

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD WOODRIDGEAN ASSOCIATION HELD ON 6 JULY 2013**

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### **Chairman's report**

It is with great pleasure that I present my report on the activities of your association for the year ended 30 June 2013.

The following OWA's sat on the committee during the past year :

Andrea Puggia (chairman), Maxime Bird, Marlon Yui, Renay Bellingham, Jason Kuum

The two headmasters attended our meetings ex officio. The President, Fred Bates and Honorary Vice-President, Godfrey Carter also attended our meetings and offered valuable input.

### ***Communication***

Communication continues to be a key element of our function as a committee. Our regular newsletters continue to be well received and other social media eg. Facebook are also being used effectively. Regular contact with OWA's visiting the school has also been on the increase.

### ***Premier 500***

The Premier 500 continues to be our main fundraising effort. Three draws were held during the year.

The format of the draw and quantum of prizes has been changed this year with more attendance prizes being awarded with a view to improving attendances (and socialising), which is one of the objectives of the club.

The committee has debated the continuation of this draw a number of times and we always reach the conclusion that it must continue as it is our only major fundraising event. We will continue marketing the draws with a view to reaching that magical 500 membership mark. The draw will be re-marketed this year under the banner of fundraising for major new project, being the construction of a new OWA clubhouse on the school grounds. Look out for more news on this.

### ***Matric induction dinner***

The dinner was held again last year. It continues to be one of the highlights of the year and eagerly anticipated by the matrices.

### ***Reunion weekend***

The reunion weekend continues to be the highlight of the year with attendance improving every year. The format introduced a few years ago seems to be working and we thank everyone for making an effort to attend. My thanks go to the individuals from each year, who organise the reunion of their respective classmates.

## **Fideliter Room**

Last year we opened the Fideliter Room, which was developed in conjunction with the school's marketing department and will house the archives of the school together with memorabilia and all the photographic records of the school. Clearly, Old Woodridgeans will feature strongly and last year a wall of honour was opened where we will celebrate the achievements of a number of Old Woodridgeans on a rotational basis.

Last year, we honoured Richard Cock, Graham Fieggen, Mark Rushmere, Martin Dreyer and Colin Ingram. It is now time to honour another five and we are looking to you, the OWA's to provide the committee with some suggestions of OWA's that you think would be worthy.

## ***Cricket day***

The cricket day was once again a great success with three OWA teams playing against the school.

## ***Branch visits***

During the year we had get-togethers in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Thanks go to the local reps who were involved in the organisation of these events together with Max.

We also tried to get a regular get-together going in PE. These got off to a slow start, but we hope to continue with them this year.

## ***Woodridgean sports club***

The Woodridgean sports club actively involved in playing cricket, hockey, tennis, squash and running and operates from the Woodpecker. I'd like to remind you that all OWA's are automatically social members of the club through an annual membership contribution from the OWA, but would need to pay additional membership fees to participate in the other sports.

## ***Thanks and closing***

I would like to close by thanking the committee for their commitment and efforts during the year, including the two headmasters who continued to support the association

A special mention must go to Maxime Bird, the secretary of the OWA, who has continued to work tirelessly at increasing the OWA network and serve as the contact point with the OWA.

**Andrea Puggia**  
**Chairman**