



# THE *Thistle*

KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAGAZINE



ISSUE 02  
DEC

# 19

## Showcase Evening

Celebrating innovation and creativity across Years 11 and 12

## Oliver!

Senior School musical theatre production debuts in the Wenkart Theatre

## Knox Community

Food, glorious food! A behind the scenes look at catering

Established in 1924, Knox Grammar School offers an innovative approach to education within a caring environment. Knox, a leading Australian day and boarding school, aims to develop children into young people of faith, wisdom, integrity, compassion and courage. Knox is a Uniting Church school and operates three campuses: Knox Prep (K-6 boys), Wahroonga Prep (Pre-K to Year 6 girls and boys), and Knox Senior School (Years 7-12 day boys and boarders).

## ON THE FRONT COVER

Knox Pipes and Drums performing at Stirling Castle, Scotland

## KNOX SOCIAL MEDIA

**f** facebook.com/knoxgrammar  
**t** twitter.com/knoxgrammar  
**i** instagram.com/knoxgrammar  
**v** vimeo.com/knoxgrammarschool

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This edition of *The Thistle* was prepared by Eileen Aroyan, Publications Manager, Knox Grammar School.

Proofreading by David Hayes, photography by Paul Wright, Scott Cameron, Nick Stewart, Blue Murder Studios (Cybele Malinowski), Knox staff, students and parents.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for the June 2020 edition of *The Thistle* is 9 April 2020. OKGA contributions to okga@knox.nsw.edu.au. General contributions to publications@knox.nsw.edu.au.

## DESIGN

Stephanie Tesoriero, stephanietesoriero.com

## PRINT

*The Thistle* is printed by SKS Printing (www.sksprinting.com.au) on ISO accredited Neo Matt. Neo Matt is manufactured using wood fibre from sustainable forests and made from elemental chlorine free bleached pulp.

## GET IN TOUCH

Knox Grammar School  
PO Box 5008  
Wahroonga NSW 2076  
AUSTRALIA  
Telephone (02) 9487 0122  
Fax (02) 9487 0186  
CRICOS Provider Code: 00399E  
[www.knox.nsw.edu.au](http://www.knox.nsw.edu.au)

# Contents

ISSUE 02  
DEC

04

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

Preparing students to be responsible global citizens through service learning

08

## AROUND THE GROUNDS

Celebrating achievements and success stories across the School



13

## KNOX PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Opportunities to learn and engage outside the classroom





# 20

## WAHROONGA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Leading by example at Wahroonga Prep

# 24

## OLIVER!

The cast and crew comprising  
Years 7-12 students entertained  
all in November



# 26

## EXPANDING HORIZONS

Knox boys on tour: from the UK  
and Ireland, to the USA and  
Cambodia, students have explored  
and challenged themselves  
across the globe

# 32

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Empowering students to be advocates  
for positive change



# 34

## KNOX BOARDING

Strengthening ties through  
community building

# 38

## OLD KNOX GRAMMARIANS

Events and news of Old Boys



# Global Mindfulness

“

Students are  
encouraged  
to make a  
difference and  
to take action





**MR SCOTT JAMES**

Headmaster of Knox Grammar School

**Opposite**  
Prep boys taking an interest to create a more sustainable environment

**Above**  
The Knox Prep Social Justice Portfolio encouraged students and staff across the School to support the Breakfast for Kids Program by donating breakfast food items

**Top right**  
James Gray (Y11) was awarded the John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC Governor of NSW

## Integral to the establishment, culture and traditions of Knox Grammar School is the idea of ‘a purposeful life’.

Articulated most clearly by Knox’s founding Headmaster, Neil MacNeil, a purposeful life is one in which a student stands firm in his or her values, develops personal goals, and, most importantly, embraces a sense of social responsibility and desire to contribute to society as a whole.

Consistent with our School values of Faith, Wisdom, Integrity, Compassion and Courage, students today contribute to a wide range of social justice and service learning projects. Appropriately, ‘Global Mindfulness’ is one of the focus areas of the 2018-2022 Strategic Direction document, seeking to prepare and inspire students to be active, informed and responsible global citizens.

Many social justice and service learning projects are either student-driven or involve students working collaboratively with staff. Positions of responsibilities (such as Social Justice Prefects, Social Justice Captains, year group advocates and student leaders) all work to support and advocate for communities beyond Knox through outreach programs across Australia and the world.

Students are encouraged to make a difference, to give to others and are provided with opportunities to take action. Examples of social justice and service learning programs include Shoes for the Philippines initiative, NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors Christmas Gift Drive and the

Wesley Mission Christmas Hamper Collection, the annual ABBOX Sony Foundation Children’s Holiday Camp, Gala Day Social Justice stall and the Year 10 Service Learning Program

The School has strong connections with a number of associations and we continue to fundraise and partner with the following: Legacy, Bear Cottage, The Variety Club of Australia, The Salvation Army, KYDS Youth Development Service, Diabetes Australia, and Uniting World.

Every year, boys volunteer to be involved with the remote school immersion and community links program, including the Nyngan Super Camp. Goodooga Indigenous Games and the Enngonia Immersion. International Immersion programs (including the Papua New Guinea Kokoda Experience, the Cambodia Service Journey and the Borneo Immersion) are authentic experiences, where students work alongside communities, share a journey and gain an understanding of different cultures. From these experiences, they learn more about the complexities of local, rural and world issues and are empowered to put compassion into action. The Reconciliation Action Plan Committee, which is championed and led by students, is one example.

The Knox Preparatory School’s Service Learning Program includes Year 3 support of the St John’s Uniting Church initiative ‘The Dish’

- a program which provides meals to homeless people in Hornsby every Friday and the Year 4 Recycling Program aimed at creating a more sustainable community environment. Year 5 boys involve themselves through Compassion in Action, which sees boys working in small groups to identify an organisation they would like to assist by either raising awareness or giving their time to serve. Finally, Year 6 work in partnership with St Lucy’s Primary School.

In addition, year groups of all ages will select a charity or cause to support each year, and students assume responsibility for the work needed to promote their cause.

The social justice and service learning program is central to a Knox education. Students are provided with age appropriate opportunities to participate in initiatives to assist those in need and to engage with contemporary issues that affect others. They are encouraged to act out their values, learn to recognise their own giftedness and generously share those gifts for the service of others.

By doing so, students are provided with the opportunity to grow and prosper as well-rounded and grounded individuals with a firm sense of justice and an understanding of empathy and advocacy.

# Community

## AND CONNECTEDNESS



**MR SIMON  
ROTHERY**

Chairman of Knox  
Grammar School

Recently, I had the distinct honour of speaking to our Year 12 boys at their Valedictory Ceremony and I wanted to share some of my reflections on a ceremony and celebration that in many ways showcases what it means to be part of the Knox community.

Our 2019 Year 12 boys are now in the midst of their final exams and I know they have worked hard and are well prepared. However, this has only been a part of their learning journey. Boys leave Knox with many other competencies they have developed here - character, citizenship, creativity and imagination, communication skills, resilience, the ability to think critically and problem solve.

We live in a rapidly changing world. None of us can predict what the future holds, and it is these 'global competencies' and 'dispositions' that have prepared our boys to thrive in a changing world. A world where social and technology disruptions will

fundamentally change the nature of work, and the nature of the workforce. Globalisation, artificial intelligence and the 4th industrial revolution will herald more change for the next decade than the last half century. They are entering a world of opportunity, but a world that is yet to be invented and one that will require courage.

As our valedictorians leave the school gates for a final time as a student, they become our newest generation of Old Knox Grammarians - joining a rich and diverse community which spans all walks of life, across all parts the globe. They all share a sense of purpose and values, a lifelong connectedness





“

Ours is a  
community  
that is living,  
breathing,  
evolving, and  
it's thriving



anchored in their shared history. Culture defines communities like Knox and I strongly believe that the culture of Knox Grammar School has never been stronger. Ours is a community that is living, breathing, evolving, and it's thriving.

'Courage', 'competencies' and 'community and connectedness' are three strategic themes you will hear more about from myself, the Headmaster, the Council and the Executive in the months and years to come and they will crucially shape our strategy as we turn our mind to the future. You will also see us actively engaging our School community in very different ways to take advantage of the richness and diversity we have - particularly in our

parents and Old Knox Grammarians. Those parents who attended the Global Café initiative in Term 3 would attest that this contemporary approach to 'co-creation' heralds a new chapter for parent, teacher, student and community engagement.

As part of this, you will see us thinking courageously about what our Middle School Academy will be. We are thinking about the Years 9 and 10 curriculum and how we make the Knox Middle School Academy a regionally recognised centre for innovation and creativity, building on the human skills that have and will continue to differentiate our boys.

Over the last school holidays, the development of the Middle School Academy began, ready for 2020 and rounding out our three Academies within one school strategy. I'm excited to say the Middle School Academy will look and feel different to anything we've done before.

At Speech Day this year, Scott James and I will outline the next phase of our School's strategic agenda in a meaningful way and we look forward to you participating in the shaping of our wonderful school for the future.



## CAREER INSIGHTS FROM OLD BOYS

**MRS LINDA GOMEZ**  
Careers Advisor

The Careers Insight Evening for Years 9, 10 and 12 was held on 28 October in conjunction with the OKGA. Students heard from Old Boys who presented their experiences in their industry and spoke about the variety of career possibilities and their own pathways.

The event commenced with an opening address from James Hunter, National Managing Partner at KPMG and parent of Old Boys Charles Hunter (OKG12) and Harry Hunter (OKG18). He presented on the global competencies valued by employers and how students can utilise their experiences and opportunities at Knox to develop diversity of skills. The continued involvement of our Old Boys plays a vital part in facilitating and supporting our students' career education and development.

# Around THE GROUNDS



## MURDOCH VICTORY

Congratulations to Murdoch House - the winners of House Event Day in the Senior School.



## ALL STAR CHARITY MATCH

An All Star Cricket team of Years 7-11 students took on staff (including Headmaster Mr James) in a charity match on Knox 1 Oval to raise funds for osteosarcoma research. Final score 4-38 to the staff, 2-31 to the students. Well done to the Year 11 mentor student leaders who initiated and planned the event.



## PAUL KELLY CUP

Well done to the Prep AFL Team which were the runners-up in the Paul Kelly Cup.



## FOOTBALL SUCCESS

In front of a massive crowd under lights against Barker College, our 1st XI Football played a phenomenal game to defeat Barker 3-1 whilst our 2nd XI drew 1-1 and won the 2nds competition.



## Orienteering

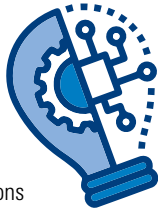
Congratulations to the Senior Orienteering Team which, for the seventh consecutive year, have won the NSW Secondary Schools Championship Trophy!





## STEAM EXPO

The Knox STEAM Expo engaged students to explore potential vocations specialising in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Congratulations to the Year 11 students that led this successful event, showcasing 25 companies in the Great Hall.



## Passing Out Parade

The Cadet Chapel and Passing Out Parade recognises the extraordinary contribution of our Year 12 cadets who were farewelled as they paraded for the final time on Knox 1 Oval.



## YEAR 6 RUGBY TRAINING AT THE SENIOR SCHOOL

It was an inspiring and lively training session for Year 6 Rugby players who joined the Senior 1sts and 2nds teams on Knox 1 Oval.

## THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

An event designed to help students reflect on what it means to be a leader. The event was hosted in the Wenkart Theatre for students from Knox, Ravenswood School for Girls, Pymble Ladies' College and Oxford Falls Grammar School. Photo credit: Evan Gauci



## AGENT OF CHANGE

The Agent of Change program has been challenging Year 10 students through project-based activities to develop their enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.





## RADIO STARS ACROSS THE CAMPUSES

The Knox Jazz Combo (pictured) performed live at radio station 102.5 Fine Music FM while Knox Prep Year 6 band 'Riven' were interviewed after their performance on radio station 100.1 Triple H FM.



## Years 3 and 4 Musical

Congratulations to the cast and crew that put on a fantastic production of 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits'. This was the first Prep School musical presented in the Wenkart Theatre.



## NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our ensembles achieved some wonderful results at the 2019 Band Association of NSW Championships including the Knox Symphonic Wind Ensemble which were the NSW State Junior B Grade Champions, Knox Concert Band placed 3rd in the NSW State Junior C Grade Championships and the Knox Year 7 Wind Band were the NSW State Junior D Grade Champions.

## INTERNATIONAL DA VINCI DECATHLON

Fifteen boys from Years 7 to 8 travelled to Italy for the International da Vinci Decathlon and Race Around the Renaissance. The boys competed against schools from across the United Kingdom, Australia and India.

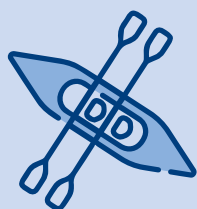






## EXPERIMENTING FROM NEW HEIGHTS

As part of National Science Week, Years 3 and 4 took part in an 'egg drop' design challenge where they designed and constructed a working lunar lander module. These were then put to the test on a balcony overlooking Ireland Field.



## YEAR 8 CAMP

Surfing, beach fishing, mountain biking and canoeing were just some of the activities on offer at Year 8 Camp held on the NSW South Coast.



## YEAR 5 HEAD TO BATHURST

Year 5 experienced what it was like to live in a gold mining village during their Bathurst Camp. Boys enjoyed the tour of the Lucas Cave within Jenolan Caves and the drive around the Mount Panorama track.



## Celebrating our Dads

Stage 1 celebrated Father's Day with a special breakfast and fun activities including building skyscraper towers.



## SHARING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Friends and family were invited to hear from Years 1 and 2 at their Celebration of Learning for 'Sustainable Solutions' as part of their Knoxigations Unit of Inquiry.





## Bidding farewell to the Class of 2019

Well wishes to the Class of 2019 were given at the Valedictory Ceremony held on 23 September.



## COMPASSION IN ACTION

A group of Year 5 students with the activity packs they designed for the Children's Hospital at Westmead.



## THIRD PLACE FOR THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

Congratulations to our CAS Track and Field team on their mighty third place finish.



## A GREAT RESULT FOR THE KNOX ROBOTICS TEAM

Congratulations to the Knox Robotics Team that competed in the 2019 VEX NSW State Robotics Competition and placed third overall.



## CELEBRATING KNOX BOARDERS

The annual Boarders' Chapel and Dinner was a fitting farewell for our Year 12 boarders on 20 September.







## KNOX PREP BANDS

# Win Gold

✱

### Top

The Senior Band performing at the Australian Band and Orchestra Festival 2019

### Far right

Performance Ensemble boys with Adjudicator Joan Thorpe at the ASBOF 2019

## MISS REBECCA MORRIS

Director of Instrumental Music

For the second year in a row, all five Knox Prep Bands were awarded gold at the Australian Band Festival held at The Concourse in Chatswood on 11 August. This is a truly remarkable result and a clear indication of the musical talent of the Prep boys! Over 400 bands competed in the festival with approximately 30 gold awards given out in the primary schools' section.

The Junior Band wowed the audience with their rendition of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and *Remember the ANZACs*. This year's group is the biggest Junior Band yet, and with 67 budding little musicians on stage you could feel their excitement and energy. They were all absolutely elated at the end when awarded their first ever trophy!

The Intermediate Band played two very contrasting pieces and were conducted by Ms Irwin. She was very proud of the boys and their performance as they were up against the top bands from other schools. The boys themselves were overjoyed to hear that they were awarded a gold award for their performance.

Senior Band were almost perfect in both of their pieces and certainly impressed the audience and the adjudicator! Their set Australian work was *Silent Movie* by Brian West. This slapstick piece heralded a wonderful comment from the adjudicator that our performance of it

was the best he had heard throughout the whole festival. Senior Band also performed a really challenging piece by Tim Ferrier called *Tales of the Sea*.

Our top band, the Performance Ensemble, played three very challenging pieces and competed in the highest section of the festival, up against other talented ensembles from other local, state and overseas bands. They performed *Amazing Grace* by Frank Tichelli and represented Knox with pride and musical brilliance. Parents at the end of the performance came up to me with tears in their eyes because they were so moved by the musicality and professionalism of the performance.

Our Jazz Band started off with a huge round of applause when Henry Pearce took to the stage, enthralled the audience with his vocal skills while he sang *I Got You!* The whole audience clapped along and the energy and vibe amongst our brilliant musicians was almost tangible!

A huge congratulations to all five bands on their brilliant performances. Boys, your hard work, dedication to weekly rehearsals has resulted in these accolades. Thank you to all of the parents for their support. Knox Prep boys certainly embrace our Band Motto - 'striving for excellence in all endeavours'.



When I arrived at Chatswood Concourse, I could feel the excitement rising in all of us. We waited and waited; it felt as if the organisers wanted us to get very nervous about the performance. It had become more difficult as the progression from Junior Band to Intermediate Band to Senior Band gradually set higher and higher competitive standards. When the Performance Ensembles came on, we were very anxious because one of the bands had come from Queensland and they were at least 13 years old! But after our conductor spoke some encouraging words to us, we were calmer and ready to ace the performance. Due to the thorough rehearsals we've had beforehand, with the conductor's great leadership and excellent teamwork between the students, we delivered a successful show that received strong applause. After much anticipation, all our hard work was rewarded with a gold win!

**Ryan Zhao, Music Captain**

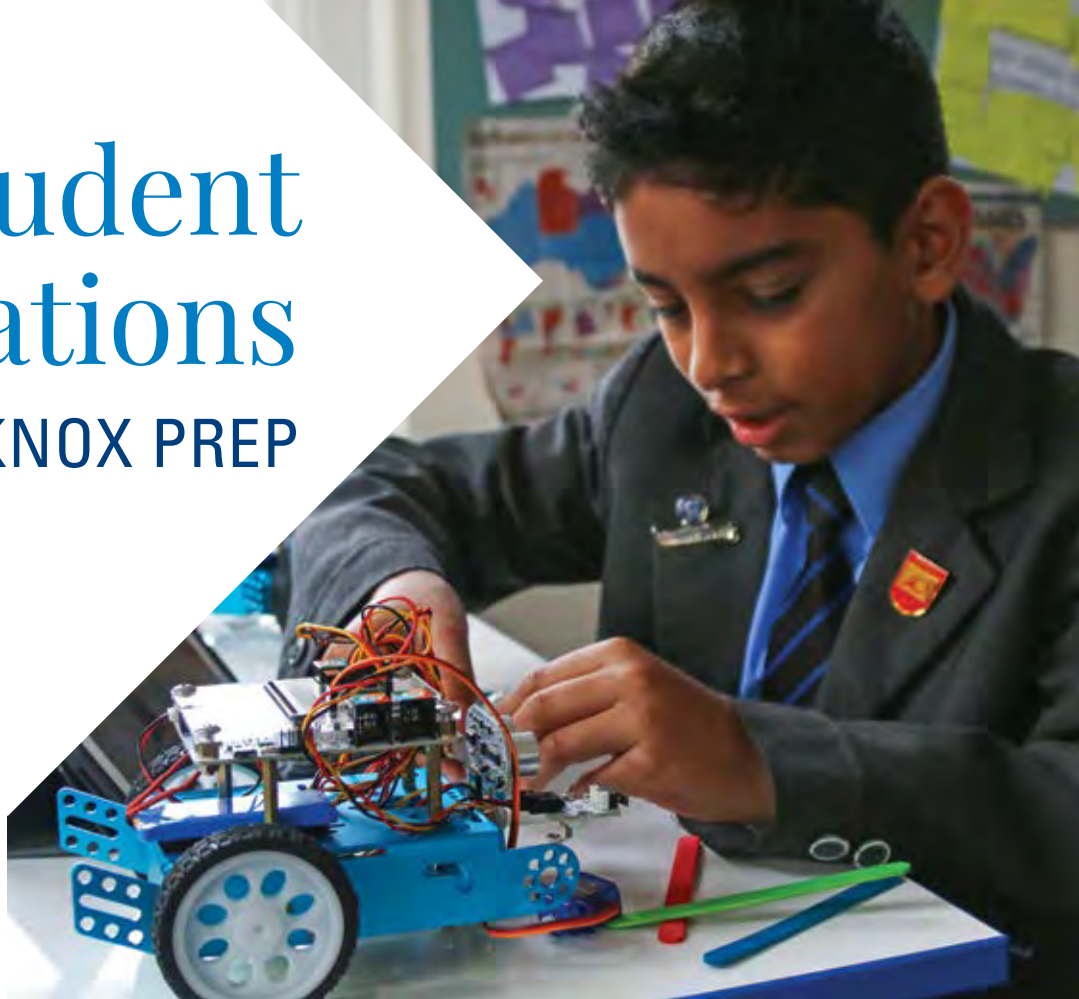


# Student Innovations

## ACROSS KNOX PREP

### MR IAN FAIRHURST

Team Leader of Technology Integration K-6



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education at Knox Prep continues to provide a focus for students to participate in authentic project-based learning.

This year has seen a huge increase in the range and diversity of student innovations across K-6. Through the Knoxigations program, the boys have applied research from across a variety of subjects, intertwined with digital and design technology concepts to solve a range of authentic issues present in communities around the world. Altogether, 28 students across Years 2-6 entered projects in either the State Young ICT Explorers or NSW Young Scientist Awards.

Winners at the STANSW State STEM Awards were announced at a ceremony in September and Knox Prep achieved our best results yet, with four teams coming equal first place in their respective age categories.

The students' reflections demonstrated that they had all benefited greatly from the experience and the range of ingenuity and creativity shown by the boys was absolutely outstanding.

We are so thrilled with the results! Our boys are engaged in such deep learning; they are excited about all they're doing at School, and they are taking action independently. Knox Prep is an exciting place to be!

### K-2 winners placed equal first

- Luca Pica, Harrison Luu and Austen An – BrightBin. BrightBin uses a micro:bit with ultrasonic and light sensors to automatically illuminate recycling bins at night. The device tells people what should go in each bin and when it is approaching full capacity.
- Oscar Fairhurst, Bowen Gozdzialski and Christian Strumendo - R.C.B.O.C. (River Cleaner, Bowen, Oscar, Christian). The R.C.B.O.C uses a Sphero, Lego EV3 robot and custom-built conveyor belt to collect floating rubbish from polluted waterways. The device can be controlled by an iPad which allows the user to steer the R.C.B.O.C in the direction of rubbish.







#### Years 3-4 winners placed equal first

- Oliver Schlosser and Jackson Macdonald – WaterBot. A device that works by using a soil moisture sensor attached to a robot which is programmed using a micro:bit. This invention will help farmers who are in desperate need of water by finding areas of moist soil on a farm.
- Mitchell Whiley and Kingston Rahme – RobotHead. A handheld device that works by using a gesture sensor to detect a vision impaired person's hand movements. The device can provide audio feedback of certain measurements like the time, date and distance from an object.



#### Years 3-4 Highly Commended

- Brendan Li – HandyAndy. A device that can pick up and grip objects to assist people with arthritis or other hand injuries. Handy Andy uses a Lego EV3 robot and a remote control to open and close a custom-built claw.

Congratulations to all involved!



## INTERSCHOOL DRONE CHALLENGE

A group of students from Knox Prep represented the School at the inaugural Interschool Drone Challenge that was held at Abbotsleigh in September. Students from Knox, Barker College, Abbotsleigh and Ravenswood School for Girls worked together to code Tello EDU drones through a series of obstacle courses that simulated 'real life' problems.



## BHP FOUNDATION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AWARDS

The BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards are Australia's most prestigious school science and engineering awards. The Awards are a partnership between the BHP Foundation, CSIRO and the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA).

All Knox Prep students that received awards at the STANSW state level have entered their projects into the national awards. The finalists are not announced until early 2020 and we wish all students the best of luck!



# CELEBRATING Children's LITERATURE



## MRS JO-ANNE WHEATLY

Years 3-6 Library and Information  
Services Teacher (Stage 2)

Book Week at Knox Prep was a fabulous time to celebrate reading and children's literature. Prep boys engaged in an array of activities with wonderful opportunities to develop positive attitudes towards reading which were based around this year's theme, 'Reading is my Secret Power.'

## K-6 CHARACTER PARADE

Much loved book characters were brought to life at our annual K-6 Book Character Parade. The exuberance from the boys was contagious and it was wonderful to watch as each class paraded around Ireland Field. The range of costumes was vast; dinosaurs, piranhas, lions, robots, dragons, dogs, crayons and ninjas, to name a few. We commend all the boys and teachers for embracing our parade with such zest!







“  
Reading brings  
knowledge and  
knowledge is power;  
therefore reading is  
power. The power to  
know and learn and  
understand... but also  
the power to dream.”

– EMMA CHASE

## K-6 LITERARY DAY

Secret reading powers were unleashed at our annual K-6 Literary Day on Friday 23 August. The anticipation and excitement displayed by the boys was tangible. Students were so eager to purchase their chosen book before school that they had arrived well before the staff from the book shop had had a chance to set up for the day!

Thank you to our generous Knox community that helped our Giving Tree ‘bloom’ by kindly donating over 100 books to St Lucy’s School which is part of the Knox Service Learning Program. In a true display of Knox values, some boys decided to combine their change to purchase a book for donation. One student used the prize that he was awarded from the art poster competition to donate a book, rather than purchasing one for himself. What a fantastic way to wrap up Book Week at Knox Prep!



## AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR VISITS

K-2 were treated with a visit from Matt Cosgrove. Matt is most renowned for his picture book ‘Macca the Alpaca’ and explained to the boys his passion for writing. He also demonstrated incredible artistic skills by drawing pirate alpacas and fun robots! Through his series for children ‘Epic Fail Tales’, he demonstrated how he develops amazing ideas for his stories.

The boys from Years 3-4 were entertained and motivated by James Foley, who makes picture books, novels and comics for kids. James started his career in primary school, drawing cartoons for the school newspaper which he shared with the boys. There were plenty of laughs amongst the audience with many interested in the processes involved in creating a book. James emphasised that the key to success is perseverance, working hard and lots of editing!

John Heffernan visited Years 5 and 6 and gave a valuable insight into how his latest books, ‘Naveed’ and ‘Hotaka’ came to life. These two books are contemporary fiction and John explained the importance and process of researching a subject when writing. Students were encouraged to ask questions and developed a greater understanding of how real-life stories and events can be told through fiction.



# HUBS FOR Research and Relaxation

## MS BETH TRESEDER

Head of Information  
Services

The McKenzie (Years 7–10) and Weeks Senior Academy (Years 11–12) Libraries provide an alternative learning environment to the classroom where students can relax, reflect, regroup and ‘get work done’.

Library staff offer instruction in essential research skills including guidance in evaluating online information and creating bibliographies. Both libraries offer a wide range of print and digital information resources that are easily accessible from the Knox portal, both at school and home.

The Weeks Senior Academy Library has an academic focus with the book collection incorporating up-to-date study guides, academic journals and exam papers in each of the senior subjects. Student requests for new books are always accommodated, where appropriate, so the relevance and usefulness of library resources can be guaranteed. The fiction collection is maintained with newly published titles suitable for senior students to enjoy and

to support their English studies in the unit, ‘Reading to Write’. Year 12 study periods are timetabled in the WSA Library to help encourage students to develop a disciplined and productive approach to their studies.

In a recent survey conducted by the library staff, senior students commented that they believed their academic results had ‘sky rocketed’ since spending time in the library. Students appreciate the opportunity to collaborate and share ideas with their friends and the large glass boards that are positioned around the library often show mathematical solutions and subject summaries as they prepare for assessments and exams.

Students in Years 7–10 say that the McKenzie Library has a welcoming atmosphere where staff are friendly and helpful and where they can read and work on assessments in a quiet environment with fewer distractions than elsewhere on site. Overwhelmingly, students appreciate the fact that the library still provides a balanced, well-resourced collection of both fiction and non-fiction books. They have a preference for reading in print form and it is very important to encourage reading in all forms to help them develop their literacy skills.

It is interesting that in our technology driven society, books still continue to enthuse young







“

In our  
technology  
driven society,  
books still  
continue to  
enthuse young  
people and  
inspire their  
imagination  
and creativity.

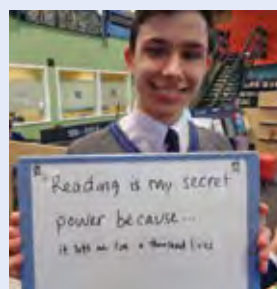
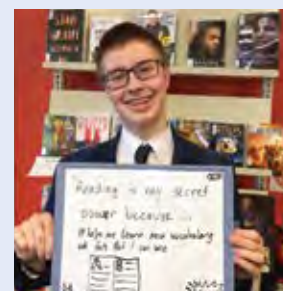


people and inspire their imagination and creativity. It is recognised that reading is the basis of learning and it contributes to academic success at school as well as success in life generally. Reading narrative fiction develops empathy while also reducing stress and helping with relaxation – something that students may find difficult to achieve in their busy schedules. Reading in print also aids in retention and recall of information.

In a school the size of Knox, it is crucial that students have a place where they feel welcome, comfortable, relaxed and supported and where fostering positive relationships is a priority. How wonderful, then, that student feedback endorses both Knox senior libraries are doing just that!

## BOOK WEEK 2019

In celebration of Book Week, boys and staff across the Senior School were posed the question, “Reading is my secret power because...” and in return, gave the following insights:







# Opportunities FOR LEADERSHIP

## JUSTIN KIM

Year 6 SRC Leader

At Wahroonga Preparatory School, we strive to provide as many leadership opportunities for our students as possible. These include leadership opportunities in Debating, Music, CRU (Faith), Class Leaders, House Leaders, School Captains and our Student Representative Council (SRC).

The SRC comprises of elected representatives from all classes across K-6. To give as many students as possible the opportunity to have a voice on the Council, students are elected for one semester. Class Meetings and SRC Meetings are held throughout the term providing an opportunity for students to voice their suggestions for charity work and fundraising, service learning opportunities, environmental initiatives or other improvements for our School.

Miss Gilhome (Year 2 classroom teacher) is the staff member responsible for leading the SRC. She is ably supported by the student SRC Leader, Justin Kim.

Wahroonga Preparatory School participated in Tracky Dack Day on 30 August where students wore mufti to school with tracksuit pants. This event was run by the SRC in order to assist TLC for Kids, a charity that provides sick children and their families with practical and emotional support in order to manage the challenging realities of everyday life with illness.

Students also supported the Jump Rope for Heart Foundation. The charity helps for children with heart disease, a major illness that kills





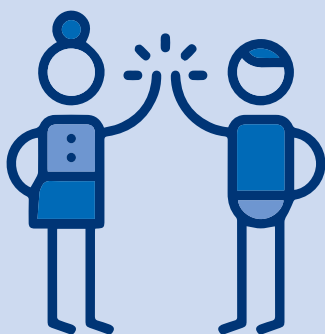
approximately 610,000 people per year. By each student donating \$2, Wahroonga Prep was able to support the charity in their efforts to treat sick children with medication and funds. In addition to the donation, the School had an enjoyable session of skipping, to keep our hearts healthy.

The SRC has not only assisted charities for the health of children but has also made plans to reduce the School's plastic consumption and waste. Focusing on this, the SRC has been making an effort towards the reduction of litter in the playground. Consequently, Wahroonga Prep has seen many positive changes in the school environment. The SRC also created posters that have categorised the different types of bins in the School and the rubbish that should be put into them.

Finally, the SRC assisted the teachers at the park during lunchtime to experience the duties of taking care of other students

in the School community. Through this opportunity, members of the SRC have learnt valuable lessons of responsibility and compassion for other students.

We look forward to future exciting leadership initiatives which all help to make Wahroonga Prep the best place to be!



## 2019 CAPTAINS

Thank you to our Student Leadership Team for their service to the School.

**School Captains:** Henry Mahendran and Sara Chen

**Vice Captains:** Ethan Wang and Sydney Davis

**SRC Leader:** Justin Kim

**Fraser House Captain:** Ethan Lander

**Freeman House Captain:** Elvis Zheng

**Bradman House Captain:** Aris Apostolidis

**Elliott House Captain:** Halle Ford



# Showcase Evening

FRIDAY 16 AUGUST

A disciplinary showcase of works by Years 11 and 12 across Drama, Music, Visual Arts, Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, Science and English.









# Oliver!



## MR MICHAEL GRIFFITHS

Director of Drama  
and Theatre K-12

'Oliver!' was the first major musical theatre production to be staged in the magnificent performance space of the Wenkart Theatre; the cultural heart of the Junior Academy and Performing Arts Centre.



The choice of this iconic musical production is prodigious in its significance. 'Oliver!' was the first musical ever to be staged at Knox in the John Williams Hall in 1973; a brilliant portent of the outstanding 46 annual musical productions that have followed; creating a proud legacy of achievement in musical theatre for Knox.

With a cast and crew of 190 Years 7 to 12 students from Knox, Ravenswood School for Girls and Pymble Ladies' College, 'Oliver!' entertained, moved and enchanted the audiences across three nights in the 750 seat Wenkart Theatre. The extraordinary impact of the production not only celebrated

the abundant spatial and technical resources of the theatre but also the rich performance skills of its student cast.

There is no doubt that the Wenkart Theatre will be a prestigious and embracing performance venue for Knox students in productions, recitals and concerts for many years to come.

Congratulations to the cast, production team and the broader Knox community members who have made this inaugural major production in the Wenkart Theatre a triumphant achievement.







# Pipes and Drums

## TOUR THE UK

**AARON ERDSTEIN**

---

Year 10 student

The Knox Pipes and Drums UK Tour travelled for three weeks between 25 June and 16 July 2019. Fifty-three boys in two competition bands participated in the tour which saw us travel to Scotland, Ireland and England.







“  
One of the most  
unforgettable  
events was  
performing at  
the Tower of  
London... we  
were honoured  
to be able to  
perform”

In all, the bands competed in three competitions including the European Pipe Band Championships in Inverness Scotland, the All Ireland Pipe Band Championships in Ballymena and the Corby Highland Games in England. Many successes were achieved, especially at Corby with Competition Band #1 placing 3rd in Grade 4 Marches and winning Grade 4 MSR, Grade 3 MSR, Grade 3 Medley and overall Grade 3 Drumming. Eight pipers were also selected to participate in quartets, placing 2nd and 5th.

In addition to the competitions, the band also played a number of public performances, much to the delight of the locals, attracting large crowds wherever we went. These included performances at Stirling Castle and the Princess Street Gardens in Edinburgh, George's Square in Glasgow, Ballymena in Northern Ireland, and Warwick and Corby Towns in England. A highlight was a wedding proposal on the Queen Anne Gardens Lawn at Stirling Castle as we played! We discovered that the Knox Old Boys' community is truly alive internationally when we played at and enjoyed a dinner in London. One of the most unforgettable events was performing at the Tower of London; an opportunity that is not normally afforded to civilian bands and we were honoured to be able to perform.

Apart from the scheduled Pipes and Drums commitments, the tour also provided us with numerous cultural and recreational opportunities. In Scotland, we climbed the 246 narrow steps of the spiral staircase in the Wallace Monument to reach the Crown. Here, one of the finest views of Scotland is to be had, including Stirling and beyond. In Belfast, the Titanic Museum provided an informative and immersive experience to understand the history surrounding the tragedy. In Dublin, an action-packed day saw the tour, teachers and all, participate in tug-of-war, soccer, archery and Segway racing. London offered a choice of activities: a shopping trip to Harrods, Madame Tussaud's, the British Natural History Museum, London Eye and for the brave, the London Dungeon Experience.

Of course, the tour's success would not have been possible without the staff involved in the planning and running. Many thanks to Mr Ainsley Hart (Pipe Band Master), Mr Greg Scott, Mr David Johnston, Mrs Judith McGhie, Ms Megan Bailey and Ms Vanessa Bromhead. We were also fortunate to have Mr and Mrs James attend the tour for a week. It was a privilege to attend the 2019 Knox Pipes and Drums Tour complete with music, memories and mateship.





# USA SPACE CAMP INSPIRES communication and collaboration



## SAMUEL STONE

Year 8 student

A group of 73 boys from across Years 7, 8 and 9 flew to Huntsville, Alabama and Houston, Texas to participate in the 2019 Actura Case Space School Tour. The two week tour was filled with motivating challenges and interesting cultural experiences.

It was fortunate for us that the tour coincided with the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. There were many amazing exhibits, including tours of the Saturn V Rocket and Apollo memorabilia as well as celebrations commemorating the brave astronauts and support staff involved in such an amazing feat of engineering. We were able to talk to current astronauts such as former International Space Station astronaut Nicole Stott, whose stories highlighted both the hard work required to become an astronaut and the amazing adventures such a journey allows.

A highlight of the trip was visiting the grounds of Rice University where President Kennedy gave his famous 'Moon Speech'. It is a striking university with old 1900 style buildings covering beautifully manicured grounds. It was incredible to see the architecture of the buildings complemented what was actually studied inside each building.





We also visited the Johnson Space Centre in Houston. It featured artefacts that showed the work and effort that went into the development of the space program. One of the most inspiring experiences while at the Space Centre was listening to Mr Jerry L. Ross who holds the joint record for the most space flights. He was a very interesting presenter, who openly shared his story and experiences with the group. We visited Independence Plaza where visitors can enter a replica of the space shuttle Independence, mounted on top of the historic and original NASA 905 shuttle carrier aircraft.

Space Camp was another highlight of the tour. Some of the activities included using realistic simulators and science equipment. In teams we engaged in group missions which included; docking the Space Shuttle to the International Space Station and conducting simulated spacewalks to repair faulty panels on the Orion spacecraft.

Overall the tour was a wonderful STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) experience that embodied team building. It gave us an insight into what it takes to work in an industry that not only requires a strong understanding of your chosen field of study, but also the ability to collaborate in teams, find creative solutions to problems and communicate with skill and confidence.



“  
On this tour,  
the boys dissected  
sharks, heard from  
former astronauts  
and competed in  
various challenges  
against students from  
across the world.

– MRS KAREN YAGER,  
DEPUTY HEADMASTER OF STUDENT  
AND TEACHER EXCELLENCE K-12







# SERVICE LEARNING IN Cambodia

**ADAM BARNES,  
SAMUEL BIGGS  
AND JAMES GRAY**

Year 11 students

Three groups, each comprised of six boys and six girls, delved into a two-week odyssey abroad to Cambodia. There, we disconnected from technology and our daily lives for the extraordinary immersive experience of Cambodia's people and culture.

Despite nerves arising from the prospect of staying for weeks in a foreign and unknown country, from the very beginning of our preparation for the trip each one of us was filled with a sense of anticipation. After months of briefings, preparation and fundraising, the trip was finally upon us. The excitement that followed stepping off the plane, from the tourist aspect to our eagerness to support various non-governmental organisations, was far beyond anything we could have imagined.

Over the time of our stay, we had the privilege of many unique experiences, none of which we'll ever forget. As far as tourist activities, we got to visit the most acclaimed and famous features of Phnom Penh, and later, Siem Reap. This included the temples of Angkor Wat, the various night and day markets, The Royal Palace, the floating village, and a restaurant serving tarantulas (both dead and alive!). Some of our deeply enriching experiences involved traditional dance classes and friendly flesh-eating fish. We became accustomed to





travel on buses and river-boats, but also more unorthodox methods such as on a tuk-tuk and an ox.

Extensively enriching for us on the immersion, however, were our interpersonally connective experiences with citizens in disadvantaged areas, such as visiting schools to develop the local children's English. To a likewise heart-warming degree, we spent a day at Siem Reap's biggest water park, bonding with and supporting individuals challenged with disability from the Home of Hope.

While we enjoyed delving into the rich cultural background of Cambodia through heritage sights and renowned, unique locations, we were also given the opportunity to experience the difficulties of life in a developing country. Each of us left the trip with a unique perspective regarding the divide between our familiar culture, in the wealthy modern society of Sydney, and the historically war-torn nation of Cambodia. The experience was both humbling and enlightening. Even though we had only seen such a small segment of the

society and the struggles endured by its community, a connection grew apparent between all of us with one another, as well as with the community, that will remain indefinitely.

The Cambodia Immersion offers the chance to create lasting connections with peers, while broadening your horizons to engagement in the rich culture of Cambodian society. But most importantly it gives the chance to partake in an impactful social justice cause and make a tangible difference. The Cambodia Immersion makes for a life-changing, unforgettable experience.





# Social Justice

## MRS HELEN CLARKE

Head of Diversity, Justice and Stewardship

Year on year, the boys' involvement in Social Justice events continues to grow. Thank you to everyone who so eagerly respond to the many calls to serve the community and be advocates for change.



## SUPPORTING LEGACY AND THE FAMILIES OF OUR VETERANS

Our Cadets enthusiastically support Legacy Day each year. It was wonderful to hear of the many instances where our boys were kindly asked to explain the importance of Legacy while purchasing a badge.



## JERSEY DAY

Jersey Day has been a long tradition at Knox to support the family of Nathan Gremmo, a local boy. Students were encouraged to wear their favourite jersey to build awareness of the importance of organ donation.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

A focus for the Social Justice Club this year has been learning about the realities and impacts of human trafficking. We were fortunate to hear from guest speakers Rev Fuzz and Caroline Kitto. Afterwards, the boys led a campaign around the School to make students aware of the importance of ethical purchasing in the clothing, chocolate, tea and fishing industries who profit from human trafficking.





## INDIGENOUS IMMERSION

Year 10 boys enjoyed a first-hand cultural immersion experience at the Goodooga Indigenous Games and in Walgett. The boys, under the guided experience of Dylan Farr's family (Y8 boarder), saw the realities of the current drought. They also learnt about the traditional ways of 'Caring for Country', as they walked with the elders at Narran Lake. It was an eye-opening experience for the boys.

James Chaplin said, "I had no idea that such culture and artefacts existed and the landscape is so barren and peaceful."

The boys are to be congratulated for being exemplary ambassadors of Knox, as they worked with a variety of local schools to assist students with reading and mathematics.

Sebastian Henriksen said, "Sitting with Kevin and trying to teach him subtraction was a highlight for me (as) he was so keen to learn."

The Goodooga Games are now in its 10th year. The boys competed with 34 remote NSW schools in a traditional day of games that started with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony by the local elders.



## KOKODA 2019

Last school holidays, a group of students and staff walked the historic Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. On reflection, Hugo Howell (Y11) said, "I wished to pay tribute to those men who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our great country in order for us to live the life we do today."



## MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Jiahong (Tony) Du (Y10), Henry Armitage (Y10) and Blair Davidson (Y11) represented Knox in the Model United Nations Competition where they represented Czechoslovakia. Their challenge was to advocate for change on a number of issues such as the environment, from the perspective of the country they represented.



## NAIDOC WEEK

Senior School welcomed Gary Ella (former Wallaby player) as a guest speaker for NAIDOC Assembly in July.

He spoke of the 2019 theme, 'Voice, Treaty Truth - Let's work together for a shared future.'





# OUR UNITED AND CLOSE KNIT Community

## MR BRIAN SULLIVAN

Head of Boarding

Interest and enthusiasm are the wellspring of continually evolving community life: they create bonds which unite us whether we are young or old, nearby or far from each other; they allow human warmth and love to be the formative forces in personal and community life and striving.

– HENNING HANSMANN

Knox Boarding provides an authentic experience for all those involved and I continue to be impressed with the warm and friendly community spirit displayed by our boarders, their parents, our boarding staff, evening tutors and clinic nurses. The success of last Gala Day's Country Produce and Spit Roast stalls can be attributed to our generous parent



volunteers. It was outstanding to have over 100 boarders and their families actively support this endeavour and showcased our unique boarding community spirit.

Parents of our boarders are commended for their continued contributions to our close knit Knox Boarding community. Their interest and enthusiasm is regularly on display, in particular over the last weekend of winter sports.

The Boarder Parents' Community Event this year was wonderfully supported by over 80 parents and friends. This lovely evening was enjoyed by all and supported by Executive staff including Scott and Louise James, Phil O'Regan, Martin Gooding and the Boarding Heads of Stages; Vanessa Bromhead, James Maloney and James Norman. A very warm and friendly atmosphere circulated through the room with good friends catching up and sharing stories.

I know that our parents look forward to these gatherings during the year to support each other and to also acknowledge those city parents who regularly host many of our country boarders over the midterm weekends. There have been many





lifelong friendships developed over these opportunities. A special vote of thanks for the great team effort by our wonderful boarder mums who made this special event possible - Estelle du Plooy (Jacque, Y11) and Heidi Ord (Hugh, Y10). In addition, my thanks also to Fiona Sullivan who did a superb job working with these ladies to make wonderful boarding community events such as this one, come together seamlessly for all to enjoy.

Knox Boarding strives to develop a strong and close relationship with parents through regular meetings with boarding staff. Termly reports are given at the Boarder Parents' Support Group meetings which are held each term through the year. Each year, we welcome year group representatives who volunteer to take part on this committee. Thank you to Estelle du Plooy who has chaired this group for the past two years. In addition to supporting our Gala Day stalls, the group also source generous gifts and country holiday stays for the Boarders' Stall at the Gala Day raffle; all of which support the boys of Knox. Other areas of focus for this committee include community events held throughout the year. We acknowledge our boarder parents who are a wonderful support to our staff as we work together to provide a home away from home for the boarders.

Our Knox boarders are also offered an active role in our united community. As they live on-site for 38 weeks a year, it is important that their 'voice' is heard and are provided many opportunities to contribute their home at School.

Each semester, we invite the boys to join the Boarders' Leadership Team (BLT). Representatives from each year group are selected through processes involving a written application and an interview with Senior Prefects and Head of Stages. These boys hold their positions for a semester and regularly meet together with the Senior Prefects to share their ideas for their year group and how best they can contribute to the newly created 'Whole of Boarding Meetings' that we have each term. These meetings are run solely by the boys and showcase and celebrate the many talents of our boarders.

A new award was introduced this year to recognise boarders who go out of their way to develop and encourage community spirit. Recipients of the ConneXions Award 'demonstrate a genuine interest, appreciation and growing understanding of the various backgrounds in boarding and interact with their peers accordingly'.

Head Boarder Angus McHue said, "We are so lucky in Knox Boarding to have boys from over 14 different countries, all of whom call Knox Boarding their home. This deep-rooted sense of diversity and cultural inclusivity allows boys to communicate to others from a range of various cultural contexts and ages."

It is through our many events that the ties of Knox Boarding continue to strengthen. We look forward to the events planned for 2020 and beyond - what a wonderful community to be a part of!



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Year 12 boarder Zehao (Peter) Li who is the winner of the 2019 NSW International Student of the Year Award - Schools. Peter was acknowledged for his active role in a student committee that encourages inclusiveness amongst boarders and volunteering to mentor and assist new students, both rural and international.

Peter is pictured above with Mr Sullivan after receiving his award at Government House, Sydney.





# Food, Glorious Food

**In a single day, the kitchens of Knox produce more than 3,000 meals for the students, staff and parents of Knox.**

Each week the Knox community consumes more than 500 loaves of bread, 250kg of beef and 250kg of fruit.

On a single Thursday, more than 850 serves of butter chicken are sold across the Knox canteens.

It's fair to say food is fuel that runs Knox.

Behind the scenes is an incredible logistical team of chefs, kitchenhands and parent volunteers who all help to ensure the school's well fed.

"Knox is like a small city," says Des Malouf who is the Business Manager for Sodexo, the company which has held the tender to manage the School's canteens, boarding house meals and on-site catering since 1999.

"I used to run some very big hotels," says Des. "Knox is far more complicated than any hotel or resort that I've ever run."

Given the size and scale of Knox – three campuses, five canteens, more than 3,000 students and more than 500 fulltime staff – planning, preparing, cooking and serving food is a significant undertaking requiring detailed planning and organisation.

"We work on our menus and ordering about a month in advance," says Des.

Over his nine years at Knox, working closely with catering manager Rosa Simon, Des has overseen a change in the breadth of food on offer at Knox.

"The food is more nutritious than it once was, but we also offer a much wider range of food," says Des.

Butter chicken continues to be the most popular meal on the menu.



"The boys just absolutely love it," says Catering Manager Rosa Simon. "Whenever it's on the canteen menu the boys just woof it down."

Parents also have a significant role in the School's food story, with over 300 parents volunteering more than 8,000 hours in the School's canteens each year. "It's a great help," says Rosa. "It helps to keep down costs of the food and it's a chance for parents to make new friends."





## FAST FACTS



**850**

serves of butter  
chicken a week



**280kg**

bananas a month



**1T**

beef per month



**1T**

fruit per month



**2,000**

loaves of bread  
per month



**300kg**

Vegemite per year

“

I volunteer my time  
to feel a part of the  
Knox community

– FIONA SMALL, KNOX PARENT

## FOOD – A DAY IN THE LIFE

### Early hours

Fresh produce, bread and milk deliveries arrive at the School.

### 6am

The kitchens open with chefs and kitchenhands busy preparing for the boarders' breakfasts and starting meal prep for the day.

### 7am

It's breakfast time in the Boarders' Dining Room. Depending on the day, French toast, porridge or bacon and eggs might be on offer, along with staples such as a fresh fruit and cereal.

### Early morning

"Up until 10.30am, our staff are busier than at any point in the day," says Des. The chefs and kitchenhands are busy preparing meals for lunch, sandwiches and getting a head-start on dinner.

### 10am

It's the first big rush of the day, recess. Parent volunteers help out serving boys in the Prep and Senior School canteens. "I volunteer my time to feel a part of the Knox community" says Knox parent Fiona Small. "I catch up with friends of mine and have been doing a shift with the same ladies for eight years so far. Sometimes my sons also visit me at Tuckshop too, which is an added bonus."

### 1pm

It's lunchtime across the school. Anything from poke bowls to pesto pasta will be for sale.

### 1.30pm

The team from Sodexo will stop work, sit-down and share a meal together. "That becomes lunch, and meetings, and we throw ideas around; we treat it like a family."

### 5pm

Each evening, about 30 boys in Years 11 and 12 will request dinner in the Senior Academy while they study.

### 6pm

Hordes of hungry boarders arrive for dinner. The menus is always evolving, with the boarders providing input. "About a third of our boarders are from Hong Kong and China, so we have employed an Asian chef on Wednesdays to come in and cook authentic Asian food. We also serve every meal with boiled rice for these boys."

### 8pm

With dinner served and kitchens cleaned and packed down, it's home time for the Sodexo staff. "That's assuming we're not serving 600 people for a community function in the Great Hall - then we're here until 1am in the morning."





# Old Knox Grammarians' Association

KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL ALUMNI

Founded in 1929, The Old Knox Grammarians' Association was created for the perpetuation of memories, maintenance of friendship, enrichment of Old Boys and support of the School.

The Association is a group of over 10,000 members, all of whom share the common experience of having attended Knox.

This section of the *The Thistle* was prepared by the Old Knox Grammarians' Association.

## IMAGE ABOVE

Since the late eighties, outgoing Year 12 students have been welcomed into the OKGA with an Old Boys' tie given to them at the Valedictory Ceremony

## IN THIS SECTION





- 42 OKGA Events
- 43 News of Old Boys
- 44 OKGA Clubs
- 46 Obituaries and Announcements

## STAYING IN TOUCH

OKGA Office  
Telephone: +61 2 9487 0419  
Fax: +61 2 9488 2908  
Email: [okga@knox.nsw.edu.au](mailto:okga@knox.nsw.edu.au)  
[www.okga.org.au](http://www.okga.org.au)

PO Box 5008  
Wahroonga, NSW 2076  
AUSTRALIA

## SOCIAL MEDIA

-  [facebook.com/OKGAssociation](https://facebook.com/OKGAssociation)
-  [twitter.com/OKGA\\_online](https://twitter.com/OKGA_online)
-  [instagram.com/oldknoxgrammarians](https://instagram.com/oldknoxgrammarians)
-  [linkedin.com/school/knox-grammar-school](https://linkedin.com/school/knox-grammar-school)



# President's COLUMN



**JON STEWART  
(OKG03)**

President OKGA

As we come to the end of another school year, I am delighted to welcome 348 Old Boys into the OKGA. At their final school assembly, Headmaster Scott James asked the graduating class of 2019 to take a moment to consider how great it is to be taking their place in the OKGA community, and reminding our newest Old Boys that they will always be welcome at Knox.

As is tradition, all Year 12 boys were presented with an Old Boys' tie as they left the Great Hall for the final time as students. Along with several members of the OKGA Committee, I had the pleasure of shaking hands with many of the boys, congratulating them on reaching this major life milestone, before presenting them their ties as a very proud symbol of their ongoing connection to the School community.

The Valedictory Ceremony is one of the major highlights of our calendar where we seek to involve and recognise



“

... no matter when you left school, I hope each and every Old Boy is mindful that the alumni community is there for you.



representatives of the OKGA who are both committed contributors to the Association and also have a close connection to the leaving year. This year, Peter Constable (OKG88), Matthew Sherlock (OKG91), Grahame Pratt (OKG77) and Steve Kellaway (OKG77) were on hand to present ties to their graduating sons and their peers, while Brian Orr (OKG59) joined us to welcome his grandson into the Association.

I am sure many of you remember that moment - when the school tie came off and the Old Boys' tie went on for the first time. Surrounded by your family and friends, most smiling from ear to ear, some holding back the tears – it is a true privilege for the OKGA to be a part of this special day on the School's calendar.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reflect on the contribution of all the Old Boys for whom school prizes are named in their memory. The number of these prizes demonstrates not only the generosity of many Old Boys and their families, but also those lost too soon.

The diversity of academic subjects and co-curricular endeavours for which these prizes reward and celebrate achievement, showcases both the range of boys' interests and skills, and the opportunity available to those who wish to make the most of their Knox education. To the family members of those honoured by

these prizes, please know we think of you too, as the recipient of each award is announced during assembly. It was particularly special to hear the prize awarded in memory of James Forsythe, from my class at school, who passed away in Year 7. I'm sure I wasn't the only Old Boy present to reflect on some of the other names mentioned during the presentation.

Many of our newest OKGA members are no doubt excited to be leaving school and keen to explore what life will bring for them. On behalf of the OKGA, we wish you all the very best in the years ahead. May you enjoy a well-earned study break after your exams and a smooth transition to whatever you decide to do next. I hope you will remember that the OKGA is here for you if and when you ever need the support you enjoyed as a student of our great school.

Indeed, no matter when you left school, I hope each and every Old Boy is mindful that the alumni community is there for you. The end of a calendar year can bring challenging times as well as celebrations and joy. If you, or anyone you know requires assistance, please contact the OKGA's Benevolence Manager, Julie Davis, for a confidential discussion on 02 9119 0843 or 0406 885 674.



As we draw closer to the end of the year, the OKGA Committee is continuing to build on our strategic improvement process commenced late last year. While this transition continues to take time and we work closely with the School and a large number of Old Boys, we are always welcoming of any assistance to achieve our goals and ambitions. The OKGA Committee welcomes any feedback or guidance for how we can provide value to all Old Boys, regardless of age or location, and I encourage any of you to speak with a member of the Committee or the OKGA Office if you'd like to contribute your time and expertise to supporting our work.

Finally, with events season in full swing as I write this, I encourage as many of you as possible to attend the various events that take place across the year – our AGM, the ANZAC Day Service, Remembrance Day, the OKGA Golf Day, our area reunion events both in Australia and overseas, and the many OKGA year reunions taking place. Keep an eye on the eNews and the OKGA website for more details of the events as they arise.

✱

#### Above

Tom Constable (Y12) with his father and OKGA Committee member, Peter Constable (OKG88)



# Senior Knoxonians



## SENIOR KNOXONIANS' AND BARKER SENIORS' COMMITTEE LUNCHEON

Senior Knoxonians' President, Ken Powell (OKG61), with Headmaster and OKGA Patron, Scott James, at the Senior Knoxonians' and Barker Seniors' Committee luncheon, an annual event scheduled to coincide with the Rugby First XV Knox v Barker match.



Stephen Lloyd OBA delivered an impromptu address at the Senior Knoxonians' and Barker Seniors' Committee luncheon, to respond to Senior Knoxonians' President, Ken Powell's welcome address and historical rugby trivia.



## CLASS OF 1954 REUNION

L-R Ian MacPherson, Craig Miller, Geoffrey Yonge, Ken Deck, Robert Constable, Graeme Robinson, Peter Conde

## SENIOR KNOXONIANS' LADIES LUNCH



Helen Clarke, Head of Diversity, Justice and Stewardship, Billy Lloyd (Year 7), Margaret Marsden



Ron Stewart (OKG45) and Bevan Harris (OKG42)



Three former members of School Council, Alan Foulkes (OKG62), Roger Perkins (OKG67) and Rod McGeoch AO (OKG63). Mr McGeoch was the Lunch speaker.



Roger Perkins (OKG67) with wife Joan and Peter Turnbull (OKG68)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the Old Knox Grammarians' Association Incorporated will be held on:

**Tuesday 25 February 2020  
at 7.30pm**

**Knox Grammar School  
2 Borambil Street,  
Warrawee**



# OKGA Honours



## ALLEN COVER (OKG36)

The OKGA had the honour of hosting centenarian and WWII veteran, Allen Cover (OKG36) during his visit to the School in May. While visiting for the purpose of an interview with Juliette Brodsky for the School's Centenary Project, Allen also met with Headmaster, Scott James and shared memorabilia from his school days, including a report card.

During his interview, Allen shared reflections of Knox's first Headmaster, Neil MacNeil, tales of classroom mischief, misshapen boaters and many other anecdotes from his school days and beyond. He also spoke passionately about his Christian faith and spirituality.

We were deeply saddened to hear of Allen's passing on 13 September.

“

It's wonderful when you've got hindsight – you look back and think, what led to all these different stages of your life?



## ALLEN COVER (OKG36) 13/07/1919 - 13/09/2019

### ARTHUR W PARDEY (OKG41)

Arthur W Pardey (OKG41) was presented with Honorary Life Membership of the OKGA by Honorary Secretary, Ian Frame (OKG64) on 17 June. Arthur was accompanied at the ceremony by his grandson Cameron Ellis (OKG05)

Arthur was a student at Knox for ten years, and served with 3 Squadron RAAF during WWII. He received Honorary Life Membership for outstanding and longstanding support of the School and the OKGA. His contribution includes service to the OKGA's Sporting Sub Committee OKGA 1947 and Committee 1970, the OKGA History Sub Committee. He was also a founding member of Knox Archives Committee and a leading proponent in the establishment of the Old Knoxonians' Cricket Club in 1947.



✱

**Top** Arthur Pardey receiving his Honorary certificate from OKGA Honorary Secretary, Ian Frame

**Above**

Arthur Pardey shares a laugh with Headmaster, Scott James



## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The OKGA would like to congratulate the following Old Boys who received Queen's Birthday Honours this year.

### Hugh Jackman AC (OKG86)

For eminent service to the performing arts as an acclaimed actor and performer, and to the general community, particularly as an advocate for poverty eradication.

### The Hon Nicholas Minchin AO (OKG70)

(Pictured) For distinguished service to the Parliament of Australia, particularly in the industry and finance portfolios, and to the people of South Australia.

### Alan Cooper AM (OKG68)

For significant service to medicine and as a dermatologist and researcher.

### Michael Hollands AM (OKG69)

For significant service to Medical Education and Professional Standards, and as a surgeon.

### Andrew Leventhal AM (OKG68)

For significant service to Geotechnical Engineering and to the community.

### Peter Read AM (OKG62)

For significant service to Indigenous history.

### David Reeves OAM (OKG60)

For service to the performing arts, particularly through music composition.



# OKGA Events



## OKG CLASS OF 1959 60 YEAR REUNION

Thirty 'boys' celebrated the 60 years that had passed since their 1959 Leaving Certificate, at the School, on 13 September. Some present had been together since Kindergarten in 1949; most had passed through what was then known as 'The Upper School'. Highlights of the evening included a stimulating address from Headmaster Scott James, and an illustrated menu and pictorial presentations prepared by Roger Rigby with the School's Archives staff. Toasts were proposed to the School by Bruce Kennedy (1959 School Captain) and to 'our parents' by Richard Layton. Apologies were received from 40 OKG '59ers and those no longer with us were sadly remembered. Many tall tales and true were shared as the evening moved into reminiscent mode. The event was preceded by a tour of the school grounds, led by Lachlan Liao (OKG98).



## LONDON DINNER

25 Old Boys joined the Headmaster, staff, students and their families to celebrate the highly successful UK tour for the Pipes and Drums. Two representatives from the tour shared highlights from their trip at the whole Senior School Assembly in August, noting their appreciation for the Old Boys who attended the final function of their tour.



## CAREERS BREAKFASTS

Jon Lam (OKG13), Senior Associate from Ernst & Young, and Rory Keyes (OKG07), Senior Consultant from KPMG Australia chat with students after a keynote address from former parent and KPMG National Managing Partner, James Hunter, about careers in business.

Angus Donovan (OKG08), Sandy Tulloch (OKG07) and Chris Skellern (OKG15) attended the second industry focused careers breakfast for 2019 to share their experience of engineering.



## TAMWORTH MORNING TEA

On Daffodil Day, 23 August, Bruce Paynter (OKG71) and his wife Marianne, hosted a morning tea at the Hopscotch Café in Tamworth. This is the tenth morning tea that has been organised by the Paynters in the region. All ladies were presented with a bunch of daffodils, purchased in support of the Cancer Council.

Also in attendance: Michael and Barbara Bidecove (OKG 48), Robert Bruce (OKG45) and Mary Chapman, Peter and Jane Wilson (OKG 52); and Kim and Margaret Strong (OKG71).

## BRISBANE DINNER

More than 60 Knox Old Boys, including a strong Rugby contingent, attended the OKGA's Brisbane dinner on 7 September. Convened by David Stark (OKG62), the dinner featured grace by Barrie Blackwell (OKG55), as well as an outstanding presentation by Headmaster, Scott James regarding the developments at Knox and an informative slideshow prepared by Knox Archivist, Julie Mason.

Many who had not previously heard Mr James speak commented on Knox's good fortune in having such a far-sighted and inspiring Headmaster. His remarks on developing in students the skills required for jobs not yet created impressed all.



Other highlights included award presentations to former Knox Rugby Club members (in celebration of the Club's 60th anniversary) and an address by Russell Francis (OKG54) about his father, Viv Francis' leadership of the School.



# News

## OF OLD BOYS



### ANGUS BAKER (OKG16)

Angus (pictured above) was named North East Australian Football League Rising Star at the end of the 2019 season, ranked number 1 for Total Champion data ranking points.

### TIM WALSH (OKG15) AND LUKE WETMORE (OKG15)

Tim and Luke, who are both studying Commerce and Law at Sydney University, won the grand final of the Clayton Utz Negotiations Competition.

### MARK ELLIOTT (OKG91)

In the Mens' Masters division (over 35s) of the Victorian Biathlon Championships this past July, Mark won the Individual event (five ski laps and shooting four times) and came second in the Sprint event (three ski laps and shooting twice). Mark has competed in the Biathlon for the past four years and won his Masters age division, the Masters and Australian Individual event three times and the Australian Sprint event once. Biathlon is a cross country ski course and target shooting event, where competitors try to hit targets 50 metres away five times. Competitors alternate between shooting in prone and standing positions. Every miss adds either a time penalty or an extra short ski loop.

### EVAN OLMSTEAD (OKG08)

Evan played for Canada in the 2019 Rugby World Cup (RWC) in the position of lock, his second World Cup Campaign. In a news article on the RWC website, Evan shared the history of his introduction to the sport at School and thoughts on growing up as the nephew of 'ice hockey royalty', Bert Olmstead.



### ALEX MCNAUGHT (OKG79)

Outdoor photographer, Alex McNaught, of Roving-Eye.com Photography, captured some stunning photos of the 2019 Noakes Sydney Gold Coast Yacht Race in July. His photos were spotted, then shared on social media by race organisers, The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia.



### BILLY BROWNING (OKG11)

In September, Billy (pictured above) was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship, by Nuffield Australia. The Farming Scholarships are designed to give Australian citizens the opportunity to study farming practices abroad. Faced with the issue of reduced water reliability, Billy plans to investigate the value of adding irrigation water and increased utilisation of low-flowing water. Source: Nuffield Australia

### BRUCE ELDER (OKG61) AND REX WARD (OKG61)

"This is a story of how those people you once knew so well, and saw so often, may have had their lives changed by their chance... And it is a story which, in one small example, answers that most challenging of questions that teachers ask themselves...". We encourage Old Boys to read this article by Bruce Elder about Rex Ward in full at the Griffith Review website.



#### Read the article

To read the full article online  
<http://bit.ly/elderward>

To obtain a printed copy, please contact the OKGA Office.



### OKGA MOST IMPROVED AWARDS

Harry Chapman (OKG15) and Will Cole (OKG15) returned to the Senior and Prep Schools respectively, to present the OKGA's 2019 Winter Most Improved Awards. These awards recognise the grit, perseverance and dedication of the boys in improving their skills, capabilities and achieving their personal best.



\*

**Top** Harrison Miller (Y9), Toby Harding (Y9) with Harry Chapman (OKG15)

**Above** James Osman (Y3) with Will Cole (OKG15)

### WHAT'S YOUR NEWS?

Have you recently won an award, competition, been selected in a representative team and/or as a scholarship recipient? Achieved one of your goals? Please share your news with us:

[okga@knox.nsw.edu.au](mailto:okga@knox.nsw.edu.au)



# OKGA Clubs

## OLD KNOXONIANS' CRICKET CLUB

### JACK STOCKS (OKG13)

Club President

The OKCC is looking forward to the 2019/20 summer of cricket. After losing the Grand Final last season, the team is primed and ready to go one better this time around.

One of the great strengths of the Club has been recent leavers from the School joining the Club.

The OKGA would like to thank outgoing OKCC President Charlie Bangs (OKG07) for his dedication and service to the Old Boys' Cricket community.

If you are keen for a game, or if you are interested in joining or supporting the OKCC, please contact us via [knobscricket@gmail.com](mailto:knobscricket@gmail.com).

## KNOX UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

### DANIEL RAHME (OKG14)

Club President

In our 24th Season, Knox United celebrated three titles, a dramatic Premier League survival and the accomplishments of Club President, Chris Wiseman (OKG06).

Our newly-formed junior team, the under 14s, brought home the Division 2 title – scoring an incredible 34 goals and keeping seven clean sheets - an immensely successful first year. Former Premier League coach, Vince Cali brought the success of the past few years to the under 14s and we look forward to the many trophies these talented players will bring to the Club. The Club plans to expand the junior program, with a number of potential teams already in discussion.

Our over 35s were also in good form, with the Division 6 team picking up five wins across the season and finishing eighth. Many helped out the Division 5 team when they were short. Scoring an NSFA season high 78 goals, our Division 5 team finished the regular season in 2nd place and they managed to go one better in the grand final where they put on a footballing masterclass, winning 4-0. Well done lads!

Our Premier League Squad endured a difficult season, but secured top-flight status for another year in dramatic fashion. With the last play of the season, down 3-2 to North Sydney and sitting in last place on the table due to goal difference, equal on points with two other teams, we won a free kick 10 meters up from the corner post. We sent everyone forward into the box (including our keeper) for a last chance 'Hail Mary' play. After the cross was delivered into the box, the ball bounced around before falling to the feet of Charlie Baker (OKG15), who put the ball in the back of the net with the last kick of the game. Equalising the game meant we grabbed a vital point and jumped into 8th place - out of the relegation zone. The Premier League squad will look to build on this exciting finish and create more breathing room next season.

The annual end of season trip to Mallacoota brought more success with the boys winning the tournament for the fourth time and doing so back-to-back for the second time (2013, 2014 and 2018 being the other Mallacoota titles).

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Christopher Wiseman's service to the Club. After six years, Chris has stepped down from the role of President. The Club would like to thank Chris for his incredible contribution over these years (and his three years as Vice President). During Chris' time as President, he secured financial security for the club, junior expansion, consistent Premier League status, a number of promotions and grand finals wins, as well as three



Mallacoota Cup Championships (four including this year). On behalf of everyone involved in the Club, we would like to thank Chris for everything he has helped the Club to achieve. Thank you, Wisey!

★  
**Top**  
 The Mallacoota Cup  
**Middle** Football  
 Club new junior  
 football team  
**Bottom** Football  
 Club Premier squad





## KNOX RUGBY CLUB 60TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

### JAMES GELLERT (OKG07)

Club President

Brothers IV Brothers has raised more than \$1 million for the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital since inception, a milestone which was celebrated at the Blue Gum Hotel, Waitara in September, where a further \$120k was raised. Thanks to all in the OKGA community who have supported BIVB.

Congratulations to the Knox Old Boy 3rd Grade side for winning back-to-back premierships! The boys took home the trophy after defeating Drummoyne, 10-5. An excellent achievement to cap off our 60th season, especially following the BIVB milestone lunch the day prior!

If you're interested in playing, coaching, volunteering or sponsoring the Old Boys Rugby Club in 2020, please email Club President James Gellert (OKG07) via [rugby@okga.org.au](mailto:rugby@okga.org.au).

✱

**Top left** FC Over 35s, Division 6 team

**Top right** RC Whiddon Cup winners

**Middle left** FC Division 5 team

**Middle right** Knox Rugby Club helped raise over \$65k for Western Care Lodge run by Cancer Care Western NSW during the 2019 Brothers IV Brothers (BIVB) Orange Tour

**Bottom left** Andrew Yeung (OKG10) and Fraser Engelen (OKG10) with the BIVB cup

**Bottom middle** Chris O'Brien Lifehouse plaque

**Bottom right** Old Boys' Pipe Band at St Ives

**Above Left** 2019 Brothers IV Brothers (BIVB) Orange Tour

**Above Right** The Old Boys' Pipe Band opened the 2019 Novus Foundation Gala Ball at Miramare Gardens in May



# Obituaries

## THE HON DR ALEXANDER JAMES (JIM) FORBES CMG MC (OKG41) 16/12/23 – 10/08/19

### BRUCE KENNEDY (OKG59)

Dr Forbes attended Knox from 1934 to 1938 and is listed as a 1941 leaver. He was a day boy and member of North House. Dr Forbes graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1942 and was commissioned into the Australian Army. On 24 April 1945, Dr Forbes was awarded the Military Cross (MC) in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in the South West Pacific. Dr Forbes studied at the University of Adelaide and Magdalen College, Oxford. He is best remembered as a former Australian politician and, prior to his death, was one of only four living Australian parliamentarians who served in the 1950s and the last remaining Liberal Party minister of the Menzies Government. A Member of the Australian Parliament from 13 October 1956 until 11 November 1975, Dr Forbes represented the electorate of Barker in South Australia. He was appointed Minister for the Army (December 1963 - January 1966), Minister for Health (January 1966 – March 1971) and Minister for Immigration (March 1971 - December 1972). In 1977, Dr Forbes was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in recognition of service to the Parliament. He will be remembered as a proud and distinguished Old Knox Grammarian.

## IAN G ANGWIN (OKG51) 05/03/1934 – 23/09/19

### JOHN SOUTHAM (OKG51)

Ian Angwin was a North House boy under the legendary House Master Pos Brown. Ian excelled in the swimming pool, setting records that may well stand today. He also played front row in the 1st XV in 1951.

Called up for National Service in 1952, Ian returned to the 30th Scottish Battalion to complete two years of Citizen Military Forces training in 1953/54.

Ian's working life had him in Fiji for 18 years with CSR until he returned to their Adelaide office from where he retired.

Ian and his wife Mary were the proud parents of seven children, five of whom were born in Fiji.

## TONY PASKINS (OKG45) 25/09/28 – 15/08/19



Ian Sinclair AC MP (OKG45) and Bruce Kennedy (OKG59) wrote a story about the life of Tony Paskins, which was published in the OKGA

eNews in September. If you would like a copy of this story, please contact the OKGA Office.

## JOHN GREENHILL PHIPPEN (OKG60) 01/07/44 – 18/08/19

### ANDREW PHIPPEN (OKG71)

Beloved brother of Andrew (OKG71), John was a member of the Rugby First XV and Dux of the School.

John Greenhill Phippen (OKG60) passed away in Canberra on 18 August 2019, after a short illness.

John was born in Melbourne on 1 July 1944 and shortly thereafter, the family moved to Turrumurra.

John started Knox in first class and was Dux of the School in his final year, 1960.

He was a voracious reader from the age of four. As a result, his general knowledge was remarkable. In those days, the School had a general knowledge prize. As a young Prep School boy, John Phippen was virtually unbeatable, even against much older boys.

That passion for general knowledge stuck with John his entire life and in his last few years in Canberra he was always in demand for trivia nights. His team was known far and wide as 'The General and his Minions'.

John played in the Knox First XV in 1960 and regarded the blue scarf with his initials as a very important possession.

His passion, however, was always the Army. Having been a CUO in the Cadet Corps and a member of the UNSW Regiment he decided that a full time military career was for him and was selected for the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1964.

His Duntroon graduation report noted that in many aspects of the military course he was the outstanding student of the class. He won



the prize for the graduate with the highest aggregate marks in military arts, along with the military aviation essay prize and advanced training prize. He also won the staff duties, training, intelligence, war administration, and signals awards.

After graduating, he joined the Signals Corps where he rose to the rank of Major. His last posting was to run the Army's Quality Assurance Unit. This created a passion for software quality which he carried into civilian life, being chair of a number of international software standards committees.

John returned from the USA some five years ago and settled in Canberra where he could spend more time with his daughters, Jane and Sarah and his grandchildren, Lauren, Hamish and Matilda - all of whom he adored.

Many of the comments about John started with, 'larger than life'. Generous was also a word often applied to John by his friends and colleagues. He will be missed.

✱

**Top right** Ian G Angwin (OKG51)

**Bottom right** John Greenhill Phippen (OKG60)



# Announcements

## BIRTHS

Emily Grace Feil, daughter of Nick Feil (OKG04)  
and Anne Feil – 18/06/19

Joan Florence Aurora Hanney, daughter of Roger  
Hanney (OKG92) and Hailey Napper – 01/09/19

Zadie Stratton, daughter of John Stratton (OKG94)  
and Paula Stratton – 25/06/19

Joshua Levi Wong, son of Kenny Wong (OKG03)  
and Danielle Wong – 22/09/19

Linton Mearns Morris QC (OKG51/52)  
20/01/35 – 11/06/19

Gavan Newman (OKG46/47)  
05/02/30 – 30/06/19

Anthony (Tony) Heather Paskins (OKG45)  
25/09/28 – 15/08/19

Jonathan Pfahl (OKG99)  
11/01/82 – 14/08/19

John Greenhill Phippen (OKG60)  
01/07/44 – 18/08/19

Frederick Antony Pratten (OKG53)  
03/03/36 – 12/06/19

John Hyla Preston (OKG46/47)  
04/06/28 – 17/06/19

Geoffrey Willis Reardon (OKG44)  
12/07/27 – 08/05/19

John M Rourke (OKG49)  
18/02/32 – 20/08/19

Donald Fyfe Sutherland (OKG39/40)  
18/03/23 – 18/06/19

Michael Tait Wrigley (OKG51)  
28/02/34 – 10/19

## MARRIAGES

Brian Lindsay (OKG90) and Simon Moore  
– 24/08/19

Jock Tolmie (OKG08) and Michelle Linke  
– 08/09/19

## DEATHS

The OKGA extends its sincere condolences on  
behalf of the Old Boy community to the families  
and friends of the following:

Ian Angwin (OKG51)  
05/03/34 – 23/09/19

Allen Cansdell Cover (OKG36)  
13/07/19 – 13/09/19

The Honourable Dr Jim Forbes CMG MC (OKG41)  
16/12/23 – 10/08/19

Michael John Freeman (OKG97)  
03/08/79 – 07/05/19

Jeremy Vahan Geokjian (OKG08)  
11/06/90 – 06/07/19

Neil Hector MacLean (OKG54)  
21/12/37 – 19/08/19

Grainger Boyd Allister McFarlane (OKG68)  
25/12/50 – 06/08/19

Aadarsh Karthikeya Madhavan (OKG18)  
26/08/01 – 30/07/19

John Laurence Henderson Martin (OKG50)  
11/03/32 – 08/09/19





# DISCOVER EXTRAORDINARY

## Contact Us

Knox Grammar School  
PO Box 5008, Wahroonga NSW 2076 AUSTRALIA  
Telephone (02) 9487 0122 | Fax (02) 9487 0186

[www.knox.nsw.edu.au](http://www.knox.nsw.edu.au)

