MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OLD KNOX GRAMMARIANS’ ASSOCIATION INC.
MONDAY 1 MARCH 2010
KG1 BUILDING, KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
PACIFIC HIGHWAY, WAHROONGA

OPENING

The President, Michael Kelynack opened the meeting at 8.03 pm welcoming the OKGA, members and guests to the 80th AGM of the OKGA.

PRESENT

Adrian Alpert, Martin Barkl, Michael Bayliss, John Boag, Nick Bozic, John Bryant, Chad Bull, Richard Capel, Edric Chaffer, Scott Chappel, Ross Dinnell, Chris Drummer, Ian Frame, Rod Garnet, Phil Henniker, Michael Kelynack, Ian King, Byrne La Cienesta, Michael Le Couteur, Ian MacPherson, Rees Mackay, Richard Martyr, Tim Morris, Paul Nelson, Warren Norris, Antony Osman, Ian Plasto, Stuart Powell, Andrew Pursell, Rob Tulloch, John Turnbull, Peter Turnbull, Jack Shute, Greg Swinton, John Weeks, Mark Wilson,

APOLOGIES


MINUTES 2009 AGM

Moved: Mike Bayliss
Approved: Rob Tulloch

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

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 been done and could not have happened without them.**

“T. Ross McKenzie – OBE PhD, Headmaster, 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.

Strategic Plan.

Rob Tulloch addressed the meeting with an updated of the Strategic Plan.

Patrons Report

Welcome all to the meeting and I wish you all a very successful year.

- Speaking as Patron

I am delighted to have received the new Strategic Plan. It is important for all organisations to review their performance and consider the way forward.

As the OKGA moves forward the challenges are many.

Linking and communicating with and staying relevant to the changing demographic will require a range of approaches and structures which “meet members” where they are at.
I wish you luck with the new Strategic Plan and affirm the School’s support.

- The School and OKGA have many areas of overlap. One of these is Knox country connections. The School has an extensive country programme in place for 2010. While the purpose is to market the School and visit existing families it provides an opportunity of the OKGA to “piggyback” each event.

  I would encourage you to look carefully at that opportunity.

- The School is starting to think about its centenary which is only 14 years away. I dare say that I will be retired and some of us here will be “retired plus”! However, the Senior Knoxonians have been stirred into action determined to commit to paper memories of significant parts of the Schools history through profiles and support for the preparation of a centenary publication. I thank them for this and express the School’s gratitude as together we commence this project.

  Again, the School has continued to make available its considerable resources at no or very low cost to the OKGA.

- Undoubtedly the most challenging issue faced by the current School community and its Old Boys in 2009 were the child protection issues raised 12 months ago. 5 teachers (2 old boys) were accused of sexual assaults on School aged boys whilst at Knox.

  3 have been through the courts, Vance, James and Treloar – each has pleaded guilty to the charges. Vance and James have been given suspended sentences, Treloar remains in gaol and will be sentenced later this year.

  Committal hearings for Nisbett and Stewart are in train as both men are defending the charges. These matters will work through the legal system this year.

  Our thoughts are for those boys who were impacted by those convicted. Some might call them victims…it is my prayer that with the right support they will see themselves as survivors and move on in strength.

  I have, on behalf of the School, apologised for the fact that the School did not prevent this occurring to them.

- Moving forward is important and the School is in the throws of modernisation and advancement. It is a positive community with an exciting agenda ahead as the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan unfolds.

I very much encourage the old boys and the School to complement each other as together we transition into the 21st Century. Honouring the Past….building an even better Knox of the future.
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 2009.

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 growth 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.

Despite the effects of the global financial crisis, we remain in a healthy financial state with our investments continuing to provide good returns. While the market value of these investments reduced significantly in our 2008 financial year, it has recovered 16% this year, although it is still well short of where it was in October 2007. Our investment philosophy has been and continues to be relatively conservative, providing a mix of consistent income from dividends and interest, as well as the opportunity for longer term capital growth. This has ensured that we have maintained our level of dividends and interest in absolute terms, and minimised the fallout from the GFC.

We are, however, finding it more difficult each year to continue to support the scholarships the OKGA provide.

- Firstly, there is the Norman Winter Boarding Scholarship. It is awarded to a boy, who is a son or grandson of an Old Boy, entering year 11 as a boarder and which provides 50% remission of tuition and boarding fees for years 11 and 12.
- Secondly, the OKGA Scholarship in memory of Gerry Alldis. It is awarded to a boy entering year 11 on the basis of all round ability and offers remission of tuition fees of 50% for years 11 and 12.
- Thirdly, the OKGA also offers bursaries based on financial need.

The current Endowment Trust, set up with endowments from old boys to provide this financial support, is not large enough to be self sufficient, and so the funding of these scholarships is supported by OKGA Inc out of its income. It is interesting to note that the annual payments on scholarships this year exceeded the original donations to set up the fund. As fees are increasing on average over 5%, there is greater pressure on our income statement. Indeed, we have run at a cash loss for the last 2 years.

It has therefore been decided by the Committee that Life Membership fees be increased to $500 for new members joining after 1 July 2010. While it is a modest increase, there has been no change for 5 years, despite the additional support provided to the OKGA clubs, the school and other various activities, as well as the increasing cost of scholarships. The Committee believes the increase to be appropriate to cover our cash out flows in coming years without the need for annual increases.

In addition, we will introduce a new endowment fund, the “OKGA Scholarship Fund” this year, which will have Deductible Gift Recipient status, allowing donors to choose between funds, based on whether a tax deduction is important to them.

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. As the President stated, 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 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. As mentioned above, the Scholarships 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 2009, OKGA Inc had a surplus for the year of $67,880 comprising a cash loss of $4,436 and a reversal of provision for impairment of $72,316 in relation to its loan to Sports. Life membership fees were up again this year, and OKGA Inc maintains net assets of $676,909.

OKGA Sports’ operating surplus of $72,316 reflects the recovery in market value of its investments. It has also maintained its investment income from dividends and interest for the year. Sports continue to support the many sporting clubs associated with the Old Boys, and in particular the Rugby, Soccer, Cricket and Basketball teams. It also funds social functions for Sporting events including activities after the School’s home Rugby matches which has proved to be a popular for many old boys to catch up in an informal manner. Sports’ balance sheet has a net deficiency of $13,420, 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 increased in value by $69,771, and has net assets of $410,844.

In summary, our financial position remains strong, allowing the Association to carry out its functions and achieve its desired goals.

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 through his company Peak Investment Partners. I also wish to thank Bill Henry, a past OKGA President, and his law firm Turtons Lawyers, for his legal support during the year.

I also wish to express our thanks to our honorary auditor Gerry Cowling, a partner at RSM Bird Cameron and a past 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, as well as providing tax advice.

In conclusion, I put before the meeting our annual audited accounts for the year ended 31 October 2009.

Mark Wilson (OKG 1980)
Treasurer, OKGA

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.

**Election of Officer Bearers and Committee Members**

The committee consists of 4 office bearers, being the president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary, and up to 10 additional ordinary members. I have 1 nomination for each of the office bearers, being myself for president, rob Tulloch for vice president, mark Wilson for treasurer, and ian frame for secretary. Of the existing committee, john Cottee and Tim bangs will not be nominating for this year’s committee and there is also a casual vacancy from last year. I have received 3 nominations for these vacancies being Matt Feros Jack Shute Ian king

As there are an equal number of nominations to vacancies, under clause 10 of the constitution, there is no need for a ballot. I therefore declare all candidates elected to the committee.

Congratulations to:

Rob Tulloch, Mark Wilson, Ian Frame, Ian Macpherson, Ross Dinnell, Michael Bayliss, Phil Henniker, John Boag, rob Johnson, Andrew Pursell, Matt Feros, Jack Shute, and Ian King.

Patron:                      John Weeks  
President                    Michael Kelynack
Immediate PastPresident:     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)

Special business.

in reviewing our constitution, it has come to our attention that there is some uncertainty in wording, and these proposed amendments are to reflect what was originally intended, what practically happens, and indeed what should be the position.

I therefore propose the following amendments:

That clause 11.5 of the constitution is altered by the deletion, at the beginning of subclause (d) (ii), of “subject to the approval of the association by special resolution”; and

That any action taken by the treasurer or by the committee which might amount to a breach of duty as a result of the current wording of clause 11.5(d)(ii) of the constitution, which would not have occurred had the change in the wording set out in the previous resolution been in place, is approved, authorised and ratified.
These amendments have the following purposes:
To clarify and confirm the power of the committee to control and manage the affairs of the association, as set out in the constitution; and
To ensure that the treasurer duties are clear, unambiguous and capable of performance; and
That any past breach of duty by the treasurer or the committee resulting from the current wording of clause 11.5(d) (ii) is ratified.

As this is a special resolution, the proposal which I have moved and which the secretary has already seconded, and for which there has been 21 days notice given, requires at least 3 quarters of those present to vote in favour for it to be passed.

Could I see by a show of hands all those in favour?

All those against?

As there is a 3 quarters majority, I declare the special resolution passed under clause 18.2 of the constitution.

General Business:

Ian Frame raised the question of re-appointing our Auditors and they were re-appointed. Also the reappointment of John Weeks as Patron and Tony Osman as Honorary Historian.

Ian Frame welcomed John Bryant who has recently suffered a heart attack. Also Ross Dinnell who has also been ill. It was great to see them back in good health.

Ian also welcomed John Turnbull who was up from Melbourne.

John Turnbull also raised the question of linking Teachers who had left the School with the Old Boys.

Ian also asked if anyone had any ideas regarding the Strategic Plan their thoughts would be most welcome.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Michael Kelynack
President OKGA