OLD KNOX GRAMMARIANS’ ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS REPORT

PRESENTED TO

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 1 MARCH 2010
Patron of the OKGA and Knox Grammar School Headmaster, Mr John Weeks, Members of the OKGA, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my privilege to present to you on behalf of the committee the Annual Report covering the affairs and activities of the OKGA for 2009, at this our 78th Annual General Meeting.

In welcoming you to this meeting, I would like in particular to welcome our new members, 2009 leavers.

Both the school and OKGA have had a very full year in relation to many activities and these events have been supported by members of the OKGA and the Knox community.

Our membership continues to grow with over 90 percent of our 2009 leavers joining our association. Our membership at this time is over 10000.

The Association continues to operate within our budget and have maintained the financial support to our clubs and to the school. Our audited accounts of our three entities combined (IE. OKGA Inc, OKGA Sports Inc and the OKGA Endowment Trust) show a healthy financial position. Mark Wilson Treasurer will discuss our exact position in his report.

The association is striving hard to improve its communication to all ages of our members. At present we have over 2000 registered on line. The number of old boys using our website is continuing to increase and hence we are able to keep contact with each member notifying them of major events within the school and the OKGA. Some of our sporting clubs have their own websites which are linked to the OKGA site. A major part of the strategic plan is to continue to improve and effectively communicate to all members.

**The School**

The Old Knox Grammarians’ Association is an integral part of the school community and continues to have a relationship with the school. We can obtain all of our objectives by assisting the school to achieve its long term goals. By supporting its philosophies and being visible in our commitment we will play a significant in our part in
developing a Knox boy into a Knox Man. As Dr McKenzie stated over 40 years ago:

“As I have said publicly many times, The Old Knox Grammarians have been the single most effective force in the rise of Knox to pre-eminence. What was done could not have happened without them.”

T Ross McKenzie, OBE PhD
Headmaster,
Patron, Vice-Patron, Hon. Life Member

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the school on its outstanding HSC Results as well as great success on the sporting field and also in the cultural areas of the curriculum. Many students reached representative honours and did their school proud.

**OKGA /School Activities**

The Founders Day Chapel and the renaming of the Chapel. William McIlrath War Memorial Chapel was an outstanding event. The OKGA Annual Service and Confirmation continues to be an important event in our calendar. Supporting young men committed to Christ underpins the real essence of a Knox boy.

The traditions of the school cadet unit are firmly embedded in the OKGA and it is without doubt the most important events of all activities. The OKGA Anzac Service and Parade, Passing out parade, and the honouring Service and Parade. Here we hour our ex
serviceman. It was my privilege and honour to represent all old Knox Grammarians; and families on these occasions. Once again, a personal invitation was sent out to all our ex servicemen and to those old boys who we know are serving in the Defence Forces. This contact was appreciated.

The assemblies at which we present the “Most Improved Awards” are an integral part of what the old boys do. We look to recognise the students who are not always the best, however are determined to be the best they can be. These awards are in the areas of sport and cultural activities and are highly valued by the boys.

The “Margaret MacPherson” Memorial bagpipes were also donated to Prep school this year. A very special occasion as it was her vision for a prep school Pipe band to grow

The OKGA “Gerry Aldis” Scholarship continues to be keenly contested. It is awarded to a boy with good “All round” ability. Last year Matthew Green was the worthy recipient. The “Norman Winter” Scholarship will be awarded this year.

The OKGA provides funding for a number of Trophies and prizes for Speech day in both Prep and Senior Schools. 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 of old boys and their families who are in particular need.

Many of our younger members continue to provide support to prep and senior schools in the areas of coaching and refereeing and also service in the cadets.

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 the organisation and tracking down many of those who have changed address. My sincere thanks to the year coordinators and Pamela Hitchcock, our alumni manager for their efforts.

Our community dinners are firmly established and go from strength to strength under efforts of John Boag. We look forward to expanding these in years to come.

Our Annual Golf Day and dinner was again held at Avondale Golf club. Our special thanks to all our sponsors and in particular Phil Tuck (OKG ’77) for organising a very successful Day.
I would like to make Mention of Mr Jim Mein and congratulate him publicly on his award in the Australia Day honour list.

And on a sadder note make special mention of Mr Po Mar (OKG’65) that passed away last year He was on the OKGA committee as treasurer for 14 years. Po was responsible for many innovative changes during his time and, such as “Swords and drums Parade, Most improved awards, Coaching clinics with David Campese and Dennis Lillie. He orchestrated the incorporation of our 2 associations, thus improving the financial side of the association. Rest in peace Po and you are sorely missed.

During the past 12 months we have said final goodbye to a number of old boys and our sincere sympathies are extended to their families.

The senior Knoxonians led by Brooks Wilson, many of whom laid the foundations of the OKGA are an enthusiastic and strong extension of our association. I would like to thank them for their contributions and look forward to working with them again this year. The school has over 500 boys enrolled who are following in the footsteps of their father or grandfather. What a wonderful tribute to the school.

The association sponsors 6 clubs which continue to provide a major link between our recent school leavers and old boys. They being rugby, cricket, basketball, football, volleyball, and pipes and drums. I would like to personally congratulate each club for their enthusiasm and outstanding administration which has lead to great success. I strongly recommend to our new old boys to be involved.

I wish the cricket club in its 60th year all the best in the final Of the City Suburban Knock out Competition next Sunday. And look forward to the Legends match on the 14th March.

The rugby Club had its greatest year ever. ► Kentwell Cup (1st Grade) Premiers 2009 ► Barbour Cup (Colts) Premiers 2009

World Masters Game 2009 – Silver Medal in Over 45 Category

► World Masters Game 2009 – Finalists in Over 35 Category
NSW Kentwell Cup Club Champions
In conclusion I would like to thank the following people.

- Jo Tait, our archivist, who collects and preserves our school records and is always willing to prepare archival displays for various OKGA functions

- Edric Chaffer (OKG ‘50 Tony Osman (OKG ‘59) who have both spent hours compiling records

- Leigh Stephenson and Nathan Edwards for their helpful assistance catering OKGA Functions especially the Home Rugby/Football drinks.

- Julie Lines for her assistance in OKGA Functions

- Pamela Hitchcock the Alumni Manager for her enthusiasm and dedication to the role.

- Our auditors, Gerry Cowling and David Seaman of RSM Bird Cameron

- Andrew Martin (OKG ‘75) of Peak Investments who continues to look after our investments.

- Bill Henry ( Past President) of Turtous solicitors

- A special mention to John Cottee (Vice President) and Tim Bangs who have been on the committee for many years who have decided to stand down. I thank them for their service.

I would like especially thank the commitment and support given to me by every member of the committee. In particular Mr Rob Tulloch Ian Frame, Ian MacPherson and Michael Le Couter (who is not on the committee) for leading the OKGA Strategic Plan with passion and dedication. Michael Le Couter thank you for your vision and attention to detail towards all OKGA publications. The committee’s dedication and willingness to get involved is the major reason for the success of this association. This commitment by all will lead us to continue to work towards OKGA being the most successful alumni group in this world. As we launch the OKGA Strategic Plan today.

Thank you

Michael Kelynack (OKG’85)
President OKGA