Foreword from Chairman of the School Council

2009 has been a year in which we have been laying new foundations for an even more dynamic and successful Knox Grammar School, including:

- The development and expansion of social justice programs
- Detailed planning and consultation to further improve the curriculum and enhance academic outcomes
- The commencement of the largest building program in the School’s history

These are clear statements of the health and intent of the School.

It is a pleasure for the School Council to be part of, and preside over, this new period of establishment and growth.

Knox is a vibrant, exciting and purposeful place and, on behalf of the School Council, I would like to congratulate the students, staff and entire Knox Community on the achievements which are represented in these pages and indeed on all those other marvellous events and achievements which could not be included in this celebratory issue of The Thistle.

Mr Rob Wannan
Chairman, School Council

From the Headmaster

It has been said that ‘reflection’ is a very healthy process, enabling us to see the bigger picture of ourselves and what we are like now compared to some previous point in time.

So it is with the School, that place where our children are involved in personal, physical, intellectual, emotional, social and cultural growth. As each boy, parent and staff member ‘reflects’ on the year of 2009 we will all see progress and change.

I do encourage some reflection but with a caveat or two. I think it unwise to look back and consider the ‘lost opportunities’ or the ‘bad decisions’ and beat ourselves up. Would it not be better to study our reflection carefully, call it as it is, the achievements and the failures, ask as Professor Julius Sumner Miller would, ‘why is it so?’ and then look to the opportunities of the future? In personal development and personal education the job is never done, and we are never all knowing or all wise.

Enthusiastic supporters at the Knox Gala Day.

On the front cover – Shamus McCully, Year 12, at the 2009 Anzac Day Service

So what about Knox? What sort of year has the ‘Old School’ had? The ‘Old School’ turned 85 this year, not that far to the big 100 which McDonalds Performing Arts Challenge and the Australian National Band Championships.

I stated some years ago, because I believed it to be true, that young people see injustice in our world and want desperately to do something about it. That ‘something’ can take many forms from supporting a charity with funds, to serving in a ‘soup kitchen’, to helping the elderly or the disabled as well as working with people overseas. Knox boys now do all these things (and more) and I am delighted that these Social Justice and Community Service programs continue to grow; the small spark now becoming a self-fuelled fire.

The ‘Old School’ is continuing to have a 21st Century makeover, with key iconic buildings renewed and new buildings rapidly rising to benefit our boys of today and the students of tomorrow.

The Boarding Centre will open in June 2010 and the Great Hall in January 2011.

The world of Music and Drama continues to grow providing boys with some very special opportunities to develop and enjoy these activities. You will have read of the successes and successes of our groups at the National and State levels. Both Prep and Senior School groups finished with honours at both the Yamaha and NSW Band Competitions, whilst Knox ensembles also won Gold at the...
In June Autonomous Energy installed 4kW of solar electricity at the School. 2kW systems were installed on the roofs of the Paterson Centre and the K-2 Centre (pictured). Each system comprises 13 high efficiency LG solar modules. The systems are connected to SMA inverters which connect to the electrical network via digital bi-directional meters. The systems are also connected to the internet so that the systems energy production data can be accessed by students.

In Term 3, Year 7 went to Taronga Park Zoo as part of their unit on Classification. During the day students participated in numeracy and literacy activities including a presentation in the Eduman Centre and completing their student body media in arts class assessment following the excursion. The day isn’t all work - pictured is Mr McGowan’s class enjoying the Seal Show.

Guests of honour Grahame Mapp (2nd from left) and Tony Gifford (2nd from right), delighted to have the oval and the pavilion respectively named after them, with Peter Bax (School Council) and John Weeks, Headmaster.

Construction of the new Boarding House is progressing well. This state of the art facility, providing hotel like accommodation, is due for completion in June 2010.

On Founders’ Day 2009, the School community assembled to honour the particular contribution of William McIlrath, Founder and Benefactor, a man whose foresight and philanthropy shaped the School, by renaming the Knox War Memorial Chapel the William McIlrath War Memorial Chapel.

On 27 August Dr Marsden Hordern VRD OKG39 addressed Years 7 and 8 students during their Stage 4 Assembly. As a former student Dr Hordern was able to present an informative and colourful account of the School’s history. Dr Hordern addressed the changes to school life since 1958. He noted however, that the School had always managed to retain the core values of faith, wisdom, compassion and integrity. He particularly emphasised the need for all Knox boys to remember the ultimate price that some former students have paid in their service to their country. In this photograph at the Friedlander Memorial gates, Ronald ‘Ron’ Hordern reflects with some Year 7 and 8 students on sacrifices paid by brave Knox men of past years.

While the new Boarding House is going up, the old pool is coming down to make way for the Great Hall and Aquatic Centre which was featured in the September 2009 Thistle.

The Knox agricultural plot, Inglewood, is open to the public on Garden Day. Heath Molden (Y12) is pictured with a Barley crop. It was lambing season and visitors were treated to the privilege of seeing both the lambs and ewes and especially the two new sets of twins.

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Boarders Leadership

Year 11 Boarders are taking on new roles as the Year 12 Leaders and attended their Induction on Wednesday 21 October. Five senior Boarders have been appointed into leadership roles as Prefects to support the Senior Boarder in his role.

The Prefects for 2010 are Arthur Au, Mitchell Morrow, Joseph Phelps, Richard Tulloch, Andrew Yeung and the Senior Boarder is Sandy Laurie.

Also on 21 October, the Boarders Leadership Team Chapel Service and Induction was held in the William McIlrath War Memorial Chapel to initiate the new Boarder Leadership Team for Term 4, 2010. The Boarder Leadership Team includes Senior Boarders 2009 Sandy Laurie, Brysky Cantwell, Keirun Teo, in addition to new Boarders Leaders Year 7 boarder, Chang Ryu, Year 8 boarder, Michael Liu, Year 9 boarder, Nicholas Pittman and Year 10 boarder, Billy Browning.

The indigenous dance group, Yuin Nation Group performed at the Knox Peace Ceremony. Centre is Year 7 boarder, Tony O’Neill.

Ian Kim (Y9) and Michael Choy (Y10) on a Boarders outing - fishing at Bobbin Head!

Boarders enjoying Six Event day

Years 7 and 10 boys took part in the ‘Boys to Men’ Mentoring Camp in the Shoalhaven area.

Gillespie and MacNeil Boarders assisted Wahroonga Rotary with the clean-up of Wahroonga Park as part of ‘Clean Up Australia Day’.

Year 7 boys were keen to learn the finer points of table etiquette during their session as part of the ‘whole of life’ program.

Year 11 Boarders took part in the RYDA driver awareness education day at the purpose built arena at St Ives. Many of these boys have their L and P Plates and benefitted greatly from the course.

Year 7 Boarders have completed an 8 week Cooking Program. They have gained basic cooking skills that will help them for life.
In ‘All Shook Up’, the scary Mayor (Gabrielle Kelland) sends her son Dean (Spencer Bowen) back to military school in front of an admiring Sheriff Earl (Christopher Gates).

Richard Magoffin of Room 12 which performed Coldplay’s ‘Fix You’ and ‘Hysteria’ by Muse at the final of Battle of the Bands. Battle of the Bands 2010 will be in Term 1 with the heats commencing in week 5.

The Knox Symphony Orchestra (KSO) preparing for Symphony Under the Stars.

Sandy Roach and Karlyn Chow standout in the ‘All Shook Up’ chorus.

Lucy (Caitlin Harris) confronts the long-suffering Charlie Brown (Blake Condon).

James Robertson, Jasper Dweck and William Galvin in the Year 7 Drama Club performance.

Old Boy guest judges, Jason Foulkes (Macsta Music Management), Rohan Cork (Fasterlouder Magazine), Pat Hamilton (Sony Music) and Andy Bull (artist Universal Music), all professionals in the music industry, enjoyed Battle of the Bands.

Beggs jamming about to rock the jailhouse. Front: Jason Boyd, Charles Callander, Sam Cameron, Tom Buckley, James Jeffree and Matt Campbell. Back: Blake Condon, Michael Kitchen and Sandy Roach.

Happy inmates about to rock the jailhouse. Front: Jason Boyd, Charles Callander, Sam Cameron, Tom Buckley, James Jeffree and Matt Campbell. Back: Blake Condon, Michael Kitchen and Sandy Roach.

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KSA continues to grow and achieve individually and with teams! As the pictures show, the Knox Sports Academy delivers a wide range of sports and activities both within the CAS competitions and also in the local and wider communities. It is always looking at innovative ways and change as cricket under lights and in coloured uniforms shows.

The KSA delivers sport to boys meeting their commitment as a Knox student and also to those who wish to go further. Mentoring is offered to any student who wishes to go the highest levels. Extra training opportunities are also offered to any boy who wishes to improve their fitness and skill levels in any sport.

Knox has students competing in many different sports at National and International levels as well as in teams such as our Football CIS Cup team which won the NSW CIS Championship and the NSW All Schools Championship.

Knox defeated The Hills Sports High School in the NSW All Schools Challenge Cup. Scores were locked 1-all at the end of regular time after the equalising goal from Callum Hornwood. A further time the score remained the same; the game was decided on penalties, Knox winning 4-2, to become the first independent school to win the Cup.

The 81st CAS Track and Field Championships were held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre on 24 September. Knox finished second to Trinity. The four boys pictured achieved the extraordinary feat of achieving wins CIS Track and Field records. They are Cameron Link (U13 100m hurdles, 13.41), James Paek (U14 200m, 23.27s), Angus McEntyre (Open Discus, 43.83m) and Joshua Davies (U15 1500m, 4:15.58).

The Knox Cross Country team and coaches at the end of season race in Sydney Park. Front - Joshua Davies, Ms Dale Thompson (MIC), Rhys Wickenden | back - Nicholas Pittman, Matthew Mallo (captain), Mr Richard Winstanley (coach), Edward Sansing, Dave Buxton, Samuel Braithwaite and Jonathan Bertram.
Timothy Swanson, who is the youngest piper in the Preparatory School Pipe Band, competed in the 2009 Australasian Young Solo Piper of the Year Competition in Sutton Forest, NSW. He was awarded Runner-Up in the Under 12 section with his rendition of ‘Amazing Grace.’

The Knox Prep AFL Team, led by Jake Veale, were crowned Sydney Champions after they beat Manly Warringah Public in the Final of the Sydney Harbour Paul Kelly Cup. The team features CIS representatives Lachlan Bruce, Elysha Board and Ben Parkes and the Prep’s first ever NSW Representative, Lachlan Swinton.

Mr Bob Thomas has always had a personal involvement with all of his charges in the Prep. Whether it’s as a recipient of an award or as a participant, to Mr Thomas all boys are ‘winners’ when they follow the unofficial Prep School motto of ‘Have a go.’

In this year’s K/2 Track and Field Carnival held in September, Mr Thomas, as usual, attended and invited himself to judge by adjudicating, supporting boys and making anyone feel a part of the event. Mr Thomas is seen here awarding Tom Gratwicke of Championship winning House Burns, the medal for 3rd place in the 8 years Boys’ Championship.

Mr Ian McPherson presented Callum Maritz with a set of bagpipes in memory of his late wife, Mrs Margaret McPherson in a special assembly at the Prep School. Her interest and involvement for the bagpipes was instrumental in establishing the first Prep School Pipe Band.
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ANNUAL ANZAC DAY OLD BOYS MEMORIAL SERVICE AND CEREMONIAL PARADE

OLD KNOX GRAMMARIANS


1959 Gillespie House Boarders – John Stewart, John Amos, Bob Keft and Tom Fearby

Catafalque Party

The OKGA Honouring Service recognises and honours those Old Knox Grammarians who have served in the defence forces. This year we honoured Cdre JP Stevenson, Alex McQueen, Frank Wilson and Peter McHenry and presented the OKGA Honouring Service Medals to the Gallant Gentleman. All medals were presented to the Gallant Gentleman.

On Saturday 31 October, alumni from the ‘Year of 1959’ gathered at the School for their 50th Year Reunion Dinner, which was held in the Function Room of KG1. Prior to the Dinner, Rob Simes, Old Boy, Burnie Grammar School 1959, described his school experience.

There was much reminiscing during the night and for a number of Old Boys present, the evening also celebrated 60 years since they arrived in Form 1 at the Prep School in February 1949.

OKGA President, Mr Michael Kelynack and Prep School Captain, William Cole.

OKGA Rugby Club Colts team with their premiership trophy. OKGA Rugby Club First Grade with their premiership trophy.

25 Year Reunion

Front Row (L-R) – David Cooper, Tim Southerden, Andrew Leuchars, Cameron Elvin, John Gilmore, David Marshall, David Wilson, David Kelynack, Andrew Suater, Andrew Webber, Michael Shugg, Jonathan Shorter.

OKGA Rugby Club First Grade with their premiership trophy.

Drum Major Angus McEntyre

The inspection of recruits at the Parade following the Anzac Service.

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