

Marist Old Boys' Report for FMBETB Meeting September, 14th 2010.

Introduction:

MOB is the association of past pupils of Marist Brothers' High School. The Association performs a range of functions but primarily it is an interest group.

The MOB has a constitution that guides it, giving purpose and direction to its activities and functions.

2010 AGM and Office Bearers

The Annual General Meeting was held in June this year. The new office bearers are:-

President: Ben Salacakau

Vice President: Samuela Loiti

Secretary: Venasio Masara

Treasurer: Jimione Raiwalui

Committee Members: James Lee, George Mawi, Setoki Tuiteci, Koli Korovulavula,

MOBilise and MOB Assistance:

MOBilise was the initiative of the Sydney MOB. It was in response to the growing concern for the conditions at school in those years leading up to 2008. That was the year of the first MOBilise. Informal visits to the school had witnessed the deterioration of buildings, facilities and the growing lack of equipment and chemicals.

The first MOBilise conference and in fact subsequent to that as well identified areas for projects to be undertaken by the various branches of the MOB. The projects undertaken were as follows.

- Computer Equipment and Internet connectivity – MOB Australia and USA.
- Band Equipment – MOB Aust.
- Ratu Mara Hostel – MOB UK
- Library Books – MOB Aust.
- Chemicals and Equipment - MOB NZ.

MOBilise took place at the time when MOB was struggling for some focus. Since equipment and chemicals were needed immediately the branches had to depend on handouts for assistance to the school. This is where the mismatch came in terms of needs and assistance given and the school's needs. Books and computers were second hand etc. However the MOB made every effort to ensure these were usable and provided refurbishment and upgrades where needed.

No matter how much we tried the computers were dated and prone to problems. The issue then was to address an immediate need and as the MOB were bereft of resources, they accepted what could be scrounged and salvaged from various organisations. MOB members expended and extended themselves to get these over, installed and functional. The Assistance may not have met expectations. However it was done with a lot of good will and personal expenses in time and money of the MOB members.

Three years down the line and it is time to upgrade MOB assistance to the school. The numbers have grown and there is a little more capacity. We hope that the scope of assistance will grow and we will move into providing new equipment for the school. This has been exemplified by the assistance provided this year. MOB UK have given monetary rather than material assistance. MOB NZ have provided new Science Equipment including a Fume Cupboard. These will be landing this week and hopefully be cleared immediately. All told, the total value is over \$NZ17000. MOBilise 2010 will advance the same intents in regard to assistance to the school.

MOBilise 2010.

This will take place on October 22nd to October 31st. There is a mass on Friday 22nd and will close on Sunday 31st with a mass as well.

Briefly the Program is as follows:

Date	Activity	Venue
Oct 22 nd	Mass	Lambert Hall. To be concelebrated by Old Boy priests. Father George Ting to be main celebrant, assisted by Fathers Leronio, Dan Sinclair, Dakai etc, Brief meet and greet session at Lambert Hall.
Oct 23 rd .	Clean up day	School. Houses to clean specified areas. MOBilise launch in West hosted by MOB West.
Oct 24 th	West and Overseas contingent travel through to Suva.	Mass and lunch at Korolevu.
Oct 25 th	Games and Sigidrigi from 3pm	School Grounds and Lambert Hall
Oct 26 th	Games and Sigidrigi	As above
Oct 27 th	As above	As above
Oct 28 th	MOBilise Conference	Sports Council Gymnasium
Oct 29 th	Bazaar Preparation	School Grounds
Oct 30 th	Bazaar and Island Night	School grounds and Novotel Convention Center.
Oct	Mass at 10am	Sacred Heart Cathedral, concelebration by OB Priests.

MOB has been meeting regularly in the lead up to this conference. Ever since MOBilise was launched on Friday August 28th, the momentum has picked up quite a bit. However many of these things are new and old boys are still content to stand back and see what will transpire. Part of our work then is directed towards publicity and broadening participation. It is a challenge especially since we wish to broadening participation by all old boys.

Other Issues:

The MOB has been involved in a lot of activities this year on account of the various levels of interest in the school and its activities. Briefly these are:

1. Assistance to Coca Cola squad tracksuits.
2. Assistance in training.
- 3 Purchase of various gear for athletes.
4. Assistance with Coca Cola games supplies.
- 5 Assistance to athletes selected for overseas tours.
5. Assistance to rugby teams
6. Assistance to basketball team.

Etc.

MOB has forged an important partnership with various school bodies to assist in moving the school forward.

First Friday Masses:

This was picked up recently and attendance to date has been good. We must thank Brother Sam who has been such a role model for us. We hope this will gain momentum and hopefully develop.

Conclusion:

I am quite unreserved in extending my gratitude and amazement for the way many of the old boys are reaching out to provide assistance. When I see the presence at meetings and realise many of the MOB have relatively little to gain yet readily come to meetings or extend a helping hand I am overwhelmed. I hope that into the future this can be nurtured so that the school can maximise benefits that can be derived from the many prominent OB's that abound in various spheres of life in Fiji and abroad.

MOB is focussed now on making sure MOBilise 2010 is a success. That success will ensure many more will want to stay connected. This will greatly enhance capacity for us to approach more challenging tasks into the future.

I take the opportunity to thank the Board, School Management and the Marist Brothers' Trust for the tolerance and understanding shown to our Association in the past.

B. Salacakau

President.