concerns about the direction of the Trust Foundation.

Richard Dykes responded to this verbally, advising that the Trust has set up sub funds, providing clear options for people to donate to or make bequests to, and that it was not about either or, it was about being synergistic, and the Old Boys Association has representation on the Trust still according to the Trust Deed. All existing donors had been contacted and spoken to about the realignment of the funds the affected their donation.

It was discussed that the NCOBA could still accept donations, and that their income come from subscriptions, and be fundraising be project driven.

The discussion paper was accepted.

- The Old Boys College Orchestra project has been advertised amongst Old Boys, and is a work in progress to provide people with an opportunity to come together. This may or may not happen, depending on interest. It is proposed for September 2023.
- 175th Anniversary. This was tabled, and agreed it did not need to be discussed currently.
- Clarification of the change of the Headmaster's title to Principal/Tumuaki. There is questions amongst Old Boys as to why this change has occurred, and how it was done.
Richard Dykes advised that it is inline with other schools, and the Ministry of Education, and that it meant if his successor was a female or transgender, this would not impact on them. The Deputy Headmaster and Assistant Principals has also be changed to Deputy Principals.
- Chris Harvey advised he will be resigning as one of the Old Boys reps on the Trust Foundation, and that Mike Neale has offered to replace him in that role. He was thanked for his expertise in this area. This will be communicated to the Trust Foundation members.
- Installation of Bollards below the Front Field. These have been installed for security reasons to protect the field. When the job was completed, the Nelson City Council Environmental department raised the issue that this is impacting on heritage and landscape trees. Iain Graham is managing this, and he has been formally issued with an abatement notice for putting the bollards into the drip-zone of landscape trees. He is working directly with the NCC to resolve this.

Meeting closed: 7.00pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 2 August, 2023, 5.30pm, Script Boardroom.

Nelson College Old Boys & Trust Foundation

Discussion Paper (May 2023)

Goals:

1. Attract new, younger members to ensure the long-term, operational viability of NCOBA.
2. Align fundraising with the school's priorities.
3. Better acknowledge existing sponsors and donors.
4. Progress 'Legacy' project to sustain co-curricular and boarding at Nelson College.

Current Situation:

1. Old Boys

- + Strong group of engaged Old Boys from 1950's and 1960's.
- + Strong support for events such as Quad.
- + Auckland and Christchurch branches get 20-20 attendees to meetings.
- + Success of one-off projects such as recent front field refurbishment.
- Very few Old Boys under 55 years old are engaged with the Association.
- The Association depends on investment income rather than operational income to operate.

2. NCTF

- + Well structured to invest/manage funds.
- + Governance includes Old Boys, College, Board and parents.
- + 'Potentiality' database.
- + New structure (sub-funds) provides transparency for donors, and to align funds with school priorities.
- Duplicate philanthropic trusts across Old Boys and NCTF.
- No strategy to grow funds.
- Need to adjust constitution to retain parents when PTA ceases.

3. Nelson College

- + 167 years of history.
- + Strong 'Old Boy' legacy.
- + Multiple assets (buildings) gifted by Old Boys.
- Lack of funds to maintain Board-owned (gifted) assets.
- Not adequately acknowledging or connecting with sponsors and donors.

NELSON COLLEGE TRUST FOUNDATION

While it is a laudable objective to establish the Trust as a single entity for all gifts, the reality is that one cannot dictate to Old Boys, friends of the College, and Charitable Institutions, who they make donations and bequests to, either in cash or in kind.

The College, through the Trust Foundation, Old Boys Association, and directly to the School, has received many benefits over the years. Those doors should remain open in whatever manner Old Boys and others may wish to contribute to the well being of Nelson College. To restrict avenues of engagement, in my view, would be a retrograde step.

Regular communication to all past and prospective donors is an area needing urgent attention. There are currently conflicting messages being promulgated to interested parties, from seeking donations to retire College debt to general donations to the Trust. There is also no mention through official channels, such as the College website, of the ability to make Bequests, and suggested wording of same. The identification of areas that require immediate support for the benefit of current students and staff would also be helpful. These should include, but are not limited to;

Academic Excellence (Such as the Palmer Endowment Fund) – Provides Staff with access and exposure to the best and most innovative educational practitioners with leading edge and proven educational concepts.

Cultural Excellence – such as Music and Drama – provides facilities, specialist tutoring, and equipment

Sporting Excellence (Such as the Krammer Sports Endowment Fund) - Initiatives such as to provide broad and deep extension for students in their physical pursuits

Positive Education - emphasis of individual strengths, self-esteem, self-worth and personal learning. Support for teachers to extend their knowledge and application of Positive Education.

Helping Hand (Such as the J.G.McKay Memorial Awards Fund) – to assist those Students who do not have the financial means of participation in the College's academic, cultural, or sporting trips without special assistance.

I reiterate the need for better communication. At the very least, the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Trust should be transmitted to all Old Boys every year, as was the case some years ago. The most logical avenue, in my view, would be through the Old Boys "Bulletin." It could also be used for general promotional material about the Trust and any special projects identified by the Board of Trustees at the time.

M.G. Neale

7/6/23