



THE *Thistle*

KNOX GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAGAZINE



ISSUE 02
DEC

22

Headmaster

Enhancing the wellbeing of young people

Performing Arts

Students return on stage for three wonderful productions

Social Justice

Serving the local and wider community

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

Taking flight: Knox Prep boys aim sky high!

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The Old Boys wrap up the year with some wonderful reunions and events

A Positive Outlook



Learned optimism involves young people developing the ability to engage in realistic thinking.

Building optimism and resilience in young people is considered by many, key in addressing mental health issues across our society today. With the rate of students suffering anxiety and depression a growing concern, schools are uniquely placed to teach healthy student attitudes and self-awareness.



MR SCOTT JAMES

Headmaster of Knox Grammar School

Countless studies have been conducted on optimism and resilience and most of them support the same conclusions: a positive outlook can have a significant impact on mental and physical health, particularly in children and adolescents.

Clearly, optimism is a trait that should become more common, judging by Winston Churchill’s famous quote that ‘a pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.’ Fortunately, optimism and resilience are attributes that can be learned. Leading authorities in the field of positive psychology, define optimism as reacting to problems with a sense of confidence and high personal ability.

When farewelling the Class of 2022, it was this sense of conviction and capacity that I wanted to celebrate at their graduation. The young men in Year 12 did not simply survive two years of the pandemic; they grew together and thrived together during the most testing of times. They worked very hard to make the best of themselves, persevering and working towards their goals in a determined way. I was confident this Year Group had arrived at their graduation an optimistic and resilient group of young men, who were ready to tackle the next set of challenges beyond Knox.

While the challenges for our children seem to be both numerous and at times confronting, it is my belief that young people should look to the future with optimism. Our students are not being sent off into a dislocated and ruinous world, full of chaos and disaster. The world is not broken; it is easy to be scared by the horrors of the media, to conclude that everything is terrible and that the only attitude that makes sense is one of profound pessimism.

It is imperative to encourage children to believe in the power of optimism and to embrace challenges as a

way of building their resilience. They need to recognise the reality of the uncertainty and challenges of our world. Learning to be resilient involves failure, feedback and a fair dollop of optimism. The ability to bounce back and maintain buoyancy in the sea of life is a skill that can and should be explicitly taught in homes and schools.

By teaching children to challenge negative self-talk and replacing pessimistic thoughts with more positive ones, they can learn how to become more optimistic. In other words, learned optimism involves young people developing the ability to engage in realistic thinking. To recognise that most problems are time-sensitive, we encourage our students to foster a sense of control in a given situation.

The creation of the Research Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA) reflects our ongoing commitment to improve the lives of young people. The School’s vision is for the Institute’s innovative research to lead to changes in policy and practice, thus enhancing the wellbeing of young people.

Currently, the Institute is collaborating with the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Wellbeing Science, leading a systematic review of academic literature in the field of evidence-based wellbeing practices in education.

This research is complemented by a systematic review and meta-analysis by our Science of Wellbeing (SOW) Team investigating the practical evidence-based interventions that underpin our Total Fitness model of holistic wellbeing.

There is no doubt that developing a more hopeful pattern of thinking can only help our young people more successfully navigate the inevitable failures and mistakes that appear throughout life.

With the work of RICA and our SOW Teams, Knox is committed to building in our students the knowledge and skills needed to overcome the everyday stressors that are associated with children and adolescence. Our commitment is to design and implement evidence-based programs to develop resilience and positive mental health, so just like our recent graduates, when our young men walk out of the gates, they can work through challenges by learning to face them in a more deliberate and positive manner.

This is a challenge worth pursuing and investing in.

SCIENCE OF WELLBEING (SOW) TEAM

SOW aims to enhance the wellbeing of each member of our School community. Bringing together a team of Clinical Psychologists, PhD researchers and experienced educators, SOW works to promote the practical application of evidence-based wellbeing science initiatives. Visit <https://sow.knox.nsw.edu.au> for research-based parenting articles and more information.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (RICA)

The core purpose of the Institute is to improve the academic and personal wellbeing of young people through research and application. For more information visit: <https://www.rica.nsw.edu.au>

Around THE GROUNDS



PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Year 10 Photography and Digital Media students embarked on an overnight excursion to the Blue Mountains. They took part in an astrophotography workshop with landscape photographer, Gary Hayes and produced a series of brilliant photographs of the stars at various locations throughout Lithgow.

They were also welcomed to the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, where they heard a talk from renowned photomedia artist, Yvette Hamilton, as well as a cyanotype workshop.



2022-23 STUDENT LEADERS

The 2022-23 Student Leadership Team was announced in Term 3. Congratulations to Angus Wines (School Captain), Beau Morrison and Blake Roder (Vice Captains respectively) who together with Year 12 students, will lead the School.



Chess Champions

Congratulations to our Intermediate Chess Team of Trent Song, Dayan (Seth) Peramunetilleke, Ralph Tsui and Nikolaus Van on being crowned NSW State Chess Champions (Y9 and Y10). After 12 rounds of intense Friday evening competition, they won in the final against Sydney Technical High School.

Prep Music Festival

An astounding 340 Knox Prep boys performed at the Australian Band and Orchestral Festival. All eight ensembles were amazing and achieved a Gold Award!





TRACK AND FIELD

Congratulations to our Track and Field Team that placed second in the CAS Championships in September. An amazing effort and our best finish in 15 years!



KNOX PREP BOOK WEEK

There was a colourful display of creative costumes and characters at this year's Book Week and it was fantastic to see so many students passionate about the characters in their favourite books. The 2022 theme was 'Dreaming with eyes open...'



Year 5 Excursion

As part of their Knoxigations unit 'History informs our thinking and transforms humankind', Year 5 students visited the Sydney Jewish Museum. They heard a testimony from a Holocaust survivor and learnt about how the propaganda of the time was shaped by old myths and stereotypes. Students left the museum with messages of gratitude, hope and kindness for the future. The museum staff and survivors were truly amazed at the boys' curiosity and compassion.



RUGBY SUCCESS

The Rugby season wrapped up with a wonderful fixture against Barker College. Knox finished with an impressive 13 wins from 15 matches - a most successful and enjoyable season.





BUDDING MUSICIANS

The String Program at Wahroonga Prep continues to flourish, with over 30 students in the String Ensemble. There is also an elite Concertino Ensemble for students who are performing at an advanced level. Both have performed at several events throughout the year, including the Annual String Showcase Concert.



COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Congratulations to Old Boy, Will Yang (OKG16) and Knox swim coach, Ellie Cole, who competed at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Will (pictured here at the CAS Championships in 2016), won fifth in the 100m freestyle final, gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay, silver in the 4 x 100m medley relay and gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay – mixed.

Will took his medals to Knox Prep and helped staff hand out awards last term - a true sportsman!



Pizzey Cup Tennis

Congratulations to Nick Bigeni (Y12) and Leo Phijidvijan (Y11), who were selected to represent the NSW Team in this prestigious Tennis championship that is open nationally to students across Years 7-12.



YEAR 6 CAMP

Our boys had a wonderful time at Camp Somerset, enjoying campfire building and damper making. They worked together to set up their tents and loved the marshmallows by the fire under the stars.





FOOTBALL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations on a great season of Knox Football and well done to the following teams that finished the season undefeated: 3rd XI, 10C, 10D, 10E, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E, 8C, 8D, 7E, and 7F.



SING STARS

The Choral Program is an integral part of the Wahroonga Prep campus, with every child from Pre Kindergarten to Year 6 involved in a choir. It has been lovely to listen to the children sing around campuses this year.

Male Voice Power Choir

In October, the Male Voice Power choir (affectionately known as MVP) were delighted to embark on their first community performance in nearly three years! The annual visits to St Lucy's have always been a dazzling highlight of each year! Some of the boys commented...

'Really eye opening to see the difference we can make in the children's lives'
 – Jamie Ford (Y11)

'It was a fun experience and not something you get to do very often. It's good for us to keep this connection with St Lucy's going'
 – Jonathan Chen (Y10)



THEATRESPORTS

Our Theatresports team recently took the plunge and performed in front of a large group of people, entertaining them without a script to follow. These accomplished improvisers won their heat at Sydney Girls' High School and progressed to the finals. Well done thespians!



Year 6 Colour Run

It was a kaleidoscope of colour at Knox Prep when Year 6 boys took part in their Colour Run.



Cadets

The Leadership Induction Parade acknowledged Senior Under Officer Antony Song who along with his team of Cadet Under Officers and Regimental Sergeant Major, all received their rank in front of their parents and the Unit. New recruits were also welcomed and we wish everyone a wonderful experience over their next year of Cadets.



SCULPTURE BY THE SEA

As part of their exploration into the topic of 'Exhibition As Site', Year 12 Visual Arts students travelled to two exhibitions - Sculpture by the Sea at Bondi and Do Ho Suh at the Museum of Contemporary Art. The boys had an excellent time exploring several interactive artworks and considered the ways that art can transform an audience's response to a space.

WATER POLO SUCCESS

Knox was represented in several NSW teams at the National Water Polo Championships held in Melbourne last school holidays. Nathan Gladman (Y10) won the bronze medal with the U17 Waratahs. Ryan Ford (Y10) and Campbell Warren won silver with the U15 Blues while Hugo Riley was a member of the U15 Waratahs.

At the conclusion of the championships, Ryan and Campbell were selected in the Australian Cadet Squad and Nathan in the Australian Youth Squad. Congratulations!





Prep Kindergarten 'Big Ideas'

Kindergarten students explored the Big Idea 'Shelters meet the needs of living things' as part of their Knoxigations unit. They researched different habitats and then built a model shelter with their laser cut Australian animal of choice.



CREPE DAY AT WAHROONGA PREP

Our French students at WPS enjoyed a delicious crepe when the team at Four Frogs Creperie visited at the end of Term 4. With each student asking for their preferred crepe in French, they will be handy little travel companions next time in Paris!



SURFING AT KNOX

The High-Performance Surfing Program continues to be popular with athletes practising on the Northern Beaches. The boys enjoy coaching sessions with Manly Surf School and through video analysis and feedback from experienced coaches, the boys are developing their skills in the water.



WAHROONGA PREP CHRISTMAS CONCERT

As the year wrapped up, the students from WPS got together to perform in their annual Christmas Concert in the Wenkart Theatre. With the whole school performing on stage, singing 'Shop till you drop' and 'Who put the Christmas Presents under the tree?' all involved had a wonderful night!



Remembrance Day and Honouring Service

It was a reverent Remembrance Day Commemoration and OKGA Honouring Service held on 11 November. Ceremonial items such as the Swords and Drums were presented to the Cadet Unit, with Cameron Hogan (Y11) performing the Last Post.

Thank you to Michael Tian (Y8), Percy Speed (Y9), Matthew Neal (Y11), and Winston Xu (Y12) who together with Mr Simes (OKG59), also performed at external events.



AUSTRALIAN U18 BOYS 7S RUGBY

Congratulations to Jonathan Ryan (Y11) and Beau Morrison (Y11) who have been selected in the Australian u18 Boys 7s team for the 2022 World Schools 7s Tournament. The tournament is an important step in the pathway towards the Australian Mens 7s team and we wish them well!



Cricket Centuries

Congratulations to cricketers Iain Westbrook (Y11) and Jack Slater (Y10) on their centuries in the 1st XI match vs St Aloysius' College. This was Jack's third century in a row in the 1st XI.

A fantastic effort from both boys!



WORLD KINDNESS DAY AT WAHROONGA PREP

World Kindness Day was celebrated at Wahroonga Prep on Friday 11 November. Children across Pre Kindergarten to Year 1 collaborated to create a giant chalk sign with a simple message of kindness. Each student made a bracelet with a message and gifted it to someone in their group. Wahroonga Prep is proud to be a part of the Kindness Factory's 'Kind Schools Network'.

Highlights AT KNOX PREP

KINDERGARTEN

Mrs Emma Donaldson,
Kindergarten Team Leader

It has been wonderful to experience a whole year of uninterrupted face to face learning! The boys have enjoyed collaborating, exploring and problem solving in the classroom and when venturing outside the School grounds to attend excursions. During Knoxigations, the boys immersed themselves in a variety of hands-on experiences.

Some of the highlights of their Knoxigations units were venturing on a bus to different locations around Sydney. This is something that our boys have not been able to do since 2019! Kindergarten became researchers and problem solvers when they went to Clifton Gardens and explored our Big Idea - 'Forces are around us'. Students investigated how forces and energy are used in products as well as described the effects of push and pulls on objects they encountered.

Kindergarten's adventure to Featherdale Wildlife Park gave the boys an opportunity to explore Australian animals and their shelters. Students engaged in a talk about how shelters are necessary for animals and the impact humans are having on the natural habitat. We enjoyed a lunch in the picnic area whilst the kangaroos watched on.

During these experiences, the boys have had the opportunity to develop stronger relationships with their classmates, improve their communication skills and increase the confidence they have



in their own ideas and ability to contribute in the classroom. There is an exciting culture in Kindergarten where students are encouraged to express their thoughts and challenge one another's ideas.



YEAR 1

Miss Nadine Smith,
Year 1 Team Leader

In Term 2, Year 1 celebrated Science Week. This was a perfect lead into our Knoxigations Inquiry 'Foods and Fibre - Produced and Processed'. As part of our day, Year 1 participated in a variety of hands-on activities which challenged them to think about where our food comes from, the different types of farms that exist and how they provide us with food. As part of their scientific inquiries, the boys explored the Earth's oceans and investigated what types of farms and food our oceans can provide us with. Students learnt about fish and seaweed farms and investigated growing Micro-Green gardens and why this is a sustainable farming solution. Finally, the boys explored dairy farms and the many products we make from milk and had the opportunity to make their own butter which they took home to enjoy with their families.

Another highlight for Year 1 was their first ever excursion! We made our way to Golden Ridge Animal Farm for a hands-on experience of farming and agriculture. Starting our tour, we visited the larger animals where we fed the alpacas, lamas, sheep and goats with bread, pellets, or chaff. This was followed by seeing the smaller animals, where the boys were given the opportunity to bottle feed the new baby lambs and goats. Our fantastic day concluded meeting and holding the baby ducklings, chicks and rabbits.

We all had such a wonderful time at the farm, with many boys talking about their experiences in the days and weeks following.





YEAR 2

**Miss Sarah Beaumont-Jones,
Year 2 Team Leader**

The inaugural Father Son Sleepout took place in Term 4 and was a highlight of the year for many boys and families. Smiles were seen and shrieks of laughter heard, as the Year 2 boys and their dads (and indeed, some mums) pitched their tents on Yeldham Field. The evening was spent enjoying a meal with their mates, watching a movie in the new Inquiry Hub and a bit of spotlight before bed. Not even the rain could dampen the spirits of the boys as they woke up grinning from ear to ear at the night they'd had.

The movie was so cool with all of the hockey games.

– Aaron (2S)

It was the best night!

– Stirling, 2H

I loved spending time with my dad.

– Darius, 2B

I slept in our tent on Yeldham Field and had so much with my dad and friends. – Eugene, 2F

I loved sleeping in the tent and how Knox provided all the food, it was really yummy. – Henry, 2H

I really enjoyed watching the movie in the Inquiry Hub. – Maxwell, 2B



YEAR 3

**Mr Hamish Oates,
Year 3 Team Leader**

For our Year 3 boys, a definite highlight was travelling to Camp Wolstoncroft, where for many, this was their first time spending a night away from home and sleeping in a sleeping bag. The opportunities to test their archery skills, kayak down Lake Macquarie and apply their compass and coordinates knowledge on the orienteering course, were greatly appreciated and enjoyed. The resilience and mateship displayed by the Year 3 boys helped with any nervous energy and ensured a positive experience for all.

The recent Celebration of Learning for all K-6 students, staff and parents was cause for great excitement. Year 3 were able to showcase their learning, display their artistic talents and demonstrate their technological skills using the Play Lu, VR headsets and Micro:bit. This was a wonderful occasion for the boys to reverse roles and host workshops





The resilience and mateship displayed by the Year 3 boys helped with any nervous energy and ensured a positive experience for all.

and tutorials introducing parents and teachers to concepts they had learned and skills they had acquired. All of Year 3 should be commended for their collaboration, innovative approach and ability to engage and entertain their audience. Well done!



YEAR 4

Mr Dylan Nexhip, Year 4 Team Leader

In our third Knoxigations unit, 'Sustainable Solutions', Year 4 embodied the role of being a town planner, investigating how they can make Wairoanga a more sustainable suburb now and into the future. Students had the opportunity to view census data and embark on a field trip to complete observations. The boys considered the physical, social and spiritual needs of the community before selecting an area of Wairoanga they wished to redesign. The rich nature of this task due to connection and belonging, enabled the boys to create innovative and practical designs.

Throughout our Knoxigations inquiries, the boys were regularly exposed to working in groups. Group work enables the boys to build on their collaboration and communication skills as well as enhancing their ability to effectively problem solve. Observing the dynamics of group work is unique and witnessing passionate conversations and the moment an idea comes to fruition is spectacular. Through having a balanced approach over the course of the year in terms of working independently, in pairs or larger groups, the boys have developed the appropriate skills which will contribute to their future success.





YEAR 5

**Mr Jared Rastall,
Year 5 Team Leader**

Award winning author, Jonathan Sacks referred to true humility as 'one of the most expansive and life-enhancing of all virtues.' He believed that it didn't mean undervaluing oneself, but rather valuing others through a 'willingness to be surprised, uplifted, by goodness wherever one finds it'. In Year 5, we encourage humility through the act of kindness.

In our Knoxigations unit, 'History informs our thinking and transforms humankind', our boys explored first-person accounts of the Holocaust and Stolen Generation. Through these individual voices, they gained a unique and often harrowing perspective on a collective experience. They also discovered the power of simple acts of kindness and compassion that birthed hope and led to the survival of many.



“

In Year 5, we
encourage humility
through the act
of kindness

A shared reading of Holocaust survivor Eddie Jaku's book, 'The Happiest Man on Earth' and a study of the Australian film, 'The Rabbit Proof Fence' complemented the boys' understanding of historical attitudes and perspectives towards others, which were often driven by fear, ignorance and intolerance.

Through these learning experiences and others, including a visit to the Sydney Jewish Museum, our boys came to understand how history is the lived experience of others. They reflected on how the qualities of kindness, tolerance and courage can champion how we treat others.

Sacks continued his essay on humility by talking about the community as a 'place of friends' whilst the modern urban society is a 'landscape of strangers'. This Knoxigations unit sought to have the boys recognise other groups within our world as friends with histories, cultures, languages and beliefs often vastly different, but connected through humankind. We simply just need to have the idea of 'just be my friend' at the forefront of our mind.



YEAR 6

**Mrs Nicola Sharp,
Year 6 Team Leader**

The 2022 Year 6 Musical was phenomenal! Despite the postponement of 'The Lion King Jr' production in Term 1, the boys showed incredible persistence to hone their songs and dances to take to the stage in Term 3. Mr George, Mrs Morris and Mrs Irwin from the Music Department, together with Drama teacher Mr Foltyn, worked tirelessly throughout the year on every single aspect of the production, from costumes and choreography to the boys' singing.

This year's production was fantastic and a testament to their hard work. The show allowed each student the chance to perform on stage as an African animal. Performing in their Renaissance Music class groups, the boys enjoyed learning a variety of well-known songs, such as 'Hakuna Matata', 'I just can't wait to be king' and 'Can you feel the love tonight'. It was wonderful to witness the talent of the students who assumed lead roles as they sang, danced and acted with their peers to tell the story of Simba's journey to become the rightful King of the Pride lands. Without a doubt, it was the massed item 'Circle of Life' number that opened and closed the show that was the most breathtaking. Well done boys on a magnificent production!



Student reflections:

The musical was good for my learning of dancing and singing because it was my first time performing in front of a crowd. I enjoyed the challenge of learning the moves and it was satisfying when we would flawlessly complete a song. It was great seeing the other classes perform and recognising their songs. Overall, it was a unique experience that took me outside of my comfort zone.

– Sam Akers, 6H

Something I really enjoyed about the process of the musical was that we had a very long time practising it; whether it was the leads learning their lines or the classes learning their dances. I really liked the experience of being in the theatre and having fun with my friends. I also liked learning a bit of Africaans! What challenged me the most was moving around backstage, as I was a lead chorus - we were on every two or three pages. I'm most proud of starting the show with Nants Ingonya (Circle of Life). It was the best experience!

– Jai Ananda, 6G

The thing I most enjoyed about the musical was taking part and discovering what happens behind the scenes. I learned the struggles that actors have to go through and I found that being in front of an audience was scary. I was most proud of the ending when all the parents clapped - it made me feel happy and accomplished.

– Luca Jin, 6C



PREP SPORT

Miss Susan Watt,
Prep School Sports Coordinator

Term 3 was a very busy term for Prep sports. After a very wet season, we were fortunate to have a sunny day for our Athletics Carnival. House spirit was on show throughout the day, with Haslett being the overall winners. Congratulations, too, to our age champions; Jesse Alexander (8/9s), Caelan Drysdale (10s), William Scodellaro (11s) and Davin Yap (12s).

Another highlight this term was our Snow Sports team. Knox Prep was represented by a large contingency, with many boys progressing through to the state and even national championships.

Several boys represented Knox at various sporting events during the term. A special congratulations to Will Scodellaro (PSSA Cross Country), James Atkins (CAS/PSSA Athletics), Davin Yap (CAS/PSSA Cross Country) and Jack Bayliss (CIS Rugby and CIS Cricket) on their sporting achievements.



We are pleased to announce that Knox Prep entered our first ever team into the Todd Woodbridge Tennis Cup. Congratulations to Aaron Gu, Jayden Zeng, Jeremy Zhou and Austin Huang (all Y2) on a fantastic performance, playing alongside girls from Pymble Ladies' College.

Congratulations to all boys for their performances during the winter season. It was wonderful seeing all their smiling faces out there on the courts/fields/arenas and to receive such positive feedback from parents and opposition schools.





Disney
**THE
 LION KING**
 JR

A YEAR 6 MUSICAL PRODUCTION

**MR ASHLEY
 GEORGE**

Director

The costumes, makeup and choreography lit up the stage at the end of Term 3 and it was simply magnificent to see our boys entertain the crowd for the two matinee and one evening performances. Well done to our thespians!





CELEBRATING THE Kindness Curriculum

MISS ALISON OLMSTEAD AND MRS TANYA LORIMER

Coordinators of the WPS
Kindness Curriculum 2022

‘The nurturing of social and emotional competencies in early childhood and the primary years has been found to have long-term positive developmental ramifications and has recently been shown to predict adolescent and later adult societal functioning and individual wellbeing.’

– Binfet and Passmore, 2017



Kindness is a term which is referred to often, where teachers hand out daily reminders to use kind words and actions, treat others how you would like to be treated and use prosocial behaviours in the classroom and beyond. There are a range of positive outcomes for students who learn, grow and develop in an environment which fosters these, which is in alignment with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Learning Compass, 2030. But, how can we do this meaningfully, when in the past two years of our students’ lives they have missed many opportunities to interact due to the global pandemic?

This semester at Wahroonga Preparatory School, the ‘Kindness Curriculum’ has been an initiative which has been implemented from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6. One of our five School values is for students to be ‘kind and caring’. We have partnered with The Kindness Factory

to implement engaging, practical and purposeful lessons in cross-graded classes to explicitly teach the following attributes of kindness. The Kindness Curriculum presents activities designed to build the attributes of empathy, gratitude, perspective, honesty, self-compassion, self-acceptance, humility, collaboration, mindfulness, meditation, trust, affiliation and humour for all children and students worldwide.

Our passionate teaching staff have embraced this opportunity to work with students across the School in a timetabled weekly lesson which focuses on building skills in a fun and interactive way, whilst having meaningful and authentic discussions and reflections. This initiative/ approach has gone beyond the classroom, where students, staff and families have adopted new vocabulary, Identified and implemented actions that are based on the attributes of kindness which we have taught.

Three practical ways to support learning and development of kindness according to the Kindness Factory Founder, Kath Koschel, is gratitude, laughter and identifying acts of kindness. Each week in our Chapel Service and Assembly we outline the weekly attribute, linking it with songs, stories and role-play, making it accessible to all students. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Kindness Factory into 2023 and beyond.





Science



THE IMPACT OF MAKING A MESS

MISS SARA KETTLEWELL

Science Teacher

It may be a teacher's worst nightmare but the most successful, engaging and impactful lessons have been those that have created the biggest mess!

At Wahroonga Prep, Science lessons are messy, noisy and the highlight of a student's week. In fact, passings in the corridor become interrogations about our next lesson's activities and our students come to each lesson with an eagerness and thirst for learning. The Science Lab is a noisy place, buzzing with new ideas and questions that leave me in awe of how capable and limitless their growing brains are.

Each lesson incorporates explicit teaching followed by the exploration of concepts through hands-on investigations. The idea of making a mess not only instantly engages the students, but gives them permission to take risks. As a result, students have a deeper understanding of concepts, a higher chance of retrieval from their long-term memory and a more concrete connection from their prior learning to the new concepts.

Students are encouraged to observe, question and communicate their ideas in a safe environment and are rewarded for 'thinking outside of the box'. Throughout the year, students have been earning individual and class 3D printed science points. Once they have earned 20 points, the class has a choice of conducting a one-off experiment of their choice. I have been astounded by how motivated

students are to earn these points, where even the most talkative class falls silent at the rattle of the science point container!

Recently, we invested in a set of lab coats, not only to protect their uniforms from these messy lessons but to put students in the role of 'scientists'. It is amazing how quickly they begin to talk and think like scientists, curiously asking questions and engaging in deep conceptual conversations. The most exciting and fulfilling moment as a Science teacher is engaging in a conversation where you can see and feel the mutual passion for your subject.

Although the mess is never-ending, it is definitely worth it!



Numerous Awards

FROM THE SYDNEY EISTEDDFOD AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



MR JAMES BRICE OAM

Head of Knox Academy of Performing Arts

With the return to our complete live performance calendar in 2022, our Knox Academy of Performing Arts (KAPA) Instrumental Ensembles have once again performed with absolute distinction, achieving unparalleled excellence across the complete range of Sydney Eisteddfod and NSW State Band Championships events for 2022.

With 12 performances from our extensive Band, Orchestral and Jazz Ensemble programs, our KAPA musicians have represented and demonstrated exceptional breadth and depth of musicianship, across multiple sections and divisions at two nationally recognised pinnacle musical events.

At a state championship level, all participating bands are required to perform a comprehensive program inclusive of the Test Piece, an orchestrated Hymn/Lyrical Selection and an Own Choice Major Work, for presentation. Performance programs vary in length from approximately 20 to 50 minutes, dependant on the seniority of each graded division.

To highlight the extraordinary achievements of our boys, (award winners across nine sections at the Sydney Eisteddfod and three separate divisions of the State Championships), following are the

results for which our entire School community. Our boys, parents, families and colleagues should be exceptionally proud.





2022 SYDNEY EISTEDDFOD RESULTS

Stage Band and Jazz Ensembles

- Knox Year 7 Jazz Ensemble – First place Secondary School Novice Stage Band
- Knox Stage Band – First place Secondary School Intermediate Stage Band
- Knox Big Band – First place Secondary School Premium Stage Band
- Knox Jazz Combo – First place Secondary School Jazz Band

Concert Bands

- Knox Year 7 Wind Band – First place Secondary School Novice Concert Band
- Knox Concert Band – Second place Secondary School Intermediate Concert Band

Orchestral Prize and String Ensembles

- Knox Symphony Orchestra (KSO) – Second place Premium Orchestra
- Knox String Orchestra – Second place Secondary School Intermediate String Ensemble
- Knox Chamber Strings – Highly Commended Secondary School Premium String Ensemble

2022 NSW STATE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

- Knox Symphonic Wind Ensemble (SWE) – First place Junior B Grade Champions; First place Hymn/Lyrical, Own Choice and Test Piece. Total points: 238/250.
- Knox Concert Band – Third place Junior C Grade. Total points: 221/250.
- Knox Year 7 Wind Band – Second place - Junior D Grade. First Place in Own Choice. Total points 232/250.

I would like to offer my sincere and absolute thanks to all of our parents and boys for your commitment and support. I am ever aware that our boys' exceptional musical growth has been a direct result of a great deal of hard work, dedication and commitment.

Knox in Concert Festival



To experience and enjoy performances from any of these prize winning ensembles, simply stream via scanning the QR code or visiting the link below:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9446064>
password: knox



SINGIN' iN THE RAiN



MR MICHAEL GRIFFITHS

Past Director
of Drama and
Theatre K-12

The performance of 'Singin' in the Rain' was a testament to the cast who showed resilience, commitment and a sheer love of theatre. The orchestra and the production team, through often complex rehearsal processes, displayed many moments of dedication, passion and courage.

It was the first Drama production in the Junior Academy and Performing Arts Centre before an audience and was a triumphant expression of students' passion, commitment and resilience over sometimes daunting obstacles.

Knox theatrical productions continue to explore the magnificent possibilities of the Wenkart Theatre. Our performance of 'Singin' in the Rain' respectfully recognised the original and iconic MGM movie through a production that exuberantly employed a theatrical and cinematic fusion.

The Directorial vision for the production was to value the ways in which creativity can burgeon from ordinary and indeed random situations. Therefore, many of the scenes were set in sparsely staged theatrical spaces which then grew into rich production landscapes. Perhaps the apotheosis of the production came with Cosmo's improvised projection of the grandiose Broadway Melody number that was impulsively created from a simply staged office space.

Theatre remains at the core of Knox's cultural heart and we look forward to many more wonderful productions.





Disney HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR



MR WILLIAM GULSON

Director and Choreographer

The Knox Junior Musical production of 'High School Musical Jr.' ran in the Wenkart Theatre from 27-29 October. This musical aimed to celebrate not only the magic of theatre but to empower young people through the art of collaborative performance and kinaesthetic learning.

Thank you to our Years 7-9 students for their passion and charisma, and for allowing the theatrical flame to be re-ignited amongst young people within the School and local community.







A Sensational Year

FOR KNOX SPORT

MR MARTIN HAYWOOD

Head of Knox Sports and Aquatic Academy

Term 3 saw an amazing and most successful end to the CAS season of winter sport as well as an incredible performance at the CAS Track and Field Championships at SOPAC, capping off an incredible year for Knox Sport. After so many COVID restrictions on the sport program, it has been great to be back and the boys are thriving.

Knox was crowned champions of the CAS Football 1st XI competition after a tight win against Barker College on the final day of competition as well as confirmation of the AFL 1st XVIII premiership after an unbeaten run in the CAS. Our Rugby boys also enjoyed an incredible season with the 1st XV competition going down to the wire. The CAS competition was decided on the last day with Barker winning 36-33. It was one of the most amazing games of schoolboy Rugby seen in many years.

Our Knox boys were rewarded for their efforts over the season, with many selections into CAS / CIS / NSW and Australian pathways. We are so proud of all the boys and congratulate those who were selected.

From Week 4 Term 3, our Track and Field season finally got underway. After two years of false starts, the team was bursting to get going and the squad was outstanding. Finishing second place, our best place at CAS level for over 15 years, this was a great a great platform to kick off the 2023 season. The Track season is a huge commitment, particularly coming off a winter season and the early morning sessions at Gillespie Field. A number of athletes are also committing to their summer sport pre-season trials. Despite this, in front of thousands of screaming supporters, including our very own Tartan Army, our



Knox Team at the CAS Championships were sensational. Among the many incredible performances and personal bests on a wet and difficult evening were some new CAS records including:

- Hamish Hart – 3000m event in 8:20.60min
- Hamish Hart – 1500m event in 3:52.60
- Alex Sherlock – 100m event in 10.54s
- Open 4x100m relay event in 41.96s

These are some stellar performances that will stand for many years. Congratulations boys.



Action Packed FOR KNOX BOARDING



STAGE 4

**Mr James Norman,
Head of Stage 4 Boarding**

We have enjoyed many events recently in Gilmore House.

When you walk the corridors of Knox Next Generation Boarding and look at some of the historical photos, boarding schools have certainly come a long way. Fast forward almost 100 years and it's interesting to see the changes in buildings, rooms and programs. We now enjoy single and double rooms with ensuites, cultural food nights and a menu from the dining hall that could rival local restaurants! The programs have also come a long way and it's great to see a multitude of differing options for the boys which is aimed to challenge them in many areas of their character development.

Life as a Knox Boarder this year has involved many engaging events and activities, such as a Social at Loreto Normanhurst, Pymble Ladies' College social at Knox Tennis courts, bowling at Chatswood, the Boarders' Chapel and Dinner, Years 7 and 10 'Boys to Men' Camp on Cockatoo Island, Years 8 and 9 Transition Camp at Chowder Bay, Putt Putt golf, Boarding Annual Family Dinner and Chapel and the Social Justice Service.

Within the Boarding house, the 'Boys to Men' mentoring has continued on a Monday. This program supplemented the Years 7 and 10

Cockatoo Island camp. On this camp, the boys were challenged to navigate the city with a quiz as they explored the Rocks, Powerhouse Museum and Chinese Gardens. This offered the opportunity to get away for the weekend and foster positive friendships. One of the connection sessions ran from Birchgrove Oval, giving our Boarders the opportunity to reflect on their journey thus far. Without a doubt the highlight of Term 3 was the Boarding Annual Family Dinner and Chapel, which was a great event for families to catch up with one another.

As the year comes to a close, our Boarders look forward to the examination period finishing. It has been an action packed and fruitful year for the boys and we know that many have reached some important developmental milestones along the way. It is important that the boys have a restful break and spend time reflecting on the year.



Finally, thank you to the staff of Gilmore House: Mr Yates, Mrs Small, Mr Khan, Mr Sherlock and Mr Taylor. The support they provide to the boys is outstanding.





STAGE 5

Mr James Maloney, Head of Stage 5 Boarding

The boys have been sensational and their participation in lessons, enthusiasm for Boarding activities and commitment to the greater good, was evident in everything they put their mind to.

Term 3 saw the completion of a wet and interrupted winter sports season although several boys had great success. Of note is Jim Houston (Y9) who made the NSW u15 AFL side and Reilly Caswell (Y9) who made the Australian u15 Merit Rugby League side as well as the NSW u15 Rugby union side. Whilst these two have achieved great personal success and achievements, all the boys should be applauded for their efforts during what was a difficult season.

The CAS Athletics Carnival took place on a wet night at Sydney Olympic Park and we had a number of boys competing. Even better than this,

was the number who volunteered to head out, watch, support and cheer on their classmates.

We had some wonderful activities and events take place last term which included; a visit (and supper) with the Headmaster for both Years 9 and 10, a behind-the-scenes tour of the world famous Sydney Cricket Ground and the ever popular Promotions Course for those seeking advancement in the Cadet ranks.

A highlight for the boys was the two different camps that took place: our Year 10 Mentors took their Year 7 Mentee to Cockatoo Island and the Year 9 boys headed to Chowder Bay with the Year 8 boys for a ConneXions Camp. The feedback we received was extremely positive for both camps.

To see the way the boys have connected with each other and support different events this term has been amazing. Both the Jersey Day Charity event and the RUOK? Day were a great success. Special mention to Darren Fung (Y9) for being the driving force behind these events. It takes courage to stand up and lead



and Darren has done this with passion and enthusiasm. Well done.

We finished off the term with the Annual Boarders Family Dinner as we farewelled our outgoing Year 12 men to wish them well for the HSC and at the same time, welcomed the Year 11 cohort and congratulating those who were appointed as Prefects.





STAGE 6

Mr Adam Shaw,
Head of Stage 6 Boarding

Term 3 is always a significant one in Stage 6 Boarding and 2022 has been no exception. Academically, both Year Groups have had a packed schedule with a number of assessments taking place in the first half of the term, followed by a two-week exam block. Year 12 were exemplary in the way they pursued the Trial examinations, working consistently and leaning on the evening Prep Tutors, staff and each other, for guidance and support. The feedback was positive and a number of constructive lessons were learnt to take into the HSC. Year 11 followed the lead of their senior peers and were faultless in the way they navigated their first exam block. Both Year 11 Houses felt productive and the common spaces were full of collaboration. They are in good stead for their final year.

There were several non-academic highlights that contributed to a wonderful term. Year 11 went to Hornsby in Week 3 for a taste of a Korean BBQ, a restaurant chosen by a group of our Boarders. For many, this was their first taste of Korean cuisine. Mr Glassie and I were on hand and it was a wonderful evening of bonding over a shared meal. The following week saw Year 12 head to Moore Park for a Sunday morning Go Karting session. It was a highly competitive affair and a great chance to blow off some steam ahead of their Trials starting the following week. Most boys attended this one and it was a great final outing for this group. For Year 11, Paintball was a highlight in the bushland at Yarrmundi. 30 boys attended this intense experience and Ms Cormio, Mr Glassie and myself were there to enjoy the day. The gameplay was great fun and the battle scars were evident in the aftermath. Henry Shao attended to capture the experience and the photos were amazing. In preparation for life after Knox, 16 of our Year 12 boys completed their RSA and RCG course on site over two weekends and this will serve them well moving forward.

Both Year Groups were taken out for dinner after their exams; Year 12 went to Espetus Brazilian BBQ in the city, for an all-you-can-eat experience and Year 11 headed to O'Bombay



in Hornsby and were treated to a range of curries and naan breads. Both evenings were wonderful and well attended.

For Year 12, it was a term of 'lasts'. Their final Boarders' Chapel and Formal Dinner was a special one, with some great contributions from our boys, most notably Thomas Horseman, Jarrah McLeod and Josh Riggien. This was followed by the Year 12 Boarders Banquet and the Family Dinner, both of which were particularly special occasions and facilitated beautifully by our outgoing prefects. Jack Faulkner spoke well and toasted his peers.

Ultimately, an enormous term and an important one in the Knox Boarding journey for both Year Groups. We wish the Class of 2022 all the best moving forward and are extremely proud of their efforts and contribution to the School.



We wish the class of 2022
all the best moving
forward and are extremely
proud of their efforts and
contribution to the School.





Social Justice

MRS HELEN CLARKE

Head of Diversity, Justice and Stewardship Program (SS)

The Social Justice Program continues to expand at Knox, and we are proud of the active commitment to serving the local and wider community. The Social Justice Club has continued with a wide membership ensuring that awareness, advocacy and action are the focus of our work.

HORNBSY KU-RING-GAI WOMEN'S SHELTER

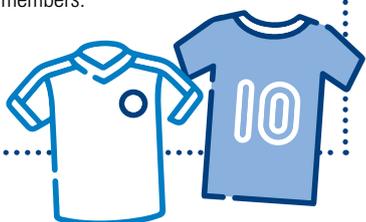
Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai Women's Shelter (HKWS) has long been a partner of the Knox Social Justice Program. On Gala Day this year, the stall raised almost \$1965 for the shelter. The cheque was presented to the Knox Chair of the HKWS Board at a Year Meeting. This work will continue as a Year 8 partnership throughout next year.

GIVING SIGHT TO OTHERS

Our collection of old spectacles has had such a positive impact on the villages in Zambia. With the generous support of the Knox community, the spectacles made their way to 63 villages. Further collections have been made and the next destinations are villages in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JERSEY DAY

Our annual Jersey Day in support of organ donations was again celebrated this year. The boys were privileged to hear Mrs Justine Peacock share her personal journey with kidney transplants which has saved the lives of several of her family members.





RUOK? DAY

Our annual RUOK? Day was a day of yellow and black t-shirts, banners and a grand Touch Football game between staff and students on Knox 1. The sun shone and fellow students turned up to cheer the teams on and support a mate by asking RUOK?

REV MANAS VISITS THE SJ CLUB

Our partnership with The Dish and St John’s at Wahroonga continues to grow. The Social Justice Club was privileged to have Reverend Manas Ghosh visit and speak to the Club, as we prepared for the International Peace Day Celebrations which were held at Knox on 21 September. He also thanked the Knox community for their donations of non-perishable groceries support of The Dish.

Bread Tags for Wheelchairs

Thank you to everyone in the Knox community that supported this charity by donating their bread tags. These are collected Australia wide and are recycled into plastic crafts, the proceeds of which fund a wheelchair every second month for a disadvantaged person in South Africa.



LEGACY DAY 2022

The annual support of Legacy was a highlight this year with so many of our boys interacting with the community at the local railway station and shops, enthusiastically sharing the Legacy story.

SHOES FOR THE PHILIPPINES

We are delighted that our support of the children in the slums of Manila continues with several boxes of school and sports shoes shipped to the British School. Here they are distributed to the children living in dire poverty on the streets.



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Our Chapel lawn and Knox Cultural Centre were the focus of a smoking ceremony, a traditional dance to usher in diverse religious leaders, community leaders, members of our local community and organisations who gathered to pray for peace. We were very proud of the large number of Knox boys who so graciously supported our visitors and participated so enthusiastically during the events on the day.

The Peace Day celebration was in partnership with St John’s Wahroonga and Reverend Manas Ghosh, who has led this service for 19 years as part of the Uniting Church’s Interfaith Dialogue.

Uncle Tim Selwyn of ‘Gira Giri Experiences’ led the boys in traditional dance and gave a moving Acknowledgement of Country. A welcome and blessing were conducted by Ms Brooke Prentis, a Wakka Wakka and Gubi Gubi woman, who works with our staff and boys across our three campuses as part of the Knox Indigenous Program Waratah Project. Our very own Pastor Sam Sadrata sang a hymn in Fijian.

Religious leaders from many groups were represented on the day. The unity of many communities in their desire to promote and be at peace was the focus of the celebration.





Old Knox Grammarians' Association Inc.

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 Thistle* was prepared by the Old Knox Grammarians' Association.

IMAGE ABOVE

Alan Foulkes (OKG62) presenting the OKGA J L Arnott Ceremonial Sword to CUO Isabelle Fife, in memory of James Leslie Arnott (OKG40) at the Remembrance Day Commemoration and OKGA Honouring Service.

STAYING IN TOUCH

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Wahroonga, NSW 2076
AUSTRALIA

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/OKGAAssociation
 twitter.com/OKGA_online
 instagram.com/oldknoxgrammarians
 linkedin.com/school/knox-grammar-school



President's Report



**ROB JOHNSON
(OKG78)**

President OKGA

*

Opposite top left
Tony Thomson (OKG57) presenting 2022 School Captain Flynn MacGregor with his Old Boys' tie

Opposite top right
L-R: Hamish Thomson (OKG90) and Tony Thomson. Tony and his son Hamish were among the eight Old Boys presenting the Class of 2022 with their ties at the Valedictory Ceremony

Opposite bottom
L-R: Josh Banfield (OKG22), Luke Richmond and Archie Saunders (OKG22) following Luke's presentation

Another extraordinary year comes to a close. I have been reflecting how fortunate we, the OKGA members are, to have such a terrific and driven team in the OKGA office. Capably led by Sarah Gregory and ably supported by Juliet Chandler and Lachlan Liao (OKG98), coupled with an enthusiastic and motivated Committee to drive our various programs and to enhance the platform for future initiatives. We are also fortunate to enjoy support from numerous members of the School academic staff and in particular, from our Patron, Headmaster Scott James. There is much we have done, but still much more left to do, particularly as we turn our minds to plans for the School's Centenary in 2024 and the opportunities for Old Boy involvement.

CONTINUITY

We welcome 2022 leavers into the OKGA and wish them well for their results and for whatever 2023 holds in store. Remember, we are here for you. I'm delighted a number of new members have already indicated a willingness to support the activities of the OKGA and to contribute as key liaisons for the Year Group, thank you.

Old Boys continue to provide an important resource for the School in terms of academic staff, cadet officers, sports coaching, tutoring and other key school activities. The OKGA and the School recognise and greatly appreciate the involvement and support of these Old Boys.



COMMUNITY

With the OKGA having moved into its new office at 34 Heydon Avenue just prior to lockdown in 2021 and the year commencing with event restrictions still in place, we were delighted to finally hold our first social function on the verandah of 'the Whitehouse' this winter. Andrew Ericsson (OKG90) and Jamie Thomson (OKG86) did a fabulous job cooking a BBQ and entertaining a number of boarder parents as well as Old Boys. We look forward to expanding our pre-game and post-match hospitality for the 2023 CAS Season.

Many of you will be aware of our Old Boys for Old Boys program and the value it brings to members of our community who are doing it tough. The success of the program is due in no small part to the tremendous work of Julie Davis, our esteemed Benevolence Program Manager. Julie left us in November after six years of establishing and building the program. We are grateful, Julie, for all that you have done and we wish you well for the future.

With the generous support of a Knox family we were delighted to facilitate the participation of adventurer and story-teller, Luke Richmond at one of the final assemblies for the Class of 2022. The Australian Army veteran opened his address

by describing how he had to hit rock bottom before finding the will to climb the "Seven Summits". It was great for us to have a few moments before Luke's speech to introduce the OKGA to the soon-to-be Old Boys.

In a return of time-honoured traditions, we were able to once again invite Old Boys to present OKGA ties to the Year 12s after their Valedictory Ceremony in September. A memorable day for both the students and Old Boys involved.

CONNECTIVITY

As you will read on page 38, another important recent event in the calendar was the 10th Anniversary Edition of the Brothers IV Brothers (BIVB) lunch. This annual event, held in memory of Lachlan Robertson (OKG96) and Tim Cussell (OKG00) and organised by the Robertson brothers Scott (OKG91), Jason (OKG92) and Bryn (OKG95), has raised more than \$1.5 million for the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. In addition to being a memorial and fundraising event, it has also helped to maintain the strong connection between Old Boys who left the School several decades apart.

One of the greatest disappointments of the past few months was the last-minute cancellation

of the KGS/OKGA Careers Night due to COVID concerns. We had more than 700 students registered to attend to hear from 45 presenters from our community. While we made the decision reluctantly, we are also certain it was the correct one given the spike in COVID cases at the time. The large number of registrations demonstrates the value current families place on hearing firsthand from Knox Old Boys about their career journeys. We are looking forward to co-hosting the rescheduled event in Term 1.

In the past six months, many Old Boys have also achieved significant individual goals. Where we have heard the news, we have sought to acknowledge success across various fields. Don't forget to look for the OKGA eNews in your email inbox, forward it to your Knox mates and send your news items to the OKGA Office.

Thanks to all Old Boys who have supported the Committee in our efforts to build community, maintain connectivity and ensure continuity and I wish all of you a safe and happy festive season.



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Old Knox Grammarians' Association will be held on:

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023
at 7pm at Knox Grammar School
(venue TBC)

Visit the website for updates:
<https://okga.org.au/agm23>



LEAVING YEAR Reunions



CLASS OF 1961 – DIAMOND REUNION

... KEN POWELL (OKG61)

After COVID thwarted our reunion in 2021, it was a joy for 37 of us to convene for lunch at the School on 7 October. The presence of classmates from interstate reminded us of our strong connections and we were equally delighted to see one old friend attend his first ever KGS reunion.

Our MC, Bruce Elder (OKG61), shared amusing anecdotes in between the formalities, including the customary toasts to the School and to

absent friends, proposed by Peter Kelso and Chris Reynolds respectively.

Before the lunch, we also toured the Junior Academy and Performing Arts Centre (JAPAC), with KGS Performing Arts Coordinator, Sami Culleton and it was a privilege to see students rehearsing for the junior musical. The tour certainly highlighted the remarkable differences to our own school experience.



CLASS OF 1972 – 50 YEARS

... ALLAN CAMERON (OKG72)

We had a great roll-up of 47 at our 50th anniversary reunion, with a further 21 apologies from those who were unavailable to attend the event held at Club York on 13 October. Angus Thorburn regaled the group with stories and jokes. Dave Caspersonn read his song lyrics marking the occasion and Mac Elsegood provided an anniversary mud cake featuring a coloured Knox crest. The festivities continued well into the night with only the janitor spoiling the party to lock up at 11.30pm. Special thanks to Peter Butterworth for the photographic record of the night and to Ross Browning for the background music. One interesting sidenote – 1972 was the first year of Soccer being played officially at Knox, so it is also the 50th Anniversary for KGS Football. To see more photos visit okga.org.au/reunionphotos

CLASS OF 1962 – 60 YEAR REUNION

... ALAN FOULKES (OKG62)

35 members of our Class celebrated 60 years since leaving Knox with lunch at the School in September. MC Roger FitzSimons (OKG62) regaled the audience with reflections and produced a mind-boggling quiz. He also provided a list of the teachers (from 1952-62), which prompted many entertaining stories. One former teacher, John Meikle (OKG50), made a special appearance as the

guest of David Stark (OKG62). Three Old Boys living overseas (New Zealand, Hong Kong and China) also briefly joined us via Zoom to say hello. The ranks may be thinning, however the affection for our Alma Mater shone through from all attendees. Thank you also to David Stark for his efforts in organising the reunion.





CLASS OF 1987 – 35 YEARS

ANDREW WINES (OKG87)

There was a motley crew at the reunion held at the London Hotel on 17 September; some appeared ravaged by middle age, others looking as if they had taken off their Knox boaters that afternoon.

The evening began well with a nail biting one-point win for the Sydney Swans over Collingwood. What followed was a combination of sumptuous canapés, a drink or two and a great evening of reminiscing and reacquainting. Few have survived the last 35 years unscathed, but most have weathered the storm well and are still smiling.

My thanks to Craig Beattie and Campbell Simpson for their help organising the evening.

CLASS OF 1992 – 30 YEARS

SCOTT WARD (OKG92)

More than 60 turned out for the 1992 reunion, with another dozen or so sending their best wishes. Overall, it was a cracker night, thoroughly enjoyed by all.



CLASS OF 1970 – 50 YEARS

L-R: Ian Ross, Nick Roden-Smith, Rich Read,
Don Matthews, Andrew Ross, Jack Murray

Old Boys News



Catch up on news from Old Boys via the OKGA eNews (sent fortnightly) and on the

website okga.org.au/OKGnews

Community AND EVENTS



KNOX GALA DAY

Thanks to all the Old Boys and their families who stopped by the OKGA stall on Knox Gala Day (28 May) to say hello and stock up on OKGA merchandise. It was great to connect with so many members of the Knox community 45 years after the first ever Gala Day was held.

Our supply of caps sold out just as the First XV were warming up to take on Newington College, with soft shell jackets also a popular item purchased during the day.

✱

Above

L-R Paul Gladigau (OKG85), Rob Johnson and Alan Foulkes

Below

Centre: Adam Rennie and Jason Robertson; Right: Bryn Robertson (with band members of Rennie and the Jets).

Unfortunately, the Chapel Lawn was too wet for the OKGA's classic cars display to go ahead. However, in preparation, even though it was cancelled, organiser Alan Foulkes (OKG62) developed a significant list of potential cars to display at the next Gala Day.

Interested in more?



Watch the Gala Day highlights' video on the website:

www.knoxgrammar.com/galaday

BROTHERS IV BROTHERS – 10TH EDITION

BRYN ROBERTSON (OKG95)

Almost 300 KNOBS (Knox Old Boys) descended onto the Blue Gum Hotel on 19 August for the 10th Anniversary Edition of the inaugural Brothers IV Brothers (BIVB) lunch. BIVB has grown every year since its inception thanks to many supporters and the 10th lunch was the best yet.

There were tears, laughter and community strength as we gathered to continue building the legacy of the BIVB campaign, which has now raised in excess of \$1.5 million for the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

This year, we enjoyed the pipes and prowess of Rennie Adams (OKG03) and the Band 'Rennie and the Jets'. One of the most moving moments of the lunch was the screening of a BIVB documentary (credit Grainger Films).

We raised a further \$140K at this year's lunch and the Robbo brothers (Scott, Jason and I), wish to thank everyone for their ongoing support in memory of Lachlan Robertson (OKG96) and Tim Cussell (OKG00).





OLD BOYS PIPE BAND REUNION

ALLAN WATTS (OKG77)

Sunday 25 September was a busy day for the Knox Old Boys Pipe Band. In the morning, we had our first post-pandemic performance at the St Ives Food and Wine Festival, organised by St Ives Rotary. The weather was spectacular and there were a couple of first-time performers: Ian Powell (OKG14) with pipes and David James (OKG17), bass drum. It was wonderful to be out again.

In the afternoon we held a reunion for all former members of the Knox Pipes and Drums. It was another fabulous occasion,

with the brave playing of pipes and drums on Knox 1, reliving past memories. Attendees ranged from a 1950's leaver (one of the School's Pipe Band originals) to a member of the Class of 2021. We were also entertained by the School's competition bands as they prepared for the Australian Pipe Band Championships (held on 1-2 October). To finish the day, a BBQ perfectly hit the spot.

Please email Allan Watts admin@knoxoldboyspipeband.org.au to join the fun.



VALEDICTORY CEREMONY OLD BOYS' TIE PRESENTATION

We welcomed the Class of 2022 to the Old Boy community in September, at the conclusion of the Valedictory Ceremony. For the first time since 2019, Old Boys were on hand to present the ties to the young men as they left the Great Hall.

Among the presenters were representatives of the first family enrolled at Knox in 1924 - Tony Thomson (OKG57) (son of student No. 1 James Thomson (OKG31)) and his son Hamish Thomson (OKG90) – who were in attendance for the graduation of Hamish's son, fourth generation student, James.

Fellow presenters included Matt Sherlock (OKG91), OKGA Committee members Paul Gladigau (OKG85), Ed Colyer (OKG13) and David Stenning (OKG15); KPA member, Year 12 parent and third generation Old Boy, Nick Sky (OKG94) as well as Year 12 parent Andrew Coughlin (OKG88) and his brother, Scott Coughlin (OKG90).



REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION AND OKGA HONOURING SERVICE

On Friday 11 November 2022, the OKGA Honouring Service was held on Knox 1 in conjunction with the School's Remembrance Day Service. This was the first time this service has been held since 2019 when the COVID pandemic interrupted our ability to gather. This year, Committee Member David Stenning (OKG15) represented the President Rob Johnson (OKG78) on behalf of the OKGA, laying a wreath in memory of those who served and reading out the citations of those honoured.

Five Old Boys were honoured for their service in Australia's defence forces: James Arnott (OKG40), William Bailey (OKG40), John Berry (OKG31), Peter McNiven (OKG43) and David Coates (OKG61).

Alan Foulkes (OKG62), representing the families of those deceased honourees, presented three ceremonial officers' swords to the School's Cadet Unit. This was followed by the presentation of the P J McNiven and D N Coates' Ceremonial Drums to the Pipes and Drums by David Coates himself.

It is especially meaningful to the OKGA to be able to make the presentation of these gifts and bear witness to the honouring of Old Boys past and present before the entire Senior School.

After the Service, the Old Boys present joined the recipients of the presentations (CUOs and Pipe Band Drummers), the School Captain and the Head Prefect of Faith and Spirituality at morning tea on the verandah of Woodcourt House.

✱

Top

Former members of the Pipes and Drums playing on Knox 1

Above

L-R: David Leafe (OKG61), David Coates (OKG61) and Alan Foulkes (OKG62)

Bottom Left

Matt Sherlock (OKG91)

Senior Knoxonians



ALAN FOULKES (OKG62)

President,
The Senior
Knoxonians

*

Bottom
Senior Knoxonians'
Luncheon at Avondale Golf Club

When I speak about The Senior Knoxonians (SKs), I find many Old Boys are unfamiliar with our purpose. Anecdotal feedback tells us Old Boys frequently meet with mates from their leaving year. Knox however, has always created opportunities, whether through sport, the performing arts or boarding for Old Boys to form friendships across different years. While the OKGA hosts open events (as well as supporting leaving year reunions), our focus is on renewing friendships across different peer groups for those who left the School 50 or more years ago.

As a membership fee is no longer required to join the SKs, we encourage all Old Boys (currently OKG72 and earlier) to apply to become members. All we ask is for a nod of interest from you in forming a closer connection with the Old Boys who together share the greatest collective knowledge of our school's history. We are also actively working on improving the benefits of membership.

To join, please email:
seniorknoxonians@knox.nsw.edu.au

SENIOR KNOXONIANS' LUNCHEON

19 OCTOBER 2022

We were delighted to host one hundred members and guests for a luncheon at Avondale on Wednesday, 19 October. The Headmaster and Patron, Scott James, provided an update on the School, before Bruce Elder (OKG61) shared anecdotes from his experience working alongside fellow Old Boys at 'The Sydney Morning Herald' in an entertaining keynote address.



OKGA Clubs

KNOX UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

DANIEL RAHME (OKG14)
Knox United Football Club President

Season 2022 saw the Football Club finally get out on to the field for a full season for the first time since 2019. Despite the rain, which frustrated most during the season, the Club recorded a record number of registrations for the second year in a row - we had 177 players across 11 teams. In addition to the returning teams (Premier League Firsts and Reserves, Division 6, Division 9, Division 10, Over 35s, U18s, U16s and U15s), we added a Division 7 and an U12s team to our ranks. 2022 also saw the return of many social events, with a new player night, pub crawl and poker night back on the calendar.

Despite the rain, COVID and European holidays stretching numbers across all teams, the Club was able to accomplish a lot. The Premier League Squad confirmed another season in the top division for a record eighth year in a row with 1st grade finishing the season with their highest points total since 2018. Also of note, was a clean sweep against Barker Old Boys as the 1sts won both fixtures, but we will have to find a new team to collect six points again, as their stay in the top flight came to an end. More good news in all-age football came from Division 6 who finished the season in second place, narrowly missing out on the title, but securing a consecutive promotion campaign.





Our attempts at a three-peat (and fifth all time) Mallacoota Cup, fell one game short, with our squad losing in the final to local rivals, Kissing Point. It was a great effort none-the-less on the back of a very difficult draw.

After four years of having juniors at the Club, 2022 also saw the first of our juniors feature in all-age. We had five from the U18s and U16s appear in Premier League during the season. Of particular note: Oscar Walker and Benji Cole from the U16s - not only did they start for 'the Ressies', they also featured from the bench in 1st grade. Oscar, aged 15, became the youngest ever all-age goal scorer (for the Ressies in his first of three appearances).

KNOX RUGBY CLUB

OSCAR ALCOCK (OKG14)
Knox Rugby Club Secretary

2022 proved to be a very challenging year for Knox Rugby Club. An unprecedented injury toll and more players than ever travelling following two years of the pandemic, meant our player stocks were sorely tested. This proved difficult for our senior grades to compete against the top clubs in the premier division of Suburban Rugby.

Nonetheless, our real bright spot was our Colts, who finished fourth in the regular season. Coached by Harry Chapman (OKG15) and Ashton Craig (OKG16), with Grahame Pratt (OKG77) as their Manager, they were eventually beaten in a nail-biting loss to Colleagues in the preliminary final, but the boys certainly played some fantastic Rugby throughout the year and should be very proud of a brilliant season.

We would like to sincerely thank all our committee members, coaches and managers for their enormous efforts this

year. In particular, we would like to thank Ben Kooyman (OKG95) (President), Lachlan Williams (OKG10) (Vice President), Henri Schmidt (OKG16) (Treasurer), John Creeley (Assistant Secretary), Matt Davis (OKG05) (Marketing), Ian Thompson (OKG14) (Operations Manager), Chuck Ardon (Head Coach), Luke Hymers (OKG06) (2nd Grade Coach), Andy Cooper (1st/2nd Grade Manager), Harry Chapman, Ashton Craig and Grahame Pratt.

Planning is already underway for 2023, with a big focus on recruitment.

OKGA RANGERS ED COLYER (OKG13)

OKGA Basketball Club
Team Manager

Basketball is one of the most popular sports at Knox which means there's a large community of Old Boys who play and love the sport. This led us to reinvigorate the OKGA's Basketball Club at the beginning of 2022 and we have now completed two seasons at the Northern Suburbs Basketball Association in Crows Nest.

Nineteen Old Boys compete weekly across two OKGA teams on a Monday or Wednesday night. While Basketball is physically demanding, we have a broad age range of players, from 1998 leavers, through to 2020 leavers. The A team features former CAS representatives and 1sts players and the B team is a diverse crew, made up from former 1st players to OKGs who have taken up Basketball since leaving school.

This year, the two teams combined, won almost 20 games but, more importantly, Old Boys from many different years and working backgrounds came together each week with a shared enthusiasm for the great sport of Basketball.

We're always looking for more players to join and there is already a high level of interest in establishing a third team.

Our competition resumes in January and we're looking forward to an even bigger and better year of OKGA Basketball for 2023. Visit okga.org.au/basketball if you would like to join.

OLD KNOXONIANS' CRICKET CLUB

LACHLAN FENWICK (OKG12)
OKCC Captain

The OKCC has had a mixed start to the season with one win, one loss and one washout. In the first game we played, we had a good 55-run victory against East Pacers. In our first game at Gillespie we unfortunately had a 31-run loss to Qasmi. It has been pleasing to have three debutants who recently left the School join the team this year and play in our first couple of matches. If you are keen for a game, please email and ask to join the mailing list: knobscricket@gmail.com.



✱
Opposite
Knox United 2022
Mallacoota Cup
team

Top
2022 Knox
Rugby Colts

Bottom
Henry Wines
(OKG19) and Will
Seitam (OKG19)

Obituaries



DAVID LOUTHEAN PATTEN (OKG50) 1932 – 2022

David was my life-time best friend. We were the same age and grew up opposite one another in the same street.

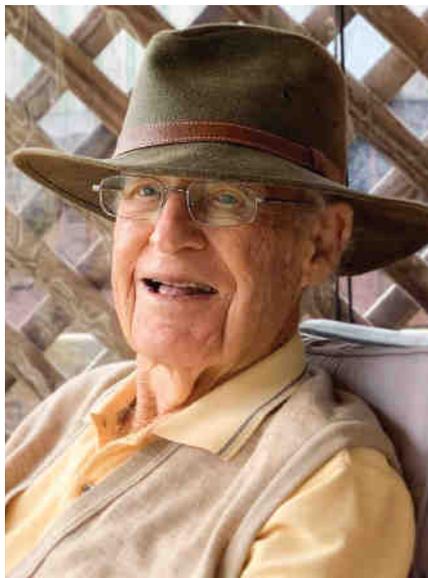
A Knox student from 1945 to 1950, David, in his final school year, was a Cadet Officer, a Senior in South House, a member of the 2nd XI Cricket team and one of the Uluru (originally known as Ayers Rock) tour contingents.

After completing the Leaving Certificate, David studied Law at Sydney University. He had a distinguished legal career, first as a solicitor and then as a District Court Judge (1990-2002). In 2002, he was made an acting Judge in the Supreme Court of New South Wales and in 2011 he conducted an inquiry into the Crime Commission of NSW. The following year he was made Chairman of the Commission's Management Committee. He also served as Deputy President of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and conducted the inquiry into the conviction of Phuong Ngo for the murder of MP John Newman.

David had a long-term relationship with Knox; he played for the OKGA Cricket team (VC in 1964) and later served on the Committee of the Senior Knoxonians (2009-2019).

David and his wife Judy were married in 1957. They have three daughters, Sally, Louise and Joanne and have three grandchildren. One of nature's true gentlemen.

– BROOKS C WILSON AM (OKG49)

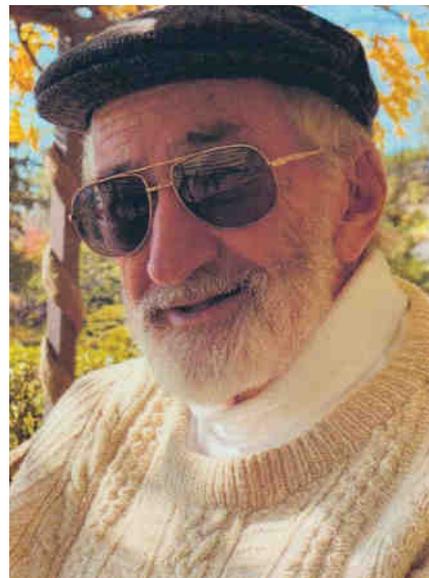


ANTONY RYDER GREATREX (OKG40) 1923 – 2022

Born in Bondi NSW, Antony commenced at Knox in 1933, following his elder brother, Barnaby (aka Barney) (OKG39) (dec'd). Antony often recalled fond memories of the School including riding a horse from his family farm at Pymble to Warrawee. After leaving Knox, Antony joined the RAAF in 1940 graduating as a radio operator. He was stationed in Darwin during the Japanese attacks in early 1942 and later to airfields in Western Australia as a specialist operator, manning high frequency direction finding radar stations (nicknamed huff-duff) during WWII. He was interviewed by Alex Lloyd (OKG09) about his WWII service for the 'Life on the Line' podcast in 2018.

In 1946, Antony joined his father's firm Basil V.R. Greatrex Pty Ltd where, for the next 30 years he led the national sales team. He married Elizabeth Barton (dec'd) in 1951 and had three children, Charles (OKG70), Suzanne and Robert (OKG75). Antony remarried Katherine Mansfield in 1973 and moved to Batlow NSW as an orchardist. He retired to Narooma NSW and finally Laurieton NSW. Antony was a devoted family man, active in the community, a keen historian, woodworker and a lifelong technology adaptor. He will be greatly missed by all his family, including six grandchildren and three great grandchildren and friends.

– THE GREATREX FAMILY



BRUCE KENNETH SHEAN (OKG51) 1935 – 2022

Born in Wagga Wagga, Bruce went to school in Rylstone and Warren before boarding at Knox, where he became a valuable member of the Swimming and Rugby teams. His love of the School was life-long, attending many reunions and eagerly awaiting this magazine.

On visiting his parents in Broken Hill, Bruce liked the town so much, he stayed. There he met and married Jeannette (1960) and had their three children, Elizabeth, Patricia and Penelope.

Family and community service were important throughout his life. He was involved in Highland Dancing with his daughters, sang in the Broken Hill Philharmonic Choir and played piano in clubs. Bruce was a Freemason for sixty years, a member of Rotary (President of Canberra South Club, 1996), involved in the Uniting Church, a board member and volunteered on the paddle steamer, SS Enterprise (Canberra).

Bruce moved from The Broken Hill Water Board to the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority to give his daughters more opportunities in Cooma. After taking voluntary redundancy, he moved to Canberra where he joined The Catholic Education Office, moving to Cowra when he semi-retired. As Bruce's health deteriorated, he was no longer able to work part-time, or do the things he loved.

His passing was honoured at a service in Cowra. Bruce was much loved and will be greatly missed by all.

– BEVERLEY ROLFE

Announcements

BIRTHS

Poppy Gillian Aston-Trevenen, daughter of Katherine and Adam Aston-Trevenen (OKG05) – 07/11/2021

Knox William Bateman, son of Angelina and Gavin Bateman (OKG00) – 02/11/2022

Russell David Bell, son of Rosie and Lachlan Bell – 08/07/2022

Harrison James Ellicott, son of Amy Jo and Lachlan (Lachy) Ellicott (OKG10) – 28/06/2022

Archie James King, son of Rachel Ayres and Ben King (OKG08) – 23/05/2022

Lola Francis Megarrity, daughter of Lucy Walker and Sean Megarrity (OKG07) – 20/08/22

Alora Saphira Moore, daughter of Sarah and David Moore (OKG01) – 15/07/2022

Soraya Therese Pike, daughter of Jessica and Cooper Pike (OKG11) – 03/05/2022

MARRIAGES

Andrew Dewez (OKG10) and Kate Augustine – 18/02/2022

Matthew Henley (OKG08) and Pang Chuarjedton – 11/06/2022

Stuart Lorimer (OKG07) and Justine Ribeyre – 10/09/2022

Adam Trevenen (OKG05) and Katherine Aston – 08/05/2020

DEATHS

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

Anthony Michael Keys Ashford (OKG50)
18/09/1933 – 07/07/2021

Stephen Harold Bowles (OKG67)
21/11/1948 – 24/05/2022

Robert Hillary Bruce (OKG49)
22/12/1931 – 19/06/2022

John Bruce Campbell (OKG65)
09/07/1948 – 19/07/2022

Robert (Bob) MacDonald Dash (OKG49)
08/03/1933 – 02/07/2022

William (Bill) Samuel Dockrill (OKG65)
08/12/1947 – 03/08/2022

Barry Charles Elphinston (OKG57)
22/11/1940 – 08/07/2022

Anthony Streeton Eveleigh (OKG69)
24/09/1951 – 07/05/2022

Michael Wayne Delany (OKG00)
1982 – 2022

Denis Lobban Furze (OKG56)
06/02/1940 – 02/09/2022

Robert Norman Geary (OKG52)
20/04/1935 – 02/07/2022

Malcolm Geoffrey Glasson (OKG59)
27/02/1942 – 11/07/2022

Antony Ryder Greatrex (OKG40)
05/01/1923 – 03/07/2022

Stafford Roland Harris (OKG63)
16/07/1946 – 01/06/2022

Eric Bruce Hudson (OKG56)
15/09/1939 – 09/08/2022

Donald Victor Lisle (OKG49)
10/07/1930 – 09/06/2022

Paul Leon Mansfield (OKG74)
10/02/1957 – 18/07/2022

Stuart Grant McLeod (OKG48)
16/10/1932 – 05/10/2022

David Louthean Patten (OKG50)
17/11/1932 – 11/08/2022

Nicholas James Robins (OKG87)
16/04/1969 – 12/06/2022

Bruce Kenneth Shean (OKG51)
13/05/1935 – 09/06/2022

Leonard Douglas Symonds (OKG44)
28/05/1926 – 29/09/2022

Divyanshu Virmani (OKG10)
14/01/1993 – 30/07/2022

Michael Heber Williams (OKG71)
05/09/1953 – 08/04/2022

Peter Alan Yeldham OAM (OKG44)
25/04/1927 - 20/09/2022

Graeme Dundas Young (OKG53)
1935 – 2022

Calendar

OKGA AGM

Tuesday 21 February

CAS SPORT V CRANBROOK (H)

Saturday 6 May

ANZAC MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday 7 May

CAS SPORT V WAVERLEY (H)

Saturday 13 May

KNOX GALA DAY

Saturday 20 May

CAS SPORT V ST ALOYSIUS (H)

Saturday 3 June

KGS PIPE BAND LONDON DINNER

Thursday 6 July

CAS SPORT V BARKER (H)

Saturday 5 August

OKGA GOLF DAY

Date TBA

Visit the OKGA website for updates on reunion dates:
okga.org.au/kgsreunions



DISCOVER EXTRAORDINARY

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