



Message from Incoming SJC OBA NSW President, P. Dileepkanth

February 20, 2021

Good evening everyone,

Thank you for presenting here at the Annual General meeting of St John's College (SJC) OBA Sydney to witness the success of the outgoing committee and welcome the members of newly elected committee for the year 2021.

As the President of the newly elected committee, I'm elated and honoured at the same time, to be part of OBA Sydney. I'm looking forward to initiate new activities which will bring together all our old boys with an ultimate goal of supporting our Alma mater and building Johnian community. The upcoming bicentenary celebrations of St Johns College in 2023 will be a good time to reflect our growth in the past and work towards a new goal.

I take this opportunity to thank our outgoing president Mr. Sutha Siva for his exceptional leadership and contribution. I would like to thank all the members of the previous committee for working unanimously to bring forward new initiatives despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Under Sutha Siva's leadership, the previous committee hosted the world's first hybrid online event, "COVID Komaalihal", which was a tremendous success and one of the first zoom event among Sri Lankan Past Pupil Associations worldwide. The summer fun of "Kodaik Kaliyaaddam", Walking Eagles, and strong participation in Sports, especially in cricket, are some of the examples of the success of the previous committee. Our work over the last term to launch the new platform for our membership and aligning our process for our growth sets us for success. I extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Rajan Sharma, Mr. Myntha Shiva, Mr. Sujenthan Thavanathan and Mr. Balamurali Balachandiran, for their contribution to OBA Sydney over the years as they are taking a break from the committee this year.

My hearty congratulations to the new committee members. We are a fantastic team and we can continue to achieve what our previous committees started and bring more members together to achieve our mission. The new committee for 2021 details is listed in the link - <https://www.sjcobasydney.com/committee>

As the new committee, our immediate focus would be under the following 3 pillars:

1. First pillar is about our members -
 - Membership – Grow our membership on the platform and building activities to build friendships among Johnian families.

- Sports – In cricket, now we have Vintage (Over 60), Classics (Over 50) and Open teams. We are planning to expand to other sports based on the interest of our members in Table Tennis, Badminton golf, and cycling this year.
 - Walking eagles – We will continue the walking eagles and will bring more participants to that.
 - Social Events – We will continue to organise a calendar of social events to connect everyone while managing covid restrictions.
2. Second pillar is supporting our School – Our committee will continue to support the “Vision 2023” to build the William’s Block project with the strategic plan. Develop a program for our members to St John’s College celebrations in 2023.
 3. Final pillar to connect with other OBA’s and local community. We will connect with more local community & social clubs in Sydney, which will fulfil one of the objectives of extending the support to the greater community.

Thank you all for your trust in electing me as the President and I’m looking forward to working with you through my term.

“Johnians always play the game”

Thank you.

P. Dileepkanth

President

SJC OBA Sydney