The OKGA Centenary History 1929-2029

The OKGA has commenced initial planning and research for the centenary history of its alumni association. One matter which still remains unsolved is the whereabouts of the first Ordinary Committee Meetings Minute Book (April 1929-May 1946) It is known that upon the retirement of long serving Treasurer, John Preston the book was delivered to the OKGA office, then housed under the School Chapel. From then on its location has been a mystery.

John Preston had also created a ‘Committee Decision Book’ based on all decisions made by the Committee to guide them in future deliberations and to ensure consistency. This book could well be in with the Minute Book.

Whilst the original Annual General Meeting Minute Book (1929-1982) is safely in the Archives, that volume only gives part of the history of the earliest days of the Association. The month by month activities will be commented on at the monthly Committee meetings.

For information leading to the discovery of these important documents the Honorary OKGA Historian is offering a bottle of Grange, payable on delivery!

AH Osman OKG 57, Hon OKGA Historian

OKG Sports News

Old Boys 60th Anniversary Cricket Match

The OKCC (Old Knoxonians Cricket Club) Golden Oldies vs. Current OKCC

A cricket match was held at The Graeme Mapp Oval (Curagul), Bobbin Head Road on Sunday March 14 March 2010, to celebrate the 60th season of the OKCC. The match was played between some of the OKCC past players from the 1970s, 80s and 90s against the current OKCC team.

Before the game, a BBQ proved to be a great way for all those playing, to catch up and/or meet each other. Replica sky blue caps from the sixties were specially made and presented to each player and team photos were taken. We were all delighted that Tony Gifford, our long standing Patron of the OKCC, was able to attend for some of the match.

Format was 12-a-side, six pairs batting for four overs and each player bowling two overs. The current team won the toss and elected to bat, but were restricted well by a very capable Golden Oldies outfit. In the second innings, the game was in the balance with the last Oldies pair at the crease. Bowling the power-play over, Michael Kelynack (current OKCC President) took a wicket and restricted the runs, resulting in the scores being tied.

It was a very fitting outcome, as both teams played some great cricket. Having a few drinks on the balcony of the pavilion provided a fantastic end, to what was a superb day. Thanks to all involved, it is hoped that this will become a regular event on the OKCC calendar.

Ian Bangs (OKG 72) and Edward Bangs (OKG 05)

Senior Knoxonians Lunch

The Senior Knoxonians were addressed by Emeritus Professor Bruce Mansfield at their March gathering, Professor Mansfield’s address ‘Clementis’ Hat’ has been prepared as a podcast and can be accessed on the OKGA website.

↑ Emeritus Professor Bruce Mansfield
OKG 43

↓ His Honour, Mr Justice Morris
‘Dusty’ Ireland Ireland OKG 46

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**OKGA Football Club**
See the football website for the latest news, [www.knoxunited.net](http://www.knoxunited.net)

**OKGA Rugby Club**
See the rugby website for the latest news, [www.knoxrugby.com.au](http://www.knoxrugby.com.au)

**World Masters Games, Sydney**

**The Old Thistles competed in the Over 35s and Over 45s Rugby**

Last October over 20,000 competitors gathered in Sydney for the World Masters Games to compete in 28 sports. At Eastwood’s TG Milner Field, 20 teams battled it out in the Over 35s and Over 45s Rugby competitions. The Knox Old Boys entered both age groups as ‘The Old Thistles’. We had 30 players in each team and as the week progressed, we were glad to have such large numbers.

Players had come from far and wide to play for the Old Thistles. Eighteen players were Old Boys with the rest of the squads coming from Canada, Canberra, Newcastle, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane and other Sydney clubs such as Chatswood, Oakley, UNSW, Petersham, Mosman, Merrylands and St. George. We even had the oldest player in the competition, Bruce ‘Poppa’ Gallaher at 75 years of age. Bruce played for Norths in the 1950s and had played with the Waratahs. Our coaches and managers were Graham Pratt, Lester Stump, Ian MacPherson and Geoff Cramp who did a fantastic job coordinating and coaching the guys during the games.

This was full contact rugby, not your regular Golden Oldies format. The Over 35s had a very tough competition, playing six games in seven days, winning one and losing five. The last game was a classic example of tough vets’ rugby. We went down to a last minute try by Killara West Pymble, having battled to get 15 fit players on the field. Old Boys such as Doug Westerway, Dave MacPherson, Mark Bayliss, Ian MacLaughlan, David Uttley, Angus Fergusson, Scott Tunbridge and Andrew Blamey all put the boots on to player in the Over 35s (pictured below).

The 45s were an inspiration to see play. With players ranging from 45 to 75 years old, they had a greater average age than their competitors. After winning their first game against Fire Brigade, they came up against the Mosman team that brimmed with former grade players including fellow old boy, Peter FitzSimons. They also had a former NFL star in Colin Scotts. Mosman beat our guys comprehensively and finished the round games without having their line crossed. The Old Thistles went on to beat Melbourne Rams to set up the gold medal game against Mosman.

Mosman had expected to just turn up to collect the winner’s medals; however the Old Thistles made them work for the gold. Although losing 15-0, it was a fantastic game of rugby with the Old Thistles minnow hammering, the much bigger and younger Mosman players. At the end of the game it was hard to see who were the winners? Mosman looked very thankful the final whistle had been blown, while the Old Thistles were cheered wildly by the vocal crowd; Andy Cooper, Andrew Rankin and Ian Wylie were very proud silver medallists (pictured below).

It was a wonderful week of competition. We made new friends and renewed old friendships. There were broken bones, torn muscles and bruised ribs a plenty. To paraphrase ‘age did not weary them’, everyone who took part should be very proud of their efforts and we look forward to possibly sending a team to Turin in 2013.

The teams would like to thank our sponsors Navitas, Buildtech, Norfolk Associates, Blue Gum Hotel and Tailored Packaging for their financial support. Thanks are also extended to Nick Hamley and the Old Boys Rugby Club for their support and assistance before and during the games, and Anthony Moore for his great work as physio to both teams.

Lastly, thank you to the committee of John O’Loughlin, Andy Cooper, Ian MacLaughlan and especially Mark Bayliss for helping with all the co-ordination required to get such as large group, clothed, registered and on the field for the entire week.

**Scott Tunbridge OKG 79**
People-to-People Program’ introducing McGregor, Brent (OKG 00) at 20 George Street, Hornsby. T: 02 9476 5767

Greg has opened the shop, ‘Camp Hike Climb’ at ANU. The award was presented by ANU Hills outside the city with his wife, Nicola and two children, Jasmin and Sebastian.

James Elder, the head of communications for UNICEF in Colombo, was called in by the foreign ministry and told that his diplomatic status would be revoked. There was no response from the government. It has been reported that immigration authorities in the Sri Lankan capital have been told to cancel Elder’s visa, which expires in July.

Elder could not be reached for comment but UNICEF released a statement saying it was urgently seeking clarity from the Sri Lankan authorities on the visa status of its official. According to local newspapers, the government was angered by remarks Elder made to the media about the conditions in government camps accommodating almost 300,000 Tamils displaced after the army routed the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels in May. Recently Elder had warned that the island’s impending monsoon would flood the refugee camps, and called on the government to act.

James is still working for UNICEF and has been posted to Florence, Italy where he lives in the hills outside the city with his wife, Nicola and two children, Jasmin and Sebastian.

Jones, Michael (OKG 00)
Recipient of The Tillyard Prize at ANU for excellence in Political Science studies and general excellence in all aspects of studies at ANU. The award was presented by ANU Chancellor, Kim Beasley.

Lees, Greg (OKG 89)
Greg has opened the shop, ‘Camp Hike Climb’ at 20 George Street, Hornsby. T: 02 9476 5767

McGregor, Brent (OKG 00)
Karate Captain at Knox 1999/2000, Brent has been working as a tour guide for ‘Contiki’s People-to-People Program’ introducing American students to Australia. He has also acted as a guide on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, making 314 climbs. He is currently working with Keith Soames Real Estate.

Mein, Andrew (OKG 86)
Andrew has just been promoted as Oxfam Australia’s National Co-ordinator of Trail Walker Events as well as being appointed International Chair of the Oxfam Trail Walker Events network. Previously he was the Sydney Event Co-ordinator for three years, amassing almost $10 million for Oxfam. He lives with wife, Tanya and three year old daughter.

Mein, Alistair (OKG 92)
Alastair married Hayley Stevenson on 30 December 2009 with Clinton Archer (OKG 94) as a groomsman. Alistair is currently Executive Consultant with McLaughlin Lister. Management Consultants who specialise in infrastructure and project management. He has given up playing rugby with Northern Suburbs but hopes to return to coaching and lives in North Balgowlah.

Mein, Chris (OKG 89)
Chris has been lending his outdoor retailing experience to fellow Knoxonian, Greg Lees (OKG 89).

Mein, Jim (OKG 60)
Jim was awarded an AM (Member of the Order of Australia) in this year’s Australia Day Honours list for his service to the Uniting Church in Australia through a range of roles, to the promotion of interfaith dialogue, to education and to the community. His service includes activities in the Church, the accounting profession particularly in continuing education, Rotary, working with parts of the Sydney Muslim community, the Council of Christians and Jews NSW INC and Together for Humanity, heritage, and aged care.

Jim is currently the Ex-Moderator and the Director, Schools Ministry for the Synod of NSW and ACT, a role which includes being the Synod’s ex-officio member of seven school councils including Knox. Previously he was the first full-time (and lay) Moderator of the Synod between 2004 and 2007.

Raftopulos, Dr Marco (OKG 02)
Marco attended Knox from 1995 and graduated from UNSW with a Bachelor of Medicine (MBBS BSc) in 2008. He has just completed his internship at Royal North Shore Hospital, where he will remain as a Resident through 2010.

Sophonpanich, Chai (OKG 61)
Chai Sophonpanich writes from Bangkok: ‘I am still working full time, mainly with a non-life and a life insurance company plus a private hospital, Bumrungrad International. I have five kids (4 girls, 1 boy) aged 28-38 years, plus six grand children (4 boys, 2 girls) age 1 to 9 years old. All living in Bangkok.’

Chai also has a beautiful holiday home in Phuket where he takes his family and where, being a great golf enthusiast, he enjoys games on the island’s golf courses. When he is in Bangkok he tries to play regularly on a golf course which he describes as ‘one of the best courses in Asia’. Both his older brothers, Chote (OKG 60) and Charn (OKG 60) are now retired and also live in Bangkok.

↑ From right – Charn Sophonpanich, Kim Elder, Ing Sophonpanich (Chai’s wife), Chai Sophonpanich, Bruce Elder, Chote Sophonpanich.

Taafe, Bruce (OKG 62)
Bruce Taafe (pictured below) giving a talk to the Wallabies in the Dressing Room at Newlands Park, Capetown, which he suggests ‘is possibly the best Rugby oval in the World’, before he presented each player with their Test jersey for the August 2009 Test, South Africa vs. Australia.

† From right – Charn Sophonpanich, Kim Elder, Ing Sophonpanich, Bruce Elder, Chote Sophonpanich.
Notable Knoxonians

Following the discovery of a very rudimentary and incomplete listing of Notable Knoxonians on Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia, last year, research has commenced to develop a complete list. One of the difficulties with research such as this is the definition of ‘what is notable’ is impossible to specify without having undertaken enough of the research to be able to list the criteria. These broad summaries have been prepared in order to create interest and discussion about the project, which it is envisaged will continue to the Centenary of the OKGA in 2029 and beyond.

Old Knox Grammarian Olympians and Paralympians

- Six Summer Olympians (one selected for Moscow and chose not to compete, one has represented three times, one represented Britain and one represented Canada)
- One Winter Olympian
- Two summer Paralympians
- One winter Paralympian

Knoxonians in the Legal Profession

Australia
- Judge of the High Court of Australia
- Chief Justice at Common Law - NSW
- Chief Justice of the NSW Land and Environment Court
- Three Judges of the Supreme Court of New South Wales
- Five Judges in District Courts, NSW

Fiji
- Judge of the Fiji Court of Appeal

United Nations
- Judge of the Appeal Chambers of the United Nations
- International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda

Literary Knoxonians

- Over 250 books published by 23 Old Knox Grammarians
- one OKG has over 100 publications
- another has written over 60 books for 16 publishers

Knoxonians in Politics, Local Government and public service

Australia
- Prime Minister of Australia, December 1972 to November 1975
- Federal Cabinet Minister and Speaker of the House
- Leader and Deputy Leader of the National Party
- Federal Cabinet Minister, Leader of Opposition in the Senate
- Federal Minister for the Army
- Federal Member for Parramatta
- Leader of the NSW Opposition, May 1976 to August 1978
- Leader of NSW Government, July 1968 to May 1976
- Member of the NSW Legislative Council 1974–1999
- Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition
- NSW Shadow Minister for Services
- Member for Tamworth, NSW
- Member for Hasluck, Western Australia
- Local Government – Forbes District NSW

Nauru
- President for long periods of time

Marriages, Births, Baptisms and Deaths

Weddings in Knox Chapel

12 December 2009  Kent Baerlocher (OKG 01) married Julia Nelson
27 December 2009  Richard Lam (OKG 99) married Amy Aspley-Davis
7 March 2010  Nathan Janson Kemp (OKG 04) married Carlene Fenwick

Births

Roland Slee (OKG 81) and his wife, Diana are absolutely delighted with the safe arrival of Talia Grace Slee, born Saturday 13 March 2010

Baptism in Knox Chapel

Hugo Davidson on 21 March 2010. Son of Stuart Davidson (OKG 92) and wife, Sophie.
Obituaries

Clem Gee OKG 46/47

Clem passed away on 4 March in Port Macquarie Base Hospital with his funeral service held on 10 March. Clem is survived by his wife of 52½ years, Sheila, his sons Geoffrey (OKG 76) and Michael (OKG 83) and daughter Alison. He has six grandchildren including Tom Gee (Knox Year 6 student) and three great grandchildren.

Clem was a prolific sportsman whilst at Knox; awarded full colours in every sport he participated in, including rugby, cricket, swimming, athletics and life saving. Upon leaving Knox, Clem trained as a Solicitor and ran the family law firm in Sydney for more than 35 years before swapping his suit for an Akubra and heading bush in 1986. He and Sheila spent over twenty years running their cattle properties at Byabarra and Huntingdon (near Wauchope), and more recently relocated into Port Macquarie.

Clem regularly returned to Sydney to visit family and friends, attend rugby matches and was a regular attendee at the OKGA Over 70s Lunches. A number of photos from his time at Knox are of great interest.

Those of us who knew Clem were privileged and he will be dearly missed. However his loyalty, wisdom, integrity and courage will be with us forever. Clem truly embodied the words Virile Agitur.

Deaths

The OKGA extends its sincere sympathy to the families of the following Old Knox Grammarians who have passed away.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>OKG</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attwood, John Edward</td>
<td>OKG 50</td>
<td>18/04/2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biggs, Stephen Kent</td>
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<td>Boot, Phillip Handford</td>
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<td>Booth, Allen Keith</td>
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<td>Donaldson, William Cecil</td>
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<td>Gee, Clement Moreville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zweck, Peter Henry</td>
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David Edward Jeffrey Taylor OKG 53, 1936-2004

David passed away on 5 July 2004 after suffering from prostate cancer for two years. David entered Knox at the age of 4¾ as a boarder and left the school in 1952. His family lived at ‘Werrina’ in Julia Creek, Queensland. His father thought that if the Japanese invaded Australia they would come down through the centre and the boys would be safer in Sydney. The trip home from school by train during the war years sometimes took more than 3 weeks and so they only went home once a year. After leaving school David went ‘jackerooing’ and eventually bought his own property in 1964. In 1984 he moved to Queensland and finally settled in Palmwoods on the Sunshine Coast. He was married with four children and six grandchildren. David wrote the story of his life during his illness and tells stories of Knox during the forties and fifties.
Financial Advice to OKGA members

Old Knox Grammarian in ‘Parkinson Role’

Rick Capel OKG 72, Principal of Capel and Associates, recently played the role of ‘Michael Parkinson’ in a very interesting and informative question and answer session on ‘Growing your Wealth and Income’. As part of their firm’s ‘Meet the Chairman Series’, Rick interviewed the highly respected Australian businessman, Mr Robert Millner, Chairman of Washington H Soul Pattinson, Chair of New Hope Corporation and listed investment companies, Milton Corporation Limited, BKI Investment Company Ltd and Choiseul Investments Ltd.

The penetrating questions encouraged businessman, Millner to expand on his business and personal investment philosophy and talk about the great opportunities that lie in the coal, oil and gas sectors. Audience members included at least five Old Knox Grammarians, some of whom are shown in the adjacent photo. Rick’s experience and expertise has helped his clients, including many OKGA members, develop realistic plans to build their wealth and achieve their lifestyle aspirations in a measured and tax effective manner.

↑ John Vohralik OKG 77, Michael Le Couteur OKG 61/62, Rick Capel OKG 72, Robert Kellaway OKG 87 and Ian MacPherson OKG 55

↑ From L to Right: Rick Capel, Principal, Capel & Associates; Robert Millner, Chairman, Washington H Soul Pattinson; Luke Rathborne, Private Wealth Adviser, Capel & Associates; and Tom Millner, CEO, BKI Investments