



Message from the Alumni Office

Reunions are a fabulous time to reconnect with classmates, have a few drinks and reminisce.

Regardless of age, a Christ Church Grammar School old boys' reunion is a special time to share common experiences, reflect with friends and recall past challenges and highlights. It's no wonder that the OBA survey, conducted this year, rated reunions as the most valued priority for members.

In response to your interests, we'll continue to deliver opportunities to engage with the School and with each other, at home and abroad, through events and communication platforms that reach you globally. It is such a pleasure to create opportunities for you to remain connected, regardless of your geographical location. You will always be a special part of the Christ Church community and I look forward to remaining in contact.

Wishing you and your family the very best for Christmas.



Deb Hill
Alumni Co-ordinator – Old Boys' Association

OBA Sundowner

The OBA Sundowner is an annual favourite for Life Members and partners, this year hosting over 200 guests at the Claremont Yacht Club. Retiring Deputy Principal Roger Bayly was inducted as an Honorary Life Member of the Old Boys' Association in recognition of his support of old boys over the past 30 years.

Receiving the honour with humility, Roger expressed gratitude for the opportunity to remain connected. Since his initial appointment as Director of Physical Education in 1988, Roger has fostered a strong school community. He has been an exceptional educator and a wonderful role model for all students.



Class of '71

Approximately 25 peers turned up for a great social evening, with some being classmates we hadn't seen for 47 years. The occasion prompted stories of boarding house antics, and our own greatness in getting one over teachers, other school teams and one another. For most of the evening, I don't think I saw anyone without a smile on their face.

The passing years have been testing for all of us in one sense or another, however, that did not appear to dampen the 'spirit of a get together' and the excuses for our changes in appearance.



Congratulations is extended to Tony Packer, Doug Young and Paul Rumenos for their great efforts in organising the event and tracking people down.

For more photos, please visit the [Old Boys' image gallery](#).

By: John Cramer

Dr Yes



Daniel Pelkowitz ('15), Dewruwan Gammanpila ('14), Nick Leedman ('13), Julian Ming ('15) and Dylan Boggetti ('14) recently returned to Christ Church as representatives of Dr Yes (Youth Education Sessions) to address Year 10 students. The health program has been operating in schools for almost 20 years through the Australian Medical Association (AMA), with volunteer leaders facilitating open and engaging communication about the big issues facing youth health – particularly alcohol, drugs, mental and sexual health. Numerous old boys have volunteered with the program since its inception, giving their time and expertise to students of metropolitan and rural high schools. Great work!



Trevor Kay and John Cramer (both from the Class of '71) are prepared to share their secret fishing spot with fellow old boys and stories of the 'one that got away.' During a six-day fishing trip north of Exmouth, Trevor landed the first fish - a Spanish mackerel that nearly tipped the scales at 20kg. Bragging rights were assured on their return to Perth and taste of the spoils were enjoyed by friends to conclude a top trip.



Message from the outgoing School Captain

In his final speech as School Captain, Matt Tissiman reflected on the opportunities the School provided, appreciation for the teachers and the inherent values of Christ Church Grammar School.

My parents looked for a school with excellence in teaching, that embraced tolerance and diversity, encouraged creativity and offered many opportunities.

Christ Church continues to achieve PBs in all these areas. Continually, our Year 12s set a very high bar in terms of academics and I'm confident that 2019 will be another standout year. In addition, we topped the record this year for the most PSA sport and extra-curricular titles. Today we have also seen the many individuals who received prizes and I congratulate you all on what has been an outstanding year.

However, some of the prizes we all walk away with, are a little less tangible. At Christ Church, we are learning to be Good Men based on our shared values. This value-centric culture is not always easy to define. It is a fragile thing that our leaders and us boys are entrusted to nurture and pay forward. When we talk about our values - respect, compassion and inclusion – these are woven into what we do here every day.

Character endures, but the future we are heading into, is changing rapidly. We are the first cohort at Christ Church to be born in the new millennium. We never knew a time without the internet and are likely to still be alive into the 22nd

Century. Life hacking is the new buzzword for our Generation Z; a bold approach needed for rapid problem solving that will draw on our creativity and character we have developed here. The future of work is changing rapidly, and a number of our cohort have already joined the gig economy with side jobs, in things no less than consulting on malware and crypto currencies, or designing and marketing clothing. I am sure these will be the first of many stellar careers, for these budding entrepreneurs.

At Christ Church we have also been learning how to make sense of the waterfall of information we receive. To learn how to distinguish between the urgent, important, irrelevant and the downright fake. This is not easy in the echo of information pouring out of our smartphones. Information is always at our fingertips. The truth however - is harder to find.

Finally, my fellow valedictorians. The truth is - we have been challenged, coached and mentored by the best, to be the best that each of us can be and to help others. Christ Church has encouraged our dreams and there has always been a place and respect, for each one of us.

Matthew Tissiman (excerpt from his Valedictory speech, October 2018)



Preserving our historic rowing victory

The bow of the original McClemens eight has been presented to the School as a gift following magnificent restoration by Trevor Badger ('83). With the opening of the new river precinct at Christ Church, Trevor was delighted to unveil the treasure that proudly saw Christ Church win the 1958 Head of the River marking our place as champion for the first time in the PSA competition.

The bow was offered to Trevor when he was Captain of Boats and McClemens House Boarding Captain. Housed in the farm shed since then, the bow needed plenty of love to eliminate wood rot and restore the original gold leaf signage of the name WJ McClemens (misspelt as it was originally). Thank you, Trevor for your care and dedication in preserving this chapter of history and sharing it for the benefit of future generations.

OBA Assembly



Old boys who attended Christ Church during the 1940s, known as 'The Unforgettables,' joined the Senior School Assembly this term to share experiences of the School during the war era. Peter Lynn, Bill Watson, Michael Moore, John Doust AM, Barry Lynn, Terry Newton and Gerry Atherden received a standing ovation from the audience after sharing their stories and expressing gratitude for their education at Christ Church. Despite cold showers and tough economic times, the old boys have forged lasting friendships that are celebrated regularly.

The Class of 2017

The Class of 2017 quenched their thirst at the traditional OBA 'Linger On' happy hour, their first reunion since leaving Christ Church. Welcome back gents, it's great to stay in touch!



MEMBER UPDATES

2007 Representing Christ Church Old Boys' **Hamish Rose** and his crew made it through to the Mens' A-Final in the PSA Elizabeth Quay Regatta but were beaten by a canvas in the Final to WA Rowing Club. "Most importantly though, we beat Scotch old boys!" said Hamish. The crew comprised of Henry Chandler, Sam Morgan, James McQuillan, Dave Latham, Hamish Rose, Jacob Marsh, Peter Adam, Owain Chandler and Simon Cox.

1976 The title of the Dragon State Championships came down to the wire in the final race as **Willy Packer** and **Peter Gilmour**, together with their respective teams, called on their best match racing skills in a nail biting finish. The winner on count back, Willy Packer, with Peter Gilmour placing 2nd and Peter Bowman in 3rd place. Congratulations to Hamish Carnachan ('79), David Yu ('86) and Grant Alderson ('83) who took out the Tally Hobbs Memorial Trophy.

1969 As a member of the Perth Male Voice Choir, **Marshall Willan** joined an international choir at the Festival of Choirs at Royal Albert Hall in October, joined by 15 other choirs from six countries. Each choir received 20 songs to memorise,

eight of them in the Welsh language - no easy feat! A 'warm up' tour included five performances throughout Wales.

"From the word go we stepped up to the mark and sang like never before. We were under pressure, being on our own without the accompaniment of 15 other choirs. In short, we performed excellently - did ourselves proud and the Welsh audiences (full houses) loved us, particularly when we sang in their language. They were amazed that an Australian choir could rise to such a difficult height. Tears were very apparent, so enraptured were they."

"Fast forward to 13 October, the big night at Royal Albert Hall and an occasion not one of us had experienced. We were accompanied by the Royal Welsh Guards no less and with acoustics unequalled, it promised through our two rehearsals prior to be an evening to remember. It was. With 800 voices, tenors and basses combining as one, it really was an exceptional sound. There was a full house of 5000 who, upon our conclusion of Land of our Fathers, the Welsh national anthem, gave us a standing ovation. It brought tears of sheer wonder to most of us, an experience never to forget."

"Not bad for an eclectic, ordinary bunch of men from the suburbs of Perth. Will we ever forget it?.....I don't think so."

1958 David Steadman (Dag), together with 65 others, drawn from four metro 'Born to Sing' choirs, flew into Edinburgh, Scotland, in August to perform four sold out concerts to some 850 attendees at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. "All in all, we raised £6,500 (\$10,000 AUD) for four different Scottish charities and have been invited back to sing at any point in the future. This wonderful trip was two years in the making and over \$20,000 was raised by our choirs to fund the preparation and production cost. Our choir members wore specially designed Indigenous themed performance costumes and were advertised as 'kangaroos and bagpipes.' To have seen the Royal Military Tattoo in that Edinburgh castle environment was just supreme!"

Reunions in 2019 - watch this space!



The cohorts of 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969 will celebrate their respective reunions in 2019. Plans are currently being considered and updates will be shared through our Old Boys' website in the new year. Please ensure that your contact details with us are up to date in order to receive your class reunion invite. Email oldboys@ccgs.wa.edu.au or call the Alumni Office on **9442 1528** if your details have recently changed.



Boarders who left CCGS prior to 1960 will remember waking to a very loud ship's bell, said to be very annoying. Two boys removed that bell in the dead of night and threw it off the end of the jetty. The Headmaster of the day, Peter Moyes, never learnt who the culprits were or the whereabouts of the bell. It's possible that the bell remains in that submerged resting place under river silt, although the jetty has long gone. All was revealed at a lunch reunion for the Class of '61 with one old boy, pictured, claiming responsibility.