



Obituary

Devon George Minchin (OKG '36)

28/5/1919 – 30/5/2014

Attended Knox: 1932 (Y 7) - 1934 (Y 9) House: South

Listed on Chapel War Service Roll

Fighter Pilot – Businessman – Entrepreneur – Farmer - Author

Devon Minchin had a remarkable, successful and varied life, one that reads like a Boys Own Manual. Born on 28 May 1919 at Bondi, he attended Knox from 1932 to 1934 when he left after completing the Intermediate Certificate. In January 1935 he became George Patterson's first office boy and two years later worked his way to England where he joined an advertising agency. But an American company, looking for a young Australian, made him a cadet executive, sending him to Ireland, America and then to Australia in August 1939.

With the start of the Second World War, Devon joined the RAAF and was sent to Rhodesia as a trainee pilot. He flew Hurricanes and then Kittyhawks with the Desert Air Force, notably in the great air battles preceding the battle of El Alamein. Then with 450 Squadron, helped chase the Germans from Egypt all the way to Tunisia, until all of North Africa had been cleared of the enemy. Devon shot down a big quota of enemy aircraft during his time as a fighter pilot. Minchin took part in the conquest of Sicily, then spent a year as a test pilot for a huge maintenance unit block in Egypt on the Suez Canal. He eventually returned to Australia, suffering from malaria.

Devon Minchin began his love of writing while serving as a fighter pilot in the Western Desert. It was during this World War 2 period that he produced his first novel, *The Potato Man* (1944).

After the war, young Devon's varied and colourful working life included a period spent pioneering the timber industry in Sarawak, Malaysia, and later running an advertising agency in Hong Kong. After returning to Australia he founded Metropolitan Security Services (MSS) in 1954, an armoured car and security service that became the largest security firm in Australia.

Devon spent six weeks on tour with the Beatles in 1964 as head of security, and says they were "naïve youths who needed a good talking-to". He says John Lennon was a "bloody idiot" with no concern for his safety. And the band was girl crazy. He used military tactics learned during his six years service in North Africa to try to keep hysterical fans at bay.

Minchin 'retired' in 1970 and subsequently turned his focus to writing his second novel, 'The Money Makers' (1972) which was inspired by an armed robbery which took place at his Melbourne counting house. In 1978 his book was made into a film titled "Money Movers" directed by Bruce Beresford and featuring Ed Devereaux, Charles Tingwell and Bryan Brown. The film grossed over \$330,000 at the Australian box office which is equivalent to \$1.5 million in today's dollars.

While living in Sydney, he undertook studies at Macquarie University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1976. In 1981 Minchin moved to the Sunshine Coast and started farming pineapples, bananas and paw paws and became the owner of the Noosa Cine Centre.

Devon was married to his third wife, Margo, for 35 years, and passed away last Friday 30th May just two days after his 95th Birthday. His funeral was held in Noosa at 11am this morning.

He had four children, two girls and two boys, both of whom attended Knox.
Nick Minchin (OKG'70) and Devon Minchin (OKG'86)

Vale - Devon Minchin – a remarkable Australian & Knox Old Boy



Devon with his Kitthawk, WWII. (Photo courtesy of Australian War Memorial)

Presidents Dinner – 20th June (Final Reminder)

This is your last chance to register for the Presidents Dinner to be held at Pymble Golf Club in two weeks time. There has typically been a last minute rush and tables are filling fast. As in past years it promises to be a memorable night, so get a few friends together and arrange a year table. Dress is suit or Scottish attire.

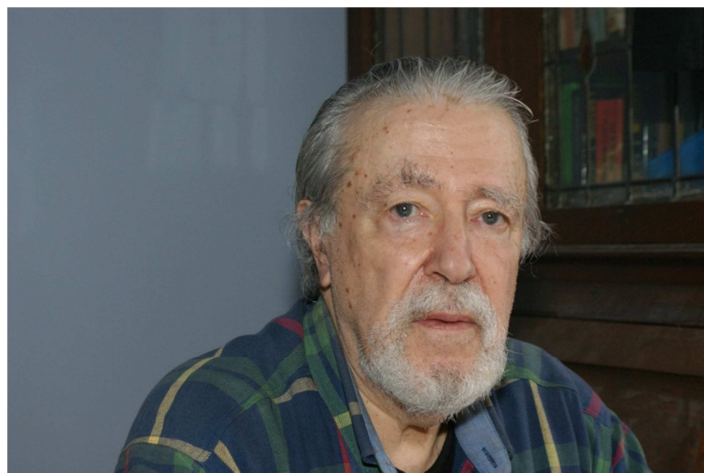
To register your attendance and join a year table, click [HERE](#)

Ian Lightfoot (OKG '53) Champion Diver

You will recall some weeks ago we asked for help in finding Ian Erskine Lightfoot (OKG '53) who was the CAS Diving Champion in 1951 & 1952.

He had not been heard of since leaving school. Your humble correspondent caught up with Ian again last Sunday for a chat and to take the photo below. Ian was amazed that after 62 years the school had made contact and he is equally keen to inspect the school campus and see the massive changes that have taken place.

I have promised to bring Ian to a 1st XV game early next term and give him a tour of the school. He is looking forward to it with keen anticipation.



Old Boys Pipe Band at Novus Foundation Dinner

Last Saturday night saw the Old Boys Pipe Band playing at the [Novus Foundation](#) 2014 Gala Dinner. This year, the dinner was in support of StreetWork, KYDS, Achieve Australia, Open Heart International, and the Rotary Club of Wahroonga Youth Project.

The Novus Foundation is a co-operative venture between Phil McCarroll Automotive and the Rotary Club of Wahroonga Inc. The Novus Foundation supports projects directed at the welfare of Youth in the district of Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai. It was established in 2006 and since 2007 the Novus Foundation has raised over \$800,000 for youth support projects.

The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, Member for Ku-ring-gai, is the patron of the foundation, with ambassadors Nick Farr-Jones, Caroline Pemberton, Dr Brendon Nelson and Mr Matt Kean MP.

The Old Boys Pipe Band piped the guests into the dinner and played a few tunes, which has been its role since the first Novus Foundation Dinner. It was also good to see Dr Paterson again, working behind the scenes with Wahroonga Rotary.



Knox Old Boys Rugby

Last Saturday's games against Old Ignatians were somewhat disappointing, winning just one of six grades. Our first grade Kentwell Cup team was the only successful team, winning 24-17, scoring four tries for a bonus point. They remain 6th only two points outside the top four. Burke Cup lost narrowly 15-21 in a tight game whilst the Colts had their biggest loss of the season so far, going down 17-52 to an undefeated team consisting mainly of members of last year's Riverview & St Josephs Ist XV's. Whiddon Cup went down in a cliffhanger, 12-14 whilst Judd Cup lost 10-38 and Sutherland Cup went down 0-28. Remarkably, Knox is still ahead of Old Ignatians on the Club Championship ladder.

There are no games this Saturday, 7th June, which was put aside in case of wet weekend make-up games.

1st XV Rugby – Knox v Cranbrook

A penalty goal on the stroke of full-time saw Cranbrook defeat Knox in last Saturday's battle of the two undefeated heavyweights of this year's CAS competition. The game lived up to all expectations and was a great advertisement for schoolboy rugby.

The match was at times tight and tense, with periods of spectacular and free flowing rugby. It was a game of two halves with Knox scoring 12 points to nil in the first half, and Cranbrook adding 15 points in the second. (2 tries each)

Cranbrook's game was based mainly on defence and they generally had the better of the scrums and lineouts. On the other hand Knox kept attacking, which paid-off with two first half tries, the second a dazzling effort of angled running and backing-up.

Cranbrook's two tries came from high kicks, both of which took unkind bounces at right angles and into the arms of attacking players. Knox kept attacking, but handling errors cost them dearly as at least two tries went begging due to misdirected passes. Five minutes before full-time, Knox five-eighth, Carter Nicholas was carried from the field on a spinal board

which delayed play for some minutes. With the clock closing on full-time, Cranbrook received a penalty to seal the match.

I think any unbiased observer would have considered a draw to be a fair result, and the return game at Knox on 2nd August should be a beauty.

NB. Carter Nicholas was taken to St. Vincents Hospital for scans & x-rays but we are pleased to report that with a few weeks rehab he should be fit to play again

There is no CAS sport this Saturday because of the long-weekend holiday.

Congratulations to the following Knox players who were selected in the CAS teams for games against CHS and GPS

<u>1stXV:</u> James Widders-Leece	Hooker
Lachlan Swinton	2 nd Row
Jake Pierce	Flanker
Joe Williams	Inside -centre
Connor Watson	Outside-centre
Lucas Price	Winger

<u>2ndXV:</u> Austin Black	Prop
Brett Van Zyl	Flanker
Sebastian Field	Full-back



The two teams line-up (Knox in alternate jersey)



Knox forwards hold up the maul for a penalty



Knox second-rower Milan Basson wins a lineout



Coach Matt Williams lays down the law at half-time

Knox wins CAS Drill Comp

Congratulations to the Cadet Drill Squad who on Wednesday were made the 2014 CAS Drill Champions for their outstanding performance during the CAS Drill Team Competition. The team performed with great precision in what was a very competitive event. The competition was very tough, but after a dress inspection and their routine, the judges announced their success. The 25 cadets from Knox and Ravenswood have been training every Tuesday morning since February under the very able guidance of the RSM, WO1 Rob Truskett, and the Unit's Commanding Officer, Maj (AAC) D. McKeith (OKG '74).



Old Boy Mentors needed for Australian Business Week

This year ABW will be held at the school from Tuesday 16th to Friday 19th September. It will be a four day program for Year 10 Commerce students.

We are looking for Old Boys with business experience to help mentor the students (in groups of 4 or 5)

They will be required to:

- Develop a business plan
- Conduct market research
- Develop promotional strategies
- Prepare for selling their products

The main skill required by mentors is the capacity to coach students to achieve their goals (ie. ask the right questions)

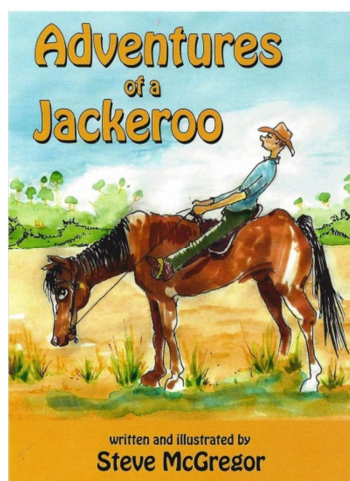
If you are an Old Boy who has the time and inclination to participate, you will find the experience very rewarding. You can either contact the OKGA Office or contact Elyse Tyler direct tylere@knox.nsw.edu.au for more information

Book Launch – Adventures of a Jackeroo

Steve McGregor (OKG '60) is the President of the Spitfire Association and a member of the Rotary Club of Wahroonga.

Steve's latest book, "Adventures of a Jackeroo" is now on Amazon in the Kindle store as an eBook. If your friends or family want a copy for US\$ 4.99 then they can find the book on Amazon, under its title.

"Adventures of a Jackeroo" is about Bruce from Bondi, a young Australian living near the beachside suburb of Bondi. Not thriving at schoolwork he decides to give that up and starts work way out in the Aussie bush near Bourke on a country property running sheep. Alas his upbringing does not equip him to be a tough outdoorsman and his funny escapades show everyone, except Bruce of course, that he is not a great success as a trainee property manager; a Jackeroo.



2014 Reunions

The 2014 Reunions are shaping up to be great nights for all.

Year	Contact	Venue	Date
1954	Ian MacPherson Craig Miller	Warrawee Bowling Club	Thurs 20 th Nov
1959	Adrian Stark	Knox 1 st XV, School Tour, Blue Gum Hotel	Sat 9 th Aug
1964	RSVP HERE	Knox 1 st XV, School Tour, Warrawee Bowling Club	Sat 9 th Aug
1969	John Cottee	Knox KG1 Function Centre	Sat 25 th Oct
1974	RSVP HERE	Rag & Famish – <i>note venue change</i>	Sat 9 th Aug
1979	RSVP HERE	Knox 1 st XV, School Tour, Warrawee Bowling Club	Sat 19 th July
1984	Steevie or Campbell	Knox 1 st XV, School Tour, Grace Hotel	Sat 9 th Aug
1989	Simon Officer	Greengate Hotel	Fri 14 th Nov
1994	RSVP HERE	Knox 1 st XV, School Tour, Willoughby Hotel	Sat 9 th Aug
1999	Mark Cairns	OKG Rugby, The Morrison	Sat 23 rd Aug
2004	Jason or James	Hotel CBD	Sat 13 th Sept
2009	Zac Gelder	TBA	TBA

Have you missed an edition of the OKGA E-News?
Download it from [here](#).

Don't forget to find us online.



[KGS LinkedIn Group](#)



[OKGA Facebook Page](#)



[OKGA Twitter Feed](#)



Knox OKGA



Bruce Kennedy

OKGA Manager | **Knox Grammar School**

P: +612 9487 0449 | 7 Woodville Ave, Wahroonga NSW 2076



www.okga.org.au