



OLD BARKER ASSOCIATION
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Old Barker Association Strategy

2021 - 2024

Introduction

The Old Barker Association (OBA) is the alumni association of Barker College – supporting all former student’s ongoing connection with Barker and each other.

The OBA was established in 1908 as the Old Boys’ Union, before becoming the Old Barker Association in 1976 when the first girls from the introduction of co-education in 1975 graduated.

Today, the OBA is a modern alumni association that allows members to celebrate their common bonds with Barker and the Barker Community. Membership entitles former students to continue to engage in the activities they loved at school, access new opportunities and experience, and build networks with former students.

The OBA is governed by the Constitution of the Old Barker Association, with responsibility for the management of the OBA vested in the Committee of the OBA. Following engagement with the OBA’s membership, Barker and the School Council, the Committee is pleased to present the 2021-24 Old Barker Association Strategy.

This Strategy outlines the OBA’s Vision, and commitments to members and the School.

The Strategy builds on the successes of previous Committees and sets ambitious goals to keep the OBA focused on delivering accessible and needed services to members that reflect the unique relationship that members have with each other and the OBA.

The Strategy also commits the OBA to continuing to strengthen its relationship with the School. The OBA and its members are the custodians of the history of the School – a connection that provides the OBA with the unique responsibility to support current students as they experience all that Barker has to offer.

Key Achievements

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| <p>Support for Life</p> <p>The rollout of the Support for Life program — providing our members and their families help for those that need it.</p> | <p>Affiliates Program</p> <p>Our affiliates program across sports, drama, music and faith.</p> | <p>Flagship Events</p> <p>Collaborating with the School to celebrate our common bonds and the leaders of tomorrow, such as through the Spirit Awards and training shirts programs.</p> |
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Our 5 priority projects under this Strategy

1. Support for Life
2. Networking
3. Affiliates
4. Investment and support to Barker
5. Accountability, transparency, and brand awareness of the OBA and what we offer

We acknowledge and celebrate the pillars on which the School has been built, including its Christian faith, coeducation, and most recently, commitment to Indigenous education. The OBA remains invested in the work of the School, and consistently works with the School to identify new opportunities for the OBA to give back, including our Spirit Award

program, training shirts, scholarships and Back to Barker events to connect alumni with the students throughout their time at school.

Underpinning all the actions outlined in this Strategy is a commitment for the OBA to remain a community for all — a community for life.

Our Vision

We want members of the OBA to be proud to call themselves members.

We want the OBA to be — and be seen by its members to be — one of the premier alumni associations in Australia which:

- maintains the linkages of members to the school community throughout their lives,
- provides practical and relevant support to the changing needs of members, and of the school community, and
- creates a means for members to add to the fabric of the School by supporting current students and staff to realise the traditions and values of Barker.

For this to be achieved, the Association must be:

- financially robust, with sufficient funds to provide reliable support to a base level of activities on behalf of its members, plus discretion to initiate or support specific, worthwhile projects,
- led by a Committee which is focused, committed and accountable to the membership,
- actively supported by members who can volunteer their time and expertise,
- as creative as possible in relation to projects and resources, consistent with the Association being a not-for-profit organisation, and therefore considerably more risk averse than a business, and
- more reflective than at present, of the diversity of the school community and, in particular, achieving a much higher level of involvement by female former students.

Our Values

Inclusivity

We want the OBA to reflect the diversity of our members and the Barker Community — offering services that allow members to engage with each other, access opportunities that interest them, and empower members to get the most out of their membership.

Respect

The OBA will have at its core open and honest communication within the Committee and with our members. We want all members to have an equal voice and to celebrate the diversity of thought and action that members can take to allow the OBA to be a premier alumni association.

Innovative

The OBA will be future facing while maintaining important links to the past. We will continue to be a repository for traditions but must ensure our organisation, and the services it delivers, keeps pace with our members and what role they want the OBA to play in their lives.

Accountable

Trust and transparency will drive our work to be accountable to members — ensuring we deliver services that take our organisation forward while being responsible with how we run programs and spend money on behalf of members.

To achieve these values, the OBA Committee will ensure that the OBA listens to its members, and is responsive to their needs and the direction they expect us to take.

Our Goals

1

Enhance opportunities for members to strengthen their connection with each other and other members of the School community

2

Continue to deliver a comprehensive Support for Life program

3

Strengthen our relationship with the School by supporting initiatives that enhance student and staff experiences at Barker

4

Ensure that the OBA has a sustainable financial strategy and comprehensive governance approach



1. Enhance opportunities for members to strengthen their connection with each other and other members of the School community.

We will:

- a. Reinvigorate the OBA's networking program following COVID to prioritise face to face events, including the Networking Breakfast, while still taking advantage of the shift in ways of working to rollout new online products and opportunities, including our mentoring program.
- b. Continue to run our flagship events, including the OBA Annual Dinner, Golf Day and Back to Barker events.
- c. Continue to support the Affiliates Program to allow members to continue to do the activities they loved most while at Barker.
- d. Use the OBA's social media channels and the alumni section of The Barker to highlight the achievements of OBA members and promote ways to keep in touch with each other.

We will be successful when:

- a. Events are focused on areas of interest for members as measured by feedback from events – giving members networking and career benefits from being part of the OBA.
- b. Our brand and communication strategy engages members in new ways – making them aware of what the OBA is and how to access our network and services.
- c. Affiliates programs access funding over the three year Strategy to continue to provide the offerings that our members enjoy most, including exploring new affiliates with the support of alumni.

Our Goals

2. Continue to deliver a comprehensive Support for Life program.



We will:

- a. Transition the Support for Life program from its start up phase to a sustainable longer-term platform and support program.
- b. Ensure we make the Support for Life program a comprehensive first point of contact for those seeking help while also exploring new ways to provide financial security to the program.
- c. Celebrate the tireless hard work of our Committee and the School to provide a seamless support system for students and their families as they transition from school to alumni.

We will be successful when:

- a. All members are aware that they and their families can access the Support for Life program.
- b. The Support for Life program allows members to access immediate help for issues impacting them, and easily transition to other services when additional support is required.
- c. The OBA collaborates with the Barker College Parents Association and the School to run fundraising events to fund Support for Life and other initiatives targeted at improving the mental health of students, parents, alumni and the broader Barker community.

3. Strengthen our relationship with the School by supporting initiatives that enhance student and staff experiences at Barker.

We will:

- a. Be an avenue for members to give back to the School, which has created a common bond for all members.
- b. Seek to be the single point of contact for the School to access alumni.
- c. Provide direct support to the School — tailored to the needs of the School and the value add that alumni can provide the School.
- d. Streamline our financial support to the student body by improving our processes for students, parents and staff to apply for funding for initiatives at the School.

We will be successful when:

- a. Establish a clear funding process for initiatives at the School to ensure equity of access for all students and activities and sustainable ongoing funding.
- b. Continue to provide training shirts and spirit awards to students to celebrate their achievements and their place in the Barker Community.
- c. Work with the School to continue to hold Back to Barker events — allowing alumni to share new experiences with students and the School through sport, leadership and career advice, and our mutual commitment to the traditions of Barker.
- d. Be a voice for alumni in engaging with the School and broader Barker community on issues that are important to us.

Our Goals

4. Ensure that the OBA has a sustainable financial strategy and comprehensive governance approach.

We will:

- a. Maintain a three year budget strategy focused on transparently planning how we spend member's life memberships fees.
- b. Plan for the future to ensure we maintain a vibrant and diverse Committee, and continue to make significant contributions to the work of the School Council through the Alumni Nominees to School Council.
- c. Re-invigorate the Committee's governance approach to invest more responsibility in sub-Committees to drive projects that enhance the member experience.
- d. Be transparent with our members by reporting against our commitments in this Strategy.

We will be successful when:

- a. We use membership of the Committee and our Nominees to School Council to leverage the expertise and passion of our members to benefit the OBA and the School.
- b. Develop and implement governance policies for how the Committee will operate, spend money, and meet our risk and compliance obligations
- c. The Office Bearers' reports to the members and our brand and communications strategy enable members to understand what the OBA is doing and how they can get involved.





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