Thank you Jack, and I acknowledge all Old Boys who join us today for this assembly, including committee members, teachers, staff, and special guests.

This is the fourth Old Boys’ assembly that we have held in what has now become a regular fixture in the Christ Church calendar. At the first Old Boys’ Assembly in 2012 a dozen Old Boys, including Major General Craig Williams (1974) former Commander of the 2nd Division of the Australian Army, and The Honourable Wayne Martin (1969) current Chief Justice of Western Australia were acknowledged and honoured as exceptional old boys. Their framed biographies, which were a gift to the School from the Old Boys’ Association, are hung upstairs in Q Block to remind you of their achievements and hopefully to inspire you.

In September 2013 we added a 13th member to this group being comedian, actor, composer, pianist, musical director and rock and roll megastar Tim Minchin (1992).

At the Old Boys’ assembly held this time last year we welcomed back to the school men from “The 50 Year Club” - Old Boys who graduated 50 years ago – or longer – from Christ Church. On that day the guest speaker was Arthur Pate, School Captain in 1953 who wrote the school war cry when he was in Year 12, and who also wrote the school hymn in 1987 that has been sung in this chapel at every school assembly since then.

This year, the Old Boys’ Association gift to the school was a series of honour boards that are hung in the gym and list the names of the captains of each sport since Christ Church joined the PSA competition in 1957. I imagine that many of you have looked at these honour boards, read the names that are listed, and that some of you hope that one day your name will be added to them. There are over 550 names on these honour boards representing 16 sports and at today’s Old Boys’ assembly we welcome back 55 of these past captains of Christ Church sporting teams and acknowledge their contribution to sport and leadership at the School.

Sport is an important part of just about every society, in every country, all around the world. Good sportsmanship provides a framework that can be generalised to lifelong achievement. Participation in challenging sports contests teaches us to embrace and love challenge, to be resilient, and how to function in a highly competitive society.

In many ways, the world of sport mirrors how we can play the game of life. Good sportsmen will stay in the game and play their best even when they are losing. They have discipline. They practice with gruelling regularity the necessary skills and technique for their sport, and this can have a flow on effect into other areas of life, as success in any field of human endeavour requires similar perseverance and self-discipline that you learn from achieving success in competitive sport.
Sport has always been an important part of the programme at this School. When I attended Christ Church we were all required to participate in regular training and compete in weekly fixtures in both summer and winter sports, as did the Christ Church students who went before me, and just as you do today. The school has a proud tradition of skills development, team-building and success in PSA competition which has been lead by the Captains of Sport – including the Old Boys’ who are before you now.

Some of these men and other Christ Church students have gone on to great sporting success after school. Old Boys’ of Christ Church have won gold medals at Commonwealth and Olympic Games, have held world records, have won world championships, and competed at the highest level in a wide variety of sports.

But before they played for Australia, or represented WA or their Club, they played tennis, football and cricket against Scotch and Hale, swam in the Inters, and rowed in the Head of the River – just as you do today.

This morning we will be celebrating the efforts of all former Captains of Sport in building the School’s sports programme over the years, including those who were Captains prior to the school’s entry in to the PSA in 1957.

Some Captains deserve special mention – a number here today were Captain of two sporting codes in their year. When I call their name I ask them to stand and remain standing so we can acknowledge them together. They are:

Bob McCarthy (1957) captain of swimming and hockey
Rob Cullingford (1981) captain of swimming and rugby
Kane Morphett (1989) captain of tennis and athletics
Simon Howard (1996) captain of waterpolo and football
Chris Webster (1999) captain of hockey and athletics
Jim Allenby (1999) captain of cricket and soccer
Andrew Browne (2001) captain of cricket and football
Richard Stevenson (2007) captain of cricket and hockey
Stevie Eskinazi (2011) captain of cricket and hockey

Please congratulate these dual Captains of Sport...

In addition to this, we have one old boy who went one step further captaining a record 3 sports in one year! Not only did this man captain three sporting codes he lifted the performance up the ladder in each sport from the previous year. Captain of swimming,
football and athletics in 1984 Brian Beresford - and I also ask Brian to stand so we can acknowledge this achievement.

You will all leave this school with various sporting memories, for some of you things that you have already experienced, and for some of you things that are yet to come. Memories like winning the Head of the River by a canvas, being selected in a firsts team to represent Christ Church, or throwing up after running as hard as you could in the 400 metres at the Inter House Sports Day. Some of your sporting memories perhaps won’t be so great – like the disappointment of losing a close game. But such is sport and such is life.

Some of my own sporting memories from Christ Church include breaking my nose and loosing what seemed like two litres of blood playing Year 9 rugby on the Lord Oval; trying to find creative short cuts along the bush trails at Mt Claremont during cross country training; and being a part of the record breaking 4x50m Open medley relay at the Inters in 1987 – the first year Christ Church won the PSA Swimming.

Each of these men here today – the past Captains of Sport, honoured at this assembly, has sporting stories of their time at Christ Church to tell, and today we are able to share some of these experiences with you.

I now invite the School Prefects to come forward to tell 6 of these short stories beginning with Captain of School Jack Hawkesford...