OLD KNOX GRAMMARIANS’ ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

PRESENTED TO

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 28 February 2011
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 2010, at this our 79th Annual General Meeting.

In welcoming you to this meeting, I would like in particular to welcome our new members, 2010 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 2010 leavers joining our association. Our membership at this time is 8245

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 four entities combined (IE. OKGA Inc, OKGA Sports Inc, the OKGA Endowment Trust and OKGA Scholarships) show a healthy financial position. The total net asset is $1,062,830, and a net loss for the year of $11,603.

Mark Wilson Treasurer will discuss our exact position in his report. It would be remiss me not to mention the late Miss Dianne Jenkins for her generous bequest in honour of her late Brother Flying Officer Peter. J. Jenkins (Killed in action December 1940)

The association is striving hard to improve its communication to all ages of our members. At present we have over 2100 registered online. The number of old boys using our online 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 enjoy a strong working relationship with the school. We can realise all of our objectives by
assisting the school to achieve its long term goals. By supporting its philosophies of faith, wisdom, integrity and compassion by being visible in our commitment. The activities were:

- Anzac Day
- Honouring Parade
- OKGA Confirmation Service
- Senior and Junior Most Improved Awards
- Supporting regional and interstate dinners and expos
- Scholarships
- Providing sporting coaches
- Supporting Rugby and Football matches
- School Easter and Christmas services
- Support with the school data base
- Assistance with the foundation and financial support.
- Gala Day
- Thistle
- Prep School and Senior School Speech Days

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 OKGA Annual Service and Confirmation continues to be an important event in our calendar. We supported the confirmation of *Julius Wilhelm Amadeus Auffermann*

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 honour 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.
Mr Ian Macpherson’s and Pamela Hitchcock’s and committee members commitment to each activity is too be highly commended.
The OKGA “Gerry Aldis” Scholarship continues to be keenly contested. It is awarded to a boy with good “All round” ability. Last year Edward Brentnall was the worthy recipient. The “Norman Winter” Scholarship was not awarded last year due to no applicants.

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.

An increasingly large number of our younger members 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 Dr Nic David JOOLS, Walsh Bay, NSW Brigadier Paul Le Gay BRERETON RFD, NSW , Brigadier Paul Le Gay BRERETON RFD, NSW Mr. Sam (Sydney) URE-SMITH OBE Lt Col Owen James Adams RA (OKGA 85 ) has been awarded an OBE and congratulate him publicly on his award in the Australia Day honour list.
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. In particular OKGA Past President Mr Hugh Bickford. The senior Knoxonians led by Edric Chaffer, 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 Knockout Competition next Sunday.

The rugby Club had one of its greatest years ever.

- Kentwell Cup
- Finalist 1st and second grade

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 and knowledge of school and OKGA
- 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 Turtons solicitors
- Alan Foulkes and Peter Roach for their wise counsel
- A special mention to Michael Le Couter for his assistance throughout 2009 in particular with his meticulous documentation of the procedures and protocols of the OKGA and its linkage with the school. Mike also spent many hours preparing the OKGA section of the Thistle.

I would like especially thank the commitment and support given to me by every member of the committee. In particular the office bearers of Mr Rob Tulloch, Ian Frame, Ian MacPherson, Mark Wilson and Michael Le couter (who is not on the committee), for leading the OKGA Strategic Plan with passion and dedication. 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 as we implement the strategic plan over the coming years

Thank you

Michael Kelynack (OKG’85)
President OKGA