In shining more light on Philanthropy at TSS, the first thing we need to do is acknowledge the generous gifts that have been given to The Southport School ever since it was first conceived by our Founder, Horace Henry Dixon.

For over 100 years, buildings throughout the Prep and Senior Campuses have been funded and supported by past generations of families and Old Boys. Many of us pass through these buildings every day without knowing this. Through their gifts over time, we have been able to turn bricks and mortar into structures that are very significant places that our sons regard with much fondness. These include St Alban’s Chapel, the Clocktower Building, the Centenary Centre and most recently the Bennett Building (Year 7 facilities).

Parents and Old Boys have also taken responsibility to ensure the ongoing success of TSS through their donations of specialised equipment and resources such as the iconic clock in the Clocktower, air-conditioning throughout the Prep School and assistance with upgrades and refurbishment work on Biddle and Delpratt Boarding Houses.

We are at a very important crossroad with the developing culture of philanthropy at TSS. This culture can grow as we continue to improve our communication, enhance the relationships with community, Old Boys and supporters and identify each individual’s unique passion in what he or she supports.

For Malcolm Broomhead (Thorold House 1964–1969), a link between his growing philanthropic interests and his genuine interest in TSS were the key ingredients in his recent decision to support the School’s Lecture Theatre. Mr Broomhead was drawn to the strategy being implemented by TSS for a better transition into university and beyond.

Philanthropy at any level can and should be a powerful ally in advancing our rich 114-year TSS history. Because Malcolm concurs strongly with this, although not one to seek publicity, he agreed to talk about this particular donation to ensure that philanthropy does not remain silent.

Story by
Bruce Wright
Director of Philanthropy
While my initial reaction was not to talk about my donations, I think that in future, private schools and not-for-profit organisations in Australia will increasingly require support from private individuals as government’s ability to provide funds declines. Australia does not have a culture of philanthropy in the way that, say, the USA has, and I think it is therefore important to encourage those of us who have been very fortunate in our careers to consider such actions.

“I decided to make a meaningful contribution as a means of expressing my gratitude for the wonderful start in life that TSS gave me. The values I learnt there, together with the friendships I made, have stayed with me throughout my life. TSS holds a very special place in my heart and always will. At the end of the day, values and education are two of the most important gifts we can offer to our children and TSS is a first-class provider of both. I have decided to support the School with this donation in order to help in some small way in the raising of standards of the wonderful services TSS offers. The students of today are our future.”

The Headmaster Mr Greg Wain commented further.

“The School Council and I were delighted to hear of Malcolm’s most generous gift. I have long admired distinguished Old Boy Malcolm Broomhead’s character and achievements. Malcolm holds a Bachelor of Engineering and an MBA, is currently Chairman, Orica Ltd, Chairman, Asciano Ltd and a Director of BHP Billiton, having been the highly successful CEO of Orica for many years, and was named the Chartered Accountants Business Leader of the Year in 2004. Malcolm is also involved in many other philanthropic projects including Director, Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, Chairman, Kilfinan Australia and Council Member, Opportunity International Australia. He is a fine example, to our boys and to our community, of good character and leadership”

We value all gifts at TSS because they all add together to enable a substantial and enduring impact on generations of young boys who are shaped into capable and confident young men.

Should you consider giving a donation, pledge or bequest, your gift can be handled as confidentially and discreetly as you stipulate. We remain committed to building a more professional and productive culture of philanthropy at TSS and I trust that, like Malcolm Broomhead, you will reflect on the impact your gift will have.

In the end, what could be more worthwhile than investing in an institution that is non-selective and holistic in its approach to educating boys; shaping them into young men and positive contributors to our local communities and global society?

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– Malcolm Broomhead