MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OLD KNOX GRAMMARIANS’ ASSOCIATION INC.
MONDAY 2 MARCH 2009
KG1 BUILDING, KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
PACIFIC HIGHWAY, WAHROONGA

OPENING

The President, Ian MacPherson opened the meeting at 8.10 pm welcoming the OKGA, members and guests to the 79th AGM of the OKGA.

PRESENT

David Balog, Ian Bangs, Tim Bangs, Martin Barkl, Michael Bayliss, John Boag, Ashley Boshier, Ross Browning, Marilyn Buchanan, Peter Cameron, Alec Cameron, Rick Capel, Edric Chaffer, Scott Chapel, Anthony Claridge, Todd Collinge, John Cottee, Gerald Cowling, Ross Dinnell, Mitchell Donaldson, Matthew Feros, Ian Frame, Phil Henniker, Bill Henry, Pamela Hitchcock, David Johnston, Steve Kelloway, Michael Kelvynack, Ian King, Bill Lawson, Michael Le Couteur, Simon Lennon, Rees Mackay, Ian MacPherson, David MacPherson, Alan Marsden, Andrew Martin, Lachlan Martin, Craig Miller, Peter Navratil, Chris Neave, Paul Nelson, Warren Norris, Antony Osman, Matt Paterson, Graham Pratt, Andrew Pursell, Peter Roach, David Seaman, Oliver Sheer, Matthew Sherlock, Dorsett Sutton, Bob Thomas, Phil Tuck, Rob Tulloch, Scott Tunbridge, Peter Turnbull, David Uttley, Todd Vail, Greg Vains, Bruce Vincent, John Virgona, Robert Wannan, John Weeks, Peter Wells, Clayton White, Sandra White, Warwick White, Cameron Wills, Lachlan Wills, Brooks Wilson, Mark Wilson, Christopher Wiseman, Stephen Yeomans, Brett Young,

APOLOGIES

Julian Osman, Roger Perkins, John Bryant, Scott Young, Graeme Young, Craig Mizon, Stuart Powell, Robert Brue, Ted Carter.

MINUTES 2008 AGM

Moved: John Boag
Approved: Michael Bayliss

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Patron of the OKGA and Knox Headmaster. Mr John Weeks, Members of the OKGA, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present to you on behalf of your Committee the Annual Report covering the affairs and activities of the OKGA for 2008, at this our 77th Annual General Meeting.
In welcoming you to this meeting, I emphasize a particular welcome to our new members, the 2008 leavers.

Both the School and OKGA have had very full years, which have been greatly supported by members of the OKGA and the Knox community.

Our membership continues to grow with over 90% of our 2008 leavers joining our Association. Our membership at this time totals almost 10,000.

We continue to operate within our budget and have maintained the financial support to our Clubs and to the School. Our audited accounts show that for the three entities combined (i.e. OKGA Inc, OKGA Sports Inc, and OKGA Endowment Trust), our total net assets are $868,000. While the 3 entities have made a combined operating loss for the year, primarily due to the reduced market value of our invested funds, they show a strong underlying balance sheet, and we continue in a healthy financial position.

THE SCHOOL

The Old Knox Grammarians’ Association is an integral part of the School community and continues to have a close relationship with the School. We can maintain all of our objectives by assisting the school to achieve its long term goals. By supporting its philosophies and by being visible in our commitment, we are playing a significant part in developing the Knox Boy into the Knox man.

The school continues to strive for academic excellence and our “newest old boys”, based on Band 6 results only, maintained their position in the top 10% of NSW schools. 38% of our students were placed in the 90+ UAI Band, while a number gained mention in the HSC honours list for particular subjects. Jack Day, Edward Gregory, Robert Edwards and Alexander Morris all gained the “Premiers Award for top all-rounders” (90+ in their best 10 units).

As well, a significant number of our boys gained representative honours in CAS teams for their chosen sports – Mark Johnson and Luke Rissman were selected in the Australian School Boys Rugby team. In CAS competition we came second to Trinity in the swimming, first in the Athletics for the third consecutive year and were CAS champions in cricket, rugby and winter tennis.

Music and drama are now firmly established within the school and the stage productions of “Unman, Wittering & Zigo”, “Footloose” and the “Legend of King O’Malley”, were excellent and of course the Knox Tattoo involving both the Prep and Senior School pipe bands, as well as the Old Boys, was outstanding.

A new addition in school activities is “Future Problem Solving” and our inaugural 2006 Year 7 team won the Australian Final and qualified for the International Future Problem Solving finals held in Colorado in 2007, where they gained a 4th place. During 2008, 3 of our teams from years 8 and 9, qualified for the Nationals in Melbourne, with 2, placed Champion and runner up, thus qualifying for the International Title to be held at Michigan University in May 2009. Their tutor, Anne White has been recognized with the E. Paul Torrance Award for her outstanding contribution to Future Problem Solving within Australian, and was also nominated to the Keith Frampton Roll of Honour.

The Founders Day Service this year was held in conjunction with the Induction of our Chaplains, Philip Newton and William Nicholas, and I was honoured to represent the
OKGA. Our Annual OKGA Service and Service of Confirmation is a well established and important event on our calendar, and with a very interesting address from Will Nicholas and the usual superb contribution from the Gallery Choir made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The traditions of the School Cadet Unit are firmly embedded and it is without doubt one of the most important of all activities. The Anzac Service and Parade considered by many to be the most significant event in the School and OKGA calendar, the Passing Out Service and Parade, and the Honouring Service and Parade, where we honour our ex servicemen, were all carried out with the usual very high standard of discipline and precision. The performance of all cadets at each function was without fault.

Once again, a personal invitation was sent out to all our ex servicemen and to those Old Boys who we know are currently serving in the Defence Forces, for both the Anzac Service and the Honouring Service. This personal contact was very much appreciated by all concerned. This year we specially recognized the service of Ted Carter (OKG ‘38), Dr Marsden Hordern OAM (OKG ’39), Don Caldwell-Smith (OKG ’40), Arthur Pardey (OKG ’41) and Lysle Roberts (OKG ’42). At this Service of Remembrance, the Moderator of the Uniting Church, the Reverend Niall Reid, dedicated our now complete War Service Roll containing over 700 names. Additional names have also now been added to our War Memorial in the Quadrangle. The Assemblies at which we present the “Most Improved Awards” are another opportunity to raise the profile of the OKGA but more importantly for us to recognize the “trier”. These awards are given in all sports and for all cultural activities, in both the Prep and Senior Schools and are highly valued by the boys.

The Gerry Alldis Scholarship continues to be keenly contested and is awarded annually to a boy with “All-Round Ability”. It provides 50% of tuition fees in years 11 & 12. This scholarship for the years 2009 and 2010 has been awarded to Edward Turner. The Norman Winter Scholarship providing 50% of fees for boarding and tuition to a son or grandson of an Old Boy entering Knox in years 11 & 12 has been awarded to Richard Tulloch (the son Andrew (OKG '78).

The OKGA also provides funding for a number of trophies and prizes on Speech Day in both the Prep and Senior Schools. Our most recently sponsored award, initiated in 2004 for the best UAI in 2007 was awarded to Dylan Campbell who achieved a UAI of 100 placing him in the first 22 students in the State.

We would like to significantly increase our pool of funds to sponsor more scholarships and bursaries, and also be in a position to provide further support and assistance to Old Boys and their families who are in particular need – in times of tight budgets we must be always conscious of who we can help. The OKGA Committee is actively supporting the major capital appeal for the Great Hall. Many of our younger members continue to provide support to the Prep and Senior Schools with coaching and refereeing in the various sports and also service in the Cadets. As well this year, following a request from the Headmaster, we introduced a mentoring programme for our year 12 students. It involved introducing a number of our recent leavers to the students at a luncheon where they could give perhaps, more relevant and appropriate answers to the boys regarding those early years out of school. When required we also do our best to help with career guidance and opportunities in employment. Miles Karemacher in his time with the committee also pursued keenly an up-to-date data base of all our Old Boys, to further provide assistance to our younger members.
The final day for year 12, although varied slightly from previous years generally followed a well formatted tradition. The day started with a very well attended Service in the Chapel and then followed their final assembly and prize giving. The OKGA is now an integral part of this ceremony, which in part symbolizes the transfer from School Boy to Old Boy. Following on from the earlier luncheon our mentors participated in this assembly, presenting each boy with their OKGA tie. The following night I was honoured to represent the OKGA at their Valete Dinner.

THE OKGA

Generations of past students are proud to be known as Old Knox Grammarians and enjoy maintaining the connection between School and each other. The OKGA provides an opportunity to meet generations on a common platform and it continues to encourage contact between Old Boys.

One of the objectives of the Association is to maintain contact between the Parents of Old Boys and to keep them in touch with the School. In this case, unfortunately, we have been less than successful in recent years. However, we hope to revive the Past Parents Club by up-dating our data base and in the future to include these members where possible in our on-line information network.

The Senior Knoxonians, many of whom laid the foundations of the OKGA are an enthusiastic and strong extension of our Association. I have been privileged to have been invited to each of their 2 luncheons in 2008. At the September luncheon we were entertained with a very thought provoking and at times humorous address by Mark Scott (OKG 80), the Managing Director of the ABC, on “The ABC and the Digital Future”. At their AGM, Alan Batley (OKG 49) passed over the reins of President to Brooks Wilson (OKG ’49), Brooks was the inaugural President of the Knox Foundation, and was the Chairman of the School Council from 1994-1998.

I would like to congratulate Alan for the leadership he has given to the Senior Knoxonians and to sincerely thank him for the valuable contribution he has given to our Committee meetings. In particular for the support he gave to me as our 2 groups continued to work together.

In 2008 it was Barker Over 70’s turn to host the Senior Knoxonians at the “Home Game” between the two schools, and coincidently it was the final rugby game of the season. There are 2 trophies presented at these games – one, the Knox – Barker Challenge Cup for the winning First XV, on this occasion won by Knox, and two, the Headmasters Cup awarded to the school who wins the most games on the day, which was also won by Knox. We also brought home the “Plume Shield” for winning the CAS competition.

During the past 12 months we have said our final goodbye to a number of our Old Boys and our sincere sympathies are extended to their families. A complete list will be tabled in the next “Thistle”. In this time we also lost two of our long serving and well respected teachers – Jim (Jock) McConnell, an Honorary Member of the OKGA and John Hunt (OKG ’60). Both men had a sincere love for the school and each in their own way had a big impact on many boys. Both fought with enormous courage over a long period to overcome their illnesses and the very large congregations attending their Memorial Services was a tribute to the enormous respect and friendship which both men had earned within the Knox Community.

Sir John Fuller, one of our original 1924 students, also passed away after a long illness, on the 31 January 2009.
Our year starts with the Annual Old Boy Parent function to mark the beginning of the new school year but more importantly those Old Boys who are now returning to the school as Parents or Grandparents. The School now has almost 500 boys enrolled who are following in the footsteps of their father and/or grandfather. What a wonderful tribute for the School.

The OKGA Committee has again hosted an informal post match function in the Lawson Centre, after all “home games” during the Winter sports season – this provides a further opportunity to bring Old Boys together.

Prior to the Trinity Game we unveiled the Captain William Robert Aspinall MC AMCC AIF Memorial Prize Honour Board. This prize is awarded to the “outstanding competitor in Open Rugby” and is one of the oldest “Special Prizes”, first given on Speech Day 1924. The Honour board was funded and unveiled by Gordon King who played in our 1st XV in 1936. All previous winners of this much valued prize were invited to witness the unveiling.

Our 5 year reunions continue to be well attended and give us direct contact to many Old Boys. In the past 12 months the OKGA office has assisted with organizing 11 reunions. My sincere thanks to each of the year co-ordinators for their efforts and in particular for tracking down many of those who have changed their address. Also to Pamela Hitchcock our Alumni Manager for her untiring efforts in assisting the year co-ordinators with the organization of the function.

Following the Queanbeyan Boarding Expo, we enjoyed a very pleasant evening catching up with Old Boys from the Canberra district.

The Tamworth Community Dinner is firmly established in the calendar and continues to go from strength to strength. John Boag and his wife Dianne organize the Tamworth end, while Julie Lines and Pamela Hitchcock look after the School end. The Year 9 Agricultural Students, while on excursion at the Gunnedah Agquip, join us for this very special evening.

I was honoured to be invited and to represent the OKGA at the Scots College Old Boys Centenary Dinner, this year held in the School Dining Room. Their Old Boys with the co-operation of the School have created an excellent photographic display of significant historical occasions and these are mounted around the walls of the Dining Room.

Our Annual Golf Day and Dinner was again held at Avondale Golf Club with 75 playing. The day began with a Golf clinic, which some need more than others and as in previous years we invited representatives from the other CAS Old Boy organisations as well as the Scots College Old Boys. Our special thanks to all our sponsors and in particular to Phil Tuck (OKG ‘77) for once again organising a very enjoyable and successful day.

We continued to be involved in the School Gala Day and Garden Day and maintained a stall at these major KPA events.

Po Mar (OKG ’65) is at present experiencing failing health and the Committee feels that this is an opportune time for us to recall his outstanding contribution to the OKGA over many years. He served as our Treasurer for 14 years retiring at the AGM in 2002. He was a very skillful and astute manager of our finances which improved markedly over his reign. As our finances improved, so did the contribution to the school and OKGA clubs. Po was responsible for many innovative changes during his time as Treasurer. In 1995, he orchestrated the incorporation of our 2 Associations, allowing us to change our operation procedure, thus almost totally
eliminating our tax commitment. Further suggestions the OKGA committee put into practice were – sponsoring Matthew Burke, David Campese and Dennis Lillee to carry out coaching clinics at the Prep and Senior Schools; “The Most Improved Awards”, the Gerry Aldis Scholarship; and the Swords and Drums Parade and Service, to remember our Old Boys who served in the war.

Some outstanding achievement for our Old Boys during the past year:
- Matthew Cannon (OKG ’07) was the Kuring-Gai Young Citizen of the Year.
- Ben Alexander (OKG ’02) was selected for his initial Australian Rugby Test.
- Lindsay Foster was appointed a Judge in the Federal Court.
- The Ian Ramage (OKG ’42) Memorial Plaque was unveiled in the Sir John Northcott Park, Wahroonga.
- Hugh Jackman (OKG ’86) was an outstanding host for the Oscars.
- Dr Marsden Hordern (OKG ’39) received an OAM in the Australia Day Honours for his contribution to Naval History.
- Matthew Dunn (OKG ’91) received an OAM for his contribution to swimming and to the community through the Asthma Foundations of Australia.

I have no doubt there have been others and I apologise for their omission, but I hope they will be acknowledged in the next “Thistle”.

A continuing problem for the OKGA administration are members changing address but failing to notify the office. Approximately, 100 “Thistles” are returned following each dispatch.

We are continually striving to improve our communications to Old Boy’s and at present we have almost 2000 registered on line - “snail mail”, is both inefficient and expensive. The number of Old Boys using our web-site is continuing to increase and hence they are able to keep contact with each other, can be kept up-to-date with major events happening within the School and the OKGA, as well as good opportunities for networking. Some of our sports clubs have their own web-sites which are linked to the OKGA site.

OKGA SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUBS

The Association sponsors 6 clubs which continue to provide a major link between our recent school leavers and the Old Boys. I strongly recommend to our new Old Boys the enjoyment available in an Old Boys team.

RUGBY – Our largest club in terms of numbers. Under the Presidency of Bryn Robertson (OKG ’95) KNOBS Rugby continued its run of success in the Suburban Rugby Competition with our Club coming second again in the Club championship and the second grade winning their premiership (Burke Cup) for the third consecutive year. Our third grade was unfortunate to lose a closely contested grand final against Colleagues.

This year, the OKG Rugby played Mosman in their Annual fixture on Knox 1. An excellent day, in terms of seeing the return of many of our past players and coaches, but mixed results in terms of Rugby. The organization of the day, the set up, clean up and ground behavior was a credit to all concerned. Again, this year the Club registered five grade teams, a colts and an under 85kg team.

The formal dinner, to celebrate 50 years of Knox Old Boys Rugby and presentation of awards, saw the return of a number of our earlier players.

No club can operate without a massive amount of work from the committee, coaches and managers. To the club captain Mark Cairns (OKG ’99), President Bryn Robertson (OKG ’95), Marilynn Buchanan the devoted and extremely hard working
secretary, we offer our congratulations for the season past and our very sincere appreciation for a job well done.

**SOCCER** – Knox United Soccer Club has strengthened its base and recruited well, ultimately fielding 5 teams – 2 teams in division 1, 2 teams in division 5 and a social team in division 7. This greater depth allowed the more senior players to drop down to a less competitive division as they moved slowly into retirement. It has also allowed for the further development of the younger players. On the field the club experienced mixed results and unfortunately was relegated to 2nd division for 2009. However the experience in the top division was valuable and it may not be long before they are back in the Premier League. An enthusiastic and dedicated committee led by Matt Feros have worked extremely hard to achieve good results on and off the field. Our sincere appreciation for a great effort.

**CRICKET** – Our oldest club, fielding a team continually for some 60 years. There are at present 20 enthusiastic players who can be called upon to play. Under the capable leadership of Nick Bangs (OKG’98), they have continued to attract younger members. (The Bangs family form the core of the team now that Charlie and Tom are back from their GAP year—there is even some talk that Ian might come out of retirement). They play a very good standard of Cricket and once again made the semi finals of the Jack Pace Shield, only to be beaten by I ZINGARI. Three of our team were chosen to represent the Sydney Suburban CAS against GPS – Nick Bangs (OKG’98), Ed Bangs (OKG’05) and Michael Kelynack (OKG’85).

**BASKETBALL** – This is a popular club playing both in the winter and summer competitions. They cater for all grades and play in the Hornsby – Kuring-Gai and Manly – Warringah competitions. The team playing in our local competition are primarily our recent leavers. The OKG Colonels, Our more senior team in terms of age, are playing in Division 2 of the Manly – Warringah competition and have a solid base of Mark Welch (OKG ’90), Matt Paterson (OKG ’91) and Matt Ashwin (OKG ’91). They have recently recruited Carson Maddocks (OKG ’03) and Phil Webster, an ex Knox Teacher and first grade coach. Unfortunately, in the Winter season competition they could not block the opposition 3 pointer specialist and lost the Grand Final 59-50. However, they have an impressive record since making Manly Warringah Association their home in 2005 – being placed 3rd on 2 occasions, 1st on 2 occasions and runners up twice. This is our only sports Club still allowed to compete against the School side. The benefits to the School team, to play against some of these boys, who were in our Firsts when at school, and who have now developed their experience and talents, cannot be measured. Our sincere thanks to both Matt Paterson and Mark Welch for their dedicated commitment.

**VOLLEYBALL** – John Nguyen is still looking after our Volleyball Club but many of our Old Boys are playing with their University team. However, John is still looking after the Sydney North Volleyball Club representative programme and is taking some of our School players to train with their senior team.

**OKG PIPES & DRUMS** – The Old Boys Pipe Band, under the steady leadership of Allan Watts, continues to provide a place for Old Boys to keep up their piping once they have left school. The Old Boys Pipe Band are always more than happy to play at OKGA functions and over the past 12 months performed at a Wahroonga Rotary Fund Raising Dinner; a fund raising Dinner at St Edmunds School; Wahroonga Fair (when they combine with the School Band); Bundanoon Highland Gathering; Redfern RSL Anzac Service and March; the Gulgong Anzac Day Dawn Service and March; and we can’t forget the outstanding performance of our Pipe Bands at the Tattoo. Individual members of the band have also been available to play at weddings, funerals, and other functions.
The Old Boys Pipe Band is primarily funded by donations. However, in 2006 the OKGA assisted them financially with the purchase of drums and this year we gave $2000 to help with the purchase of two sets of pipes which will enable student members to keep up their skills until they can afford to buy their own. We very much appreciate the work of Allan and his committee.

We have much to be proud in what our clubs have achieved. For a more in-depth report of our sporting clubs, Old Boys in the News and the recording of so many of our Old Boys who have passed away in the past 12 months (some well before their time), I particularly direct you towards the next publication of the Thistle.

In conclusion I would like to particularly thank the following people:
- Jo Tait, our archivist, who painstakingly collects and preserves our School records and who has a greater knowledge of the School and Old Boys’ history than most of us. Jo is ever willing to prepare archival displays for various OKGA functions and year re-union.
- Edric Chaffer (OKG ‘50) who is often found working with Jo Tait in the archives and who has spent many hours compiling records as well as researching the involvement and war records of our Old Boys.
- Leigh Stevenson and Nathan Edwards for their helpful assistance and cooperation in catering for many OKGA functions.
- Julie Lines for her enthusiastic support and involvement in many OKGA activities. Her friendly cooperation is much appreciated.
- Pamela Hitchcock, our enthusiastic, committed and friendly Alumni Manager. Her friendship and cheerful personality affects all those who come in contact with her. Her patience with my requests and the constant support she has given me over my term as President has been very much appreciated.
- Our auditors, Gerry Cowling and David Seaman of RSM Bird Cameron, our sincere thanks for your sound advice and willingness to assist our Association and for the time diligently spent poring over our books.
- Andrew Martin (OKG ‘75) who continues to look after our investments. Initially with Private Portfolio Managers, he is now with Peak Investment Partners.

I would specially like to record my thanks for the commitment and support given to me by each and every member of the committee. Their dedication and willingness to get involved is a major reason for the success of this Association and is very much appreciated. The OKGA cannot function without an enormous commitment by all on the committee to accept their responsibilities.

Tonight sees the retirement of Miles Karemaker (OKG ‘02) now overseas for 12 months – his friendship and significant contribution has been much appreciated. I would also like to thank Alec Cameron, our liaison with the School Council. I would further like to record my appreciation to Bob Thomas (Head of the Preparatory School) and to our Chaplains Phil Newton and Will Nicholas for their friendship, keen interest in the OKGA and their constant support to me during the year.

Finally, on behalf of the OKGA, I would like to formally record our thanks to Mr Rob Wannan, Chairman of the School Council, for his friendship, continued support and his interest in the OKGA. As well, despite the constant demand on his time from many sources, our Headmaster and Patron Mr John Weeks has given willingly of his time to the OKGA. He has been of immense support to me personally throughout the year and his friendship and helpful advice has been very much appreciated.
I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous support my wife, Margaret, gave to me during the greater part of my Presidency. Her patience, encouragement and understanding had no limit. When talking to our Knox friends she would often say that “I had one black eye and one blue eye”, but this could equally be said of her. Our school, during the last few weeks, has been severely shaken; however, Knox has been, is, and will continue to be a great School with firm foundations and we will face the challenges ahead with great optimism.

As this will be my last AGM as President, may I say that it has been a great honour to have held this very important role for the past 3 years. I am personally most grateful to all those people who have supported me and who have responded so generously to my requests.

Ladies and gentlemen, I look forward with confidence to the years ahead and commend the Old Knox Grammarians’ Association for your active interest and support.

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Treasurer’s Report to the Members of the Old Knox Grammarians’ Association
Accompanying the Financial Reports or the Year Ended 31 October 2008

I am pleased to present the financial reports for the Old Knox Grammarians’ Association Incorporated (OKGA Inc), the Old Knox Grammarians’ Sports Association Incorporated (OKGA Sports), and the OKGA Endowment Trust, for the year ended 31 October 2008.

The Association continues its focus to promote and foster the interest of Old Boys in the School; to maintain contact between Old Boys; and of course to support and promote the welfare of the School. The Association is able to do this with the significant support of many Old Boys and the close association with the School.

Over the last few years, the Association’s healthy financial position has been enhanced by the substantial increase in the market value of its investments, by prudent spending of funds, and by the significant percentage of year 12 leavers joining the Association as life members at the conclusion of their Knox schooling days.

This year, while we remain in a healthy financial state with our investments continuing to provide good returns, the market value of these investments has reduced, not unlike the bulk of investments worldwide. Our investment philosophy has been relatively conservative, providing a mix of consistent income from dividends and interest, as well as the opportunity for capital growth. This has ensured that while the market value of the investments has dropped by just over 30%, we have maintained our level of dividends and interest in absolute terms. Additionally, the market value of our investments is still some 13% higher than it was 4 years ago.

I now turn to the three entities of the Association:

**OKGA Inc** continues to provide support for Old Boys, including functions and reunions, communications with Old Boys, and its relationship with the School. Key events over the last year include the ANZAC Day Service, the Cadet Honouring Service and Presentation Parade, and the Old Boys Chapel Service. The Association has also supported the School’s Milne Bay Project in PNG, the Capital Campaign, the Mentoring Program, and continues to support the most improved awards in the School and Prep School and the awards and prizes on Speech Day. It also provides support for Old Boys competing at the peak of their field, be it in the sporting arena or in community projects. The Scholarships (that is the Norman Winter Son of an Old Boy Boarding Scholarship and the half tuition scholarship in
memory of Gerry Aldis) and the Bursary to provide assistance to Old Boys whose sons are attending the School, continue to be funded by OKGA Inc as there is still an insufficient base in the Endowment Trust for it to be self supporting.

For the year to 31 October 2008, OKGA Inc made an operating loss of $103,915 comprising a cash loss of $18,179 and a provision for impairment of $85,736 in relation to its loan to Sports. Life membership fees were down on last year’s record number, although this is partially a timing issue due to later payment of fees, for which we cannot accrue. OKGA Inc maintains net assets of $612,975.

OKGA Sports’ operating deficit of $259,654 reflects the fall in market value of its investments. It has, however, maintained its investment income from dividends and interest for the year. Sports continues to support the many sporting clubs associated with the Old Boys, and in particular the Rugby, Soccer, Cricket, Basketball and Volleyball teams. It also funds social functions for Sporting events including activities after the School’s home Rugby matches. Sports’ balance sheet has a net deficiency of $85,736, but as OKGA Inc will provide financial support to the entity, it is still a going concern. Its primary liability is a loan from OKGA Inc.

The OKGA Endowment Trust’s purpose it is to administer and invest funds for the Old Boys, including the original grant from Norman Winter as well as donations and contributions from OKGA Inc, the Senior Knoxonians, and other Old Boys, for the establishment and endowment of scholarships at the School. Although the Trust has significant funds on deposit, it is still not enough to self fund the scholarships and bursary on offer and so requires the continued support of OKGA Inc. During the year, the Trust earned revenues of $19,266 but suffered a reduction in the market value of its investments of $152,469. The Fund has net assets of $341,073.

The OKGA continues to have the assistance of Lynne Davis, our bookkeeper, who provides valuable support in the recording and management of our accounts – I thank Lynne for her services. I would also like to thank Andrew Martin (OKG 1975) for his ongoing support in managing the Association’s investments on our behalf. Andrew has been with Private Portfolio Managers for several years, and has recently moved to Peak Investment Partners. The OKGA will be moving its investments to Peak in the 2009 financial year. We thank the team at Private Portfolio Managers including Bill Gregerson, an Old Boy parent, for their many years of support.

I also wish to express our thanks to our honorary auditor Gerry Cowling, a partner at RSM Bird Cameron and a Knox parent, and his manager, David Seaman, for their continued support to the OKGA in providing audit services, at what is their busiest time of year.

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to Ian MacPherson for being such an inspirational President of the Old Boys for the past 3 years, and in particular, the last few months which have been difficult times for Ian, with the passing of his lovely wife Margaret, and the support she provided the Association through Ian. I admire his desire to continue his involvement with the School and the OKGA, and we are fortunate that he is keen to remain closely involved with the Committee. Ian, I thank you for your years of dedication to, and leadership of, many generations of Old Boys.

In conclusion, I put before the meeting our annual audited accounts for the year ended 31 October 2008.

Mark Wilson (OKG 1980)
Treasurer, OKGA
2 March 2009
Moved: Michael Kelynack
Seconded: Rob Tulloch

Next item on the agenda is the election of officers; I propose Michael Kelynack be the president for 2009.

Are there any other nominations. Seconded by Ian Frame.

Michael Kelynack is now the President of the OKGA for 2009

Election of Officer Bearers and Committee Members

Patron: John Weeks
President: Michael Kelynack
Immediate Past President: Ian MacPherson
Vice President: John Cottee
Secretary: Ian Frame
Treasurer: Mark Wilson
Council Liaison: Alan Foulkes

Committee:
Tim Bangs
Michael Bayliss
John Boag
Ross Dinnell
Phil Henniker
Rob Johnson
Andrew Purcell
Rob Tulloch
Tony Osman (Hon Historian)

Incoming President's report

I would like to thank the Members for electing me as President of the Old Knox Grammarians' Association. I see it as an honour and a privilege to represent approximately 14,000 Old Boys for the next 3 years.

I would now like to formally elect the committee for 2009.

1. Mr John Cottee, a current member of the Committee for some years has been duly proposed and seconded as Vic-President of the association.

   Are there any other nominations? There being no other nominations, I declare Mr. John Cottee Vice President for 2009.

2. Mr Ian Frame, a current member of the Committee for some years has been duly proposed and seconded as the Secretary

   Are there any other nominations? There being no other nominations, I declare Mr Ian frame Secretary for 2009.

3. Mr Mark Wilson, a current member of the Committee for some years has been duly proposed and seconded as Treasurer. Are there any other
nominations? There being no other nominations, I declare Mr Mark Wilson Treasurer for 2009.

The Committee primarily remains unchanged from last year and I now intend to put them forward. Michael Bayliss, John Boag, Robert Tulloch, Ross Dinnell, Phil Henniker, Rob Johnson, Tony Osman and Andrew Purcell.

They have been all been duly proposed and seconded as members of the committee. Are there any other nominations? There being no further nominations, I declare these gentlemen members of the OKGA Committee for 2009.

I am also pleased to add to our committee, our immediate Past President who has kindly agreed to give us his time for one more year.

Mr Ian Macpherson has made a most significant contribution to our Association over many years. He first joined the OKGA in 1956. Since then he has accepted many roles in the OKGA, such as Secretary, President, Vice President, Patron of the Rugby Club and also a Teacher for 34 years.

His knowledge, experience and wise counsel given to all Old Boys will of course continue.

On behalf of the OKGA I want to thank you Macca for your untiring efforts. I would also like to thank Margaret and your family in this appreciation. I know they were a constant support. As a token of our gratitude please accept this gift.

During 2009 the dedicated Committee and I will be developing a strategic plan TO DEVELOP OVER THE NEXT 3-5 YEARS.

The main objectives are:

1. How we can improve our support to current old boys.
2. How we can continue to support the school.
3. and finally support the children of Knox Grammar School.

The committee is totally dedicated to improving our Association and with the assistance of the OKGA Manager Mrs Pamela Hitchcock, we will achieve our goals.

It is extremely gratifying that all existing committee members have stood again and I look forward to working with them.

Again, it is an honour and a privilege to be President of the OKGA. I thank you for your confidence in me as I set about serving the OKGA.

Thank you.

I now call upon our patron Mr John Weeks to present his report.

Patron’s Report

President, Mr Ian MacPherson, ladies and gentlemen. Before I deliver my Patron’s Report, I would like to echo the remarks of the incoming President on the exceptional leadership which you, along with the unfailing support of your wife Margaret, have given to this Association. In all ways, you exemplify what Knox seeks to develop in all its men – integrity, wisdom, compassion and faith.

Mac, thank you for your leadership, commitment and friendship.
I am pleased to report once again on the close co-operation and mutual support which exists between the School and the OKGA. The past year has seen the School continue its support of the Association in its traditional ways and work with various groups to expand the combined work. This report comments briefly on these activities and outlines some new initiatives for the New Year.

Ongoing Support

- The School continues to enthusiastically support the OKGA with the recruitment of Year 12 leavers prior to leaving School. This is very successful.

- The School Cadet Unit and Pipe Band continue to lead us in the ANZAC Day Service and the Commemoration Service which now includes the OKGA President. A protocol I reinstated in 2007. The Honouring Service continues to be another important Parade which in 2008 was held under fair skies.

- For Sports the School continues to support the OKGA activities whether it be cricket, football, rugby, pool and gym use. Costs to the OKGA are negligible. I am pleased to note the success of the Old Boys Rugby Day on Knox 1 and look forward to assisting Knox Old Boys Football in a similar way at Curragul.

- The Old Boys Pipe Band’s involvement in the 2008 Tattoo was greatly appreciated and I am pleased to see this group expanding.

Honouring our Traditions

- The School has worked very closely with the Senior Knoxonians to review the Service Roll and The Honour Roll. The New Service Roll now adorns the School Chapel.

- Our School’s Archivist, Jo Tait and I have successfully appealed to the Minister for Veterans Affairs to have the Commemorative Gates and War Memorial restored. This will happen after Anzac Day 2009.

- The School continues to support OKGA reunions and most of these now happen in the new building. Likewise post home games are very well supported by Old Boys which is very encouraging.

- The School continues to plan its Country visits and welcomes the inclusion of Old Boys at all of these.

New Initiatives

2008 saw the first steps towards a mentoring system and I was pleased to see Old Boys become involved with 2008 leavers in a direct way. The links were established at Year 12/OKGA lunch and further strengthened at the Year 12 Graduation Assembly. We see further opportunities to develop this link now, as those Year 12, 2008, commence university this week. Perhaps with our help, a congratulations letter.
Thistle and Communication

The School has restructured its marketing and communications office for 2009. Martin Gooding now heads this for the School and is the Liaison Officer to the OKGA. We look forward to him working closely with the three planned editions of the Thistle for 2009. Several meetings between Martin, Ian Frame and Ian MacPherson have taken place and there is better communications already.

We look forward to the OKGA supporting the present boys with the Summer and Winter Awards. Always a treat!

The School recognises the close relationship with the OKGA and continues to support it with staff salaries, space, and infra-structure support. No doubt there will be ongoing development. Thanks to Pamela Hitchcock, Jo Tait and Julie Lines for their support.

Grave Concerns

As I deliver this report, the School faces a very serious challenge with allegations by Old boys against Past Teachers – two who themselves are Old Boys. It will be a test for the Associations and Schools character and integrity as we seek to support all together.

Together we have a long way to go but we will need to be united in our approach and support.

It is a very sad time for Knox, its Old Boys and its current community which feels the pain deeply. Nonetheless, we need to remember the excellent achievement and good which has come from Knox throughout its history – while such statements will undoubtedly hurt, we must remember that together we can heal the pain and together ensure that Knox is an even stronger School.

John Weeks
Patron

Thank you I now open the meeting for any general business.

General Business:

Tony said the OKGA will be 80 years old in April this year and 100 years old in 2029. He would like people to consider what the centenary history of the OKGA should include when the 70 year history (written by Tony) is upgraded and expanded.

Lodge Knox was founded in 1957 and a fifty year history is in process of being written. Ian Leafe, the founding writer, has asked Tony to complete the task, and Tony has agreed. Edric Chaffer will also assist. Any persons having memorabilia, information etc should contact Tony.

I now declare the meeting closed at 9.17pm.

Michael Kelynack
President (’80)