Class of ’61 - 65-year reunion
20 June 2026

They came from Victoria (5), Queensland (1), Tasmania (1), the Illawarra Coast (3) and the Central Coast (1). One even made it back in time from his second home in Prague! The catalyst: the bonds of friendship formed at Knox in the years leading up to the Leaving Certificate, 65 years ago. Some had journeyed from 1st grade in the Prep to the Leaving Certificate, some spent just a few years at the Prep. They came to celebrate being alive and well, to swap yarns and to mourn those who were no longer able to be present. Sadly, two of their number had passed away in the last month. Only two of the 31 attendees needed walking aids (not bad for a group of octogenarians).

The day began when about ten gathered in the chilly breeze at the southern end of Knox 1 to be ably led on a tour of the School by Lachlan Liao (OKG98). The Senior Academy and Boarders Terrace were of particular interest, as was the integration of the Senior Academy with the Montgomery Building, the latter built in their final years as students. Their School Captain (former Deputy Head and history teacher), Rex Ward, celebrated seeing his name on the Honour Board, just along from the Headmaster’s Office (then & now).

Regular master of ceremonies, Bruce Elder, led the proceedings as the assembly gathered for lunch at The Warrawee Club. It was very special for the group to have two sons of Old Boys present; Rodger, son of Jim Bartlett (OKG28), and Rob, son of Ian Ferguson (OKG32), both of whom were on the first school roll, and both made significant contributions to the OKGA and The Over 70s (now The Senior Knoxonians). In keeping with their quinquennial reunion tradition, the Toasts to the School and to Absent friends were proposed by Rob and Rodger respectively. Casual and unplanned offerings came from Stuart Thompson and bush poet, Barry Parks.

Some departed after lunch but a hardy dozen or so made the trek to Knox 1 to see both the 1st XV and 2nd XV defeat Waverley, a fitting end to a memorable day.

It was over too soon, but they made a vow to meet at least annually from now on.