

MINUTES OF THE 92nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OLD KNOX GRAMMARIANS' ASSOCIATION INC.

Tuesday 22 February 2022
Warrawee Bowling Club

OPENING

The President, Rob Johnson, opened the meeting at 7.00pm. He welcomed the Headmaster & Patron of the OKGA, Mr. Scott James, Past OKGA Presidents, Governors of the Benevolence Fund, auditor Lester Wills, Benevolence Manager Julie Davis, members and guests to the 92nd AGM of the OKGA.

The President advised the meeting would be recorded. He noted this was the first virtual Annual General meeting for the OKGA.

Attendees

Rob Johnson (*President*)
Bruce Craig (*Vice-President*)
Grahame Pratt (*Vice President*)
David Sharp (*Treasurer*)
Geoff Cramp (*Secretary*)
Ed Colyer
Andrew Ericsson
Paul Gladigau
Rob Tulloch
Andrew Wines
Chris Wright
Ian Frame

Ian King
Tony Osman
Alan Foulkes
Simon Lennon
Ian McPherson
Dan Rahme
Andrew Martin
Ben Kooyman

In attendance
Sarah Gregory
Juliet Chandler

Via Zoom
Roger Perkins
Lester Wills
Angus Hordern
Fred Chilton
Robert Dunlop
Richard La'Brooy
Ken Powell
Stuart Thompson
Scott Whitmont
Julie Davis

Apologies

Refer Appendix 1

MINUTES 2021 AGM

Moved: Andrew Wines
Second: Bruce Craig

All present agreed. The minutes were adopted.

PATRON'S REPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the AGM to present the Patron's report. It is a pleasure to address: -

- President - Mr Rob Johnson
- Committee Members
- All Old Boys

2021 Year in Review

As we navigated through uncertain times last year, 2021, it was another year when the community realised just how fragile normality is. In the blink of an eye the entire world can turn around and what we had previously taken for granted – not just locally – but internationally simply does not apply anymore.

It was hard to believe the global scenario we found ourselves in once again in 2021; our country locked down, borders closed, and more locally our students switching back to online learning, and mask wearing normalised and rapid antigen testing. I am so proud of the way the community remained resolute in what were very strange circumstances.

It is these circumstances and events that have really reinforced my belief that boys and young men need a school like Knox. We need to recognise that the world is now a much more complex and challenging place, and it almost seems like change is the only constant.

Within this context, key life skills are going to be much more important than the ability to memorise and regurgitate information, such as the HSC. Knox must therefore continue to evolve, and a more concerted effort will be made to prepare young men for the unknown challenges awaiting them.

Remote Learning

After two consecutive years of online learning, 2020 and 2021, I am also immeasurably proud of my colleagues. I would like publicly acknowledge the work they did in providing interactive, daily classroom activities, during periods of remote, online learning. I am extremely proud of the rigorous learning we provided, which included a comprehensive program of interactive and live lessons each day. While many schools left static lessons on a platform, Knox made a decision to keep a timetable running and have period after period of interaction with our students.

Student wellbeing, pastoral care, keeping students connected was a focus of our line learning model in 2021.

Co-curricular programs such as music lessons and ensemble rehearsals, as well as sports training at home were all vital to enable strong connections to continue throughout the year. The psychology team also developed welfare and wellbeing surveys for staff and students, and with weekly feedback via these surveys, the school pastoral care team was able to track wellbeing.

For the first time in the History of the School, Year 12 trials were conducted online with the assistance of an external proctoring company and the resources of the school, the graduates of 2021 experienced sitting a three-hour examination. It was crucial the students were provided the experience of sitting an examination that simulated the HSC.

The graduating men of 2021 continued to display a level of resolute determination as they adapted to sitting their examinations online. Rather than allowing circumstances, such as the HSC being postponed by weeks, to weigh heavily on them, Year 12 men rallied and demonstrated just how resourceful and resilient they are by establishing new routines and habits.

To highlight the above, there is no better example than a particular student from Hong Kong. This young man had been online since *March 2020*, waking up in the early hours to ensure he was ready for period 1.

He completed his entire senior years online (which is a remarkable accomplishment) and achieved an ATAR that allowed him to study his preferred course at Sydney University. The lessons that this young man has learned over the past 18 months are far greater than an ATAR.

HSC Results

Knox was the top performing fully comprehensive boys' school in NSW and the 18th best performing independent school (boys and girls). Based on these results, the Year 12 boys will have access to a wide range of courses at universities and institutions nationally and internationally.

Child Protection

Knox continues to partner with Bravehearts – one of the most prominent national child protection organisations - for the purpose of designing a school-based training program for staff and students. This is now well underway and has been for 8 years now – it continued unabated during the year. Bravehearts also transitioned to remote delivery of their programs so there was no interruption of training.

Certificate of Global Competency

The Certificate of Global Competency was launched in 2021, and this is a program that acknowledges what boys are doing and achieving beyond the classroom. This Certificate was developed with a team of students, parents, and teachers. The boys can achieve micro-credentials across four domains.

Micro-credentials validate learning, no matter when or where it occurs and are awarded based on submitted evidence of an action or achievement. Boys that achieve beyond the classroom are now recognised for the work they are doing and so they should because universities are looking for a more holistic graduate.

Each boy has a personal dashboard that tracks his credentials and levels and points are awarded culminating in a proficient, bronze, silver or gold level. Moving forward the school is investigating providing businesses and universities to validate and support this Certificate.

Education Awards

Each year, the awardees for the Australian Education Awards are announced. These awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of the country's top performing schools.

I am pleased to announce that in 2021, Knox Grammar Preparatory School was nominated for the award, "Non – government Primary School of the Year", and Knox Boarding for "Boarding School of the Year".

Knox was announced "Boarding School of the Year" ...this is a wonderful achievement for our boarding community, in particular, the extraordinary boarding staff who work tirelessly to support all our boarders.

Prep School

With the completion of major works on the Senior campus, focus shifted to the Prep campus as we continue to develop a master plan that brings a new consciousness to the design of teaching and learning spaces that will have the most impact on student outcomes.

Work continued on the Prep School Centenary Master Plan in 2021 that clearly outlined areas for growth and opportunity for the future. Whilst the master plan is a staged, long-term planning document, improvements to infrastructure began with the build of new classrooms, shade cover, recreational spaces, and the redesign of the Oval Building, including:

- An innovation hub on level 1, which is a space for robotics, 3D printing, a construction zone, a green screen room and a genius bar.
- A larger library/resource hub is now on level 2, with updated classrooms, and an outdoor teaching and learning space.

OKGA Office

Just prior to lockdown, the OKGA Office moved to a new home, within the house at 34 Heydon Avenue, Warrawee. The house, "Woodcourt", or alternatively known as "The White House", has been transformed into offices for the School's Communications, Community Relations and Alumni Relations Departments.

The House was purchased by Knox in 2017. The bottom floor with two large office spaces is now the home of the OKGA and the new location highlights the close relationship which exists between the OKGA and the School.

“Woodcourt” is also the site of the Founders’ Board Room – an impressive meeting room acknowledging those men with the foresight to establish Knox Grammar.

Traditions and History / The Centenary

In October we unveiled our beautiful new Knox Prep Mural. Acclaimed mural artist, Hughes Sineux, who painted the Centenary Mural at the Senior School last year, worked on the Prep mural for several months.

The mural celebrates the heritage of Knox Prep and the natural curiosity and joy of our Prep students. The mural is in the breezeway between Ewan House and Yeldham Field and represents our second Centenary mural project.

2024 is fast approaching and a team of staff and OKGA representatives are working on several thought-provoking events and initiatives to celebrate the diverse history and heritage of the school.

In the months ahead of this year, I look forward to presenting a timeline of these events that form part of the 2024 celebrations.

OKGA and School Events / Partnerships

Whilst 2021 continued to pose many challenges, we witnessed the continued collaboration between the School and the OKGA. Whilst there were many cancellations, the OKGA and the School found innovative ways to work together on projects.

- Anzac Day Service was held on Knox 1 to accommodate social distancing health guidelines.
- Major General the Honourable Justice Paul Brereton AM RFD (OKG75) and Dr Simon Longstaff AO (OKG75) addressed the CAS Student Leadership Group which included leadership representatives from the six CAS schools,
- Professor Mark Scott AO (OKG80) spoke to Year 12’s via Zoom in the lead up to the online trial examinations.
- Mitch Falvey (OKG04) presented to the KGS Prefect Group on leadership
- Andrew Ericsson (OKG90) spoke with the Finance and Legal Department staff about how the OKGA could help with their curriculum delivery in regards relevant excursions and mentoring.
- Andrew again and Sarah Gregory worked with Knox staff members, Margie Raymond and Liz Ruff, on supporting their Middle Academy (Years 9 and 10) program involving OKG mentors.

- Paul Gladigau (OKG85) worked with the school's Head of IT, Craig Whalland RE: cyber security and to ensure the OKGA digital presence was appropriate and aligned with KGS Security protocols.
- In conjunction with the school's career advisor, Linda Gomez, 15 Old Boys shared their experiences via Zoom in the fields of Construction, Defence, Engineering, Medicine, and Science.
- The OKGA worked with Linda Gomez to establish a program of speakers for 2022, including a virtual Careers Insights Evening with multiple OKG presenters to occur mid-year.
- The OKGA President worked with Karen Yager on the Ethical Entrepreneur program.
- The OKGA President and Sarah Gregory worked with staff member Helen Clarke on an indigenous mentoring program.
- Tony Osman, Edric Chaffer and Sarah Gregory worked with the school's Archivist Julie Mason in bringing together KGS Centenary history.
- Rob Tulloch (OKG75), Julie Davis and Sarah Gregory worked with the school's psychology team on a Year 13 program.
- Two Old Boys came back to speak and train with the boys in Rugby Lachie Swinton (OKG15) and Nick Frost (OKG17)

Valedictory Assembly: Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, the traditional Speech Day events had to be adjusted for Covid-times. Limited guests were allowed on the campus, so the usual presentation of the Old Boys ties had to be abandoned again in 2021. The boys nevertheless received their ties and wore them proudly around the School. It was great to see them so happily embracing their new status as Knox Old Boys.

Ongoing connections and support of young Old Boys

The strategy to enable young OKGs to continue to give back to the school through coaching, training and tutoring continued where possible in 2021. Initially this program was mainly confined to sport and cadets. Now, Knox employs OKGs on a casual basis across a number of areas, including KAPA, event set up, Boarding, da Vinci, Pipes and Drums, Tech Crew, Tutors and Careers. We are also fortunate to have several young Old Boys in full time academic teaching roles which demonstrates to the students the value of a Knox education and the standing of teachers in society.

All Old Boys working at Knox are trained in child protection. They make a significant contribution under the guidance of the School's permanent staff to the progressive approaches and 21st Century culture of today's school.

Attendance at Events

As expected, with all the events being postponed or cancelled and most interstate and overseas travel restricted there was no ability to meet up with Old Boys

throughout the year. These events are greatly valued by me and the wider school community, and I look forward to working together with the OKGA on these again in 2022 when hopefully we can travel and gather.

In summary

The school and the OKGA are inevitably connected. This close working relationship leverages the benefits delivered to both. In this respect the School is indebted to the OKGA for the support it provides.

2021 was another year when shifts in daily routines required the School to adapt quickly and identify unconventional ways to operate. This type of uncertainty can make it difficult for young people to find their footing, but the young men of Knox collectively displayed the self-discipline and tenacity to navigate a year of unprecedented changes and uncertainty.

I want to express my appreciation for the courage and resilience that all members of the wider Knox community demonstrated in 2021.

Thank you

Scott James
Headmaster

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First, I acknowledge all members of the OKGA Committee for the work they have done, especially the work of Edric Chaffer who sadly passed away towards the end of last year.

Edric's contribution was significant in many ways, particularly his work on the history of the OKGA and of Knox more generally.

Tony Osman, we are also very grateful for everything you have done as our Honorary Historian.

Last year (2020) we commissioned our first Annual Review; there will be a printed version of our Annual Review for 2021 available online, or it can be posted out to you.

I would like to emphasise the work we have been doing with the School and with our Old Boy community. We recognise the need for continuity of communication, and the need to be involved with our Affiliated Clubs. I am glad to see Dan Rahme (OKG14) (Football) and Ben Kooyman (OKG95) (Rugby), and Ed Colyer (OKG13) (Basketball) all present tonight. It is great we can support so many of our sportspeople through our Affiliated Clubs.

Andrew Ericsson (OKG90) has done a wonderful job chairing the Networking Sub-Committee, which Paul Gladigau, chair of the Technology and Enabling group has supported with improvements to our platform. Our Committee members are working together to develop a framework and a platform that will position this organisation to better communicate with its members, future members, and the Knox School community.

Events

We haven't been able to do many face-to-face events, and it has been very difficult to organise functions. Andrew Ericsson has again been leading the Events Sub-Committee which has been able to plan some events, and we now have our Thistle Sports Lunch coming up on 1 April. We have a highly regarded group of panellists and a keynote speaker in Mark Morgan (OKG75). Mark will talk about his experience as a non-Olympian. He was the Captain of the Swim Team for the Commonwealth Games, then decided not to go to the Moscow Olympics on the basis of Russian aggression. I commend our Sports Lunch to you. We will also have Peter FitzSimons (OKG78) as a speaker, and Malcolm Knox (OKG84), journalist and author as a panellist.

It is great to see the History Discussion Group is also represented here today: Simon Lennon (OKG79), Scott Whitmont (OKG78), Richard La'Brooy (OKG10), Angus Hordern (OKG80).

That has been a fantastic initiative and former KGS teacher, John Gibson has done a wonderful job convening this Group, with fascinating topics across a broad spectrum and it has engaged 50 people across various topics. Last night John Hall (OKG78) zoomed in from the UK to present on the history of HiFi. All recordings of the group are available on request to the office.

Technology & Enabling

The work Paul has done with Ed Colyer and others has included refreshing our website, to make it a more user-friendly experience meaning we're able to better communicate with our community. We recognise more work needs to be done, particularly around refreshing our database, and we'll be looking to organise additional resources to address this.

Finance

We also need to recognise the work of our Finance Sub-Committee and in particular, Honorary Treasurer, David Sharp (OKG78). David took on the role of Treasurer approximately 12 months ago and he has since done an amazing job, undertaking a complete review of our systems, working very closely with our investment advisor, Peak Investment Partners. Peak has done a sterling job in continually delivering amazing annual returns. We have positioned ourselves well for the future and used funds wisely, where appropriate. We have also been working closely with the Headmaster on the allocation of funds or the respective scholarship and bursaries. I am very pleased we have been able to do that on a number of occasions.

Benevolence

The Thistle Sports Lunch on 1 April will help us to raise funds and awareness for the Benevolence Program, Old Boys for Old Boys. The OKGA's Benevolence Manager, Julie Davis has been doing extraordinary work for us for five years and the Program just continues to grow. People may or may not appreciate, the past 12 months have been very tough on a lot of families. We don't disclose which families we are assisting, but we can advise a significantly greater number have received support from Julie over the past 12 months. Julie, we are very grateful for the work you and the Benevolence Committee have done.

I also regret to advise that Rob Tulloch (OKG75), a founding member of the Benevolence Sub-Committee has advised he is stepping down from the OKGA Committee tonight. Rob is a Past President of the OKGA and has been a wonderful support for me, and for many others on the Committee. I would like to thank Rob for his enormous contribution over such a long period of time.

[Rob Johnson presented a gift to Rob Tulloch on behalf of the Committee. Rob Tulloch thanked the OKGA for the opportunity to have worked with wonderful people on various committees, including Julie Davis, Sarah Gregory and the Governors of the Benevolence Fund.]

34 Heydon Ave

We're also very grateful to Scott and the School for use of The Whitehouse (Woodcourt, at 34 Heydon Ave). We intend to host functions at the property in the very near future, once the School's restrictions are eased. It is a wonderful location where we intend to hold many different sorts of events. It is also respectful of the School's history and its founders and is a great location for the Committee, and the team of Sarah and Juliet.

We cannot express enough the gratitude we have for Sarah and Juliet and the work they do. They are outstanding; always available. Sarah works often outside of normal work hours; always with a smile. Thank you both for everything that you do.

Thistle Productions

I would also like to acknowledge the very generous contribution the Benevolent Fund has received from Thistle Productions (Alex Lloyd (OKG09), Angus Hordern (OKG80), Thomas Kaye (OKG10) and Rohan Viswalingam (OKG11)). Thank you again for your work producing the *For School and Country* documentary, a DVD series about Old Boy veterans of WWII, including Barney Greatrex (OKG39). The DVDs and book, *Barney Greatrex*, have been sold through various channels with a significant proportion of the money raised kindly donated to our Benevolent Fund.

Committee

I also want to thank the Committee for their involvement in various areas of interest. The last 12 months have been terrific. Going forward, we will look to broaden the diversity of the Committee in terms of age and co-curricular interests.

I now ask David Sharp to deliver the Treasurer's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the OKGA Treasurer's report.

The OKGA consists of five entities:

- Old Knox Grammarians' Association Inc. – its main source of revenue is the life memberships received each year as the Year 12 leavers join the Association. Additionally, it is responsible for managing reunions and ongoing activities of the OKGA during the year.

- Old Knox Grammarians' Sports Association Inc – is tasked with supporting the various sporting and cultural activities of the OKGA. This includes rugby, cricket, football, volleyball, the Pipe Band, and now also Basketball which is a welcome addition.
- OKGA Benevolent Fund – provides services to support Old Boys who are in need of assistance.
- OKGA Endowment Trust – holds approximately \$1.8m in trust funds to provide bursaries and associated support to the boys and school.
- OKGA Scholarship Trust – has DGR status but is not currently operating.

Portfolio Performance

At 31 October 2021, the OKGA was responsible for managing \$3.1m, in cash on hand and invested funds. The invested funds currently total ~\$2.8m of which \$1.8m is held in trust by the OKGA Endowment Trust and \$1m is invested with the OKGA Sports Association Inc.

Consolidated portfolio performance for the year ended 31 October 2021 was positive ~18.2%. Revenue from investments totalled \$439,000 which included \$63,000 of income and \$376,000 of unrealised gains on investments.

Old Knox Grammarians' Association Inc. ("OKGA Inc.")

Revenue received from life memberships totalled \$148,000. Of 334 boys who left in 2021, 314 have already joined the OKGA and we are hopeful several of the few remaining will also choose to join the OKGA. That's about 94% and given the last two years, their willingness to carry on and join our Association is a wonderful thing.

OKGA Benevolent Fund ("Benevolence")

Also of note is the *Penguin Bloom* fundraising event organised by the Benevolence Committee which contributed almost \$11,000 to the Benevolent Fund.

Major expenditures during the year comprised support for the Benevolence services of \$42,800, support of sporting and cultural activities of \$36,500 and bursaries from the Peter Jenkins endowment of \$34,100.

COVID-19 had a substantial financial impact on the activities of the OKGA, with many reunions and functions not being able to be held. As a result, expenses of the OKGA were reduced which is reflected in the OKGA Association Inc. recording an operating surplus of some \$87,000.

During the year the Finance Sub-Committee went to the market to choose an investment manager to be responsible for the ongoing investment and management of the OKGA's investment portfolios. I am pleased to report that the OKGA General Committee approved and agreed to retain the services of Peak Investment Partners, led by Andrew Martin (OKG74). Andrew has had a great year with a 19.2% return on consolidated investments.

I would like to register a vote of thanks to Nexia Australia who audited the five OKGA entities on a pro bono basis, specifically the partner responsible Lester Wills and our Audit Manager (who happens to be an Old Boy) Stephen Kang (OKG15).

I would also formally like to thank Sarah Gregory who has done a tremendous amount of the financial and administrative work this year, including doing the first draft of the financial statements.

I would like to make a request to Scott James. If you have a son, daughter or even a next door neighbour, who has expressed an interest in business or finance, we need many more accountants in Australia. Accounting is not a dry profession just about numbers. It is about helping to manage businesses and helping businesses to achieve their goals. Please encourage young men and women towards a career in accounting.

I confirm the financial statements are posted on the OKGA website.

David Sharp (OKG78)

Honorary Treasurer

Proposed: Grahame Pratt

Seconded: Rob Tulloch

I record that the accounts have been adopted.

Any Other Questions

Rob Johnson invited those present to ask questions.

Roger Perkins (OKG67) congratulated Rob Johnson on the work that has been done. Roger enquired about how Dr Paterson's service to the School would be acknowledged during the School's Centenary of 2024.

Rob Johnson noted there were various views and no decisions had yet been made on the make-up of the Centenary events, and he offered to discuss further with Roger after the meeting.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE for 2022

The Committee consists of five office bearers and up to ten additional Ordinary Members. Rob Johnson remains as President for the third of his three-year term, I have accepted nominations as follows for the other positions on the Committee.

Vice President: Mr Bruce Craig (OKG77)

Vice President: Mr Grahame Pratt (OKG77)

Honorary Treasurer: Mr David Sharp (OKG78)

Honorary Secretary: Mr Geoffrey Cramp (OKG82)

As there are no other nominations for these positions, I declare those members elected to the designated nominated office bearer positions.

As the number of nominations for general committee members does not exceed the number of vacancies, under Rule 10 of the Association Rules, there is no need for a ballot. I therefore declare all candidates duly nominated be elected to the Committee.

Congratulations to:

Andrew Wines (OKG87)

Tony Osman (OKG57)

Dave Stenning (OKG15)

Andrew Ericsson (OKG90)

David Sharp (OKG78)

Jamie Thomson (OKG86)

Paul Gladigau (OKG85)

Chris Wright (OKG02)

Ed Colyer (OKG13)

Alex Shaw (OKG10)

Dino Raftopoulos (OKG06)

Andrew Wines has also agreed to fill the role of Benevolence Sub-Committee chair, vacated by Rob Tulloch.

Thank you again to all members of the Committee; we appreciate you being involved.

Moved: Tony Osman

Seconded: Andrew Wines.

General Business

Rob Johnson invited members from the floor to raise other items of business.

There being no further business he declared the meeting closed.

He thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting Closed

Rob Johnson (OKG78)

President OKGA

..... Date

Appendix 1 – Apologies for the 92nd AGM

First name	Last name	Year
Peter	Bidencope	1945
John	Bryant	1959
Peter	Cameron	1948
Duncan	Clement	1982
Bruce	Cohen	1961
John	Craske	1943
Gordon	Frend	1956
Brian	Gill	1963
Phil	Henniker	2003
Frederick	Henry	1964
Richard	La'Brooy	2010
Lachlan	Liao	1998
Ernest (Craig)	Miller	1954
R Peter	Murray	1974
Brian	Orr	1959
Christopher	Osman	1959
Julian	Osman	1992
Richard	Rogers	1954
Antony (Tony)	Seymour	1978
David	Stenning	2015
Andrew	Stevenson	1988
Jon	Stewart	2003
Jamie	Thomson	1986
Simon	Truskett	1980
Phil	Tuck	1977
Thomas	Wenkart	1961
Kenneth	Wolf	1962
Stephen	Yeomans	1988