

OLD CONCORDIANS' Connect

Welcome to 2023

This year's first edition of Old Concordians' Connect!

We are excited to present a full calendar of reunions and events for Old Concordians to get involved in this year. Our first reunion is for the newest Old Concordians, the Class of 2022, we look forward to welcoming them into our existing community of over 9,000 Old Concordians. As well as the usual milestone reunions, this year will also see reunions in Brisbane and Canberra.

Thanks again to the dedicated Old Concordians' Committee, very capably lead by President Matt Bruening, Class of 2016, who oversee the running of our association.

Please be in touch if you would like to get involved in the OCA committee, or if you would like to assist as a volunteer for Old Concordians' events.

Happy reading...

Sue Spry, Alumni Manager
alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au

Lifetime Connections - Paul Backen

Concordia and the OCA would like to thank Old Concordian Paul Backen, Class of 1980 for donating these wonderful photos of the seminary students and Professors from 1921 back to Concordia. We have had the frame carefully restored and have hung this important piece in the Chapel.

Theodor C Backen, as seen in the photo was Paul's grandfather, and left this original piece to his son Clem Backen, who then passed it on to Paul.

Paul and his wife Sue visited us to view the restored piece in the Concordia Chapel. The chapel holds many memories for Paul

from his student days and is also special as it is where Paul and Sue were married in 1995, and where their two daughters were baptised.

There are many recognizable names among the photos, and many that have had generations of family members attend Concordia, with some descendants of these students here at Concordia today!

Do you have a family history that includes any of these Professors or seminary students? If so. We would love to hear from you!



1921 Professors

Prof. G C Koch
Prof W Zschech
Prof C F Graebner
Prof M T Winkler

1921 Seminary Students

R Altus	G V Backen
R H Traeger	W B Ubergang
S C Rudolph	H W Harnath
O E Thiele	H E Temme
Theo C Backen	C D Nagel
E O F Eckert	F J H Blaess
L A Presses	R H Eckernamm
M D Koehne	

Spotlight on an Old Concordian

Ken Semmler OAM



Concordia was honored to have Ken Semmler OAM attend and read the lesson at the 11/11/2022 Remembrance Day Service in front of staff and students. Born in Tanunda in 1945, Ken Semmler attended St Jacobi Lutheran Primary School and Nuriootpa High School before coming to Concordia College in 1962.

Ken spent 10 years as a fighter pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force, with the rank of Flight Lieutenant flying Sabres and Mirages.

For his work in Lutheran Education and the community, in 2014 Ken Semmler was recognised and awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

We asked Ken to sit down and answer some questions for us...

Tell us about your life since Concordia...

10 years as a fighter pilot in the RAAF, aide-de-camp to Gov General the late Sir Paul Hasluck, then farming in the Barossa. Other involvements include; grape-growers assn., RSL and Chair of Lutheran Schools Association in its early days, including chairing a team to establish a second secondary school in Barossa, then chair of Faith Lutheran School. Director of LCA Giving to Grow Appeal. Also assisted many overseas and immigrant aid groups, including a refugee/new arrivals sewing group for about 19 yrs, which also involved taking folk shopping, assisting with Centrelink, housing, household goods, medical, school, mending pushbikes, cars and other essential activities.

...and the OAM

It was awarded for most of the above.

Any Defining Moments

Being in the first (No 75) Mirage squadron, deploying to Malaysia and the privilege of serving in Vietnam with the USAF.

Values from Concordia College

The Christ centred faith lived out by of each member of the Concordia staff.

Advice to students

Don't be taken in by all the negative news. Don't ask what this potentially fine country can do for you but what can you do for the country. As with Her Majesty, use the same rock to which she both clung and rested on, faith in the living and loving God. Each one of us has been given the ability to serve and no service is greater than another. Read and absorb our dear Lord's words in the New Testament.

Funny Memories

CC was a boarding school and there were about five boys in our study, one of whom was the late Pastor Wilton Quast. He was an ace mimic and would often stand on a chair and regale us with hilarious imitations of various staff members!

Alex Bruhn, Class of 2011



We are so proud of Alex, who is the recipient of two Young Citizen of the Year awards for her contributions to the community in recent years. She gave life to an Adelaide chapter of Conscious Cities Festival which was a vessel for exploration of the deep first nations wisdom that exists on Kaurna land, starting dialogue on the legacy being left for future generations and empowering young people to flex their civic duty. Alex was also commended for her work on the Foundations for Tomorrow - Awareness to Action Report. Over ten thousand young Australians were consulted about issues particularly significant to their generation, such as the long-term impact of climate change and housing affordability.

Alex is currently serving a 12-month mandate as the Curator of Global Shapers Adelaide, an initiative of the World Economic Forum. She recently represented the state in Geneva, Switzerland at the WEF headquarters. Alex features in the Department for

Premier and Cabinet's recent New State of Mind campaign, representing leadership in South Australia's innovation in education space. She is about to embark on a Master's Degree with Torrens University to further enhance her capabilities in innovation and change in education.

Alex works at Youth Inc., a new school designed for people 17-24 and ushers in and incubates new innovative educational programs for Adelaide's youth. Alex's most prominent pieces of work within the school include Ideas to Un-F*ck the World - an ideas incubator for young people to connect with game-changers, address social problems and weaponize their own stories and Metaverse Adventures - a means to unravel the ethics, interactions and potential for the metaverse as well as the evolution of the technologies, programming and other opportunities stemming from this concept. Alex's programs aim to equip youth with skills for the fourth industrial revolution.



Old Concordians' Sporting Clubs

Sporting Clubs Join the Fun!

2022 and the beginning of '23 has again seen our OCA Sports clubs grow and thrive. You are very welcome to get involved in any of the existing teams or contact us if you are thinking of starting a sport or interest group.

Basketball Club

The Old Concordians' Basketball Club, plays on Saturday afternoons in venues across central and southern Adelaide. The Club Coordinator, Tristan Prentice (2004), has been involved in the competition for several decades.

Winter season saw the A Women (Division 1) and the Division 1/2 Mens team finish runners up in their grand final games. Division 5/6 B Men had a tough season but remained very competitive. 2023 Summer season has started with a blaze for the club with our Women once again in the top two and our Mens in Division 1/2 remain in the hunt in a strong summer group off-season. The B Men have continued their competitive streak and are not too far away from moving up the ladder whilst the new C Men's team in Division 7/8 also compete hard weekly and aren't too far away from wins themselves.

We invite players of all ability, as well as any sponsors to get behind a club which provides friendly and inclusive community connection.

If you'd like to be involved in the preparation for the next season Winter 2023 (May-September). Please email the **Sue Spry, Alumni Manager** alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au

Cricket Club

 ConcordiaCricket

The Cricket Club has three teams in the Adelaide Turf Cricket association with over 40 Old Concordians that play in these teams. It's been great to see quite a large group of younger Old Concordian players join us recently, and we encourage other Old Concordians and friends to join the club.

We welcome all new players for the new season starting in October. Please contact:

Tim Kupke timkupke@hotmail.com

Troy Pincin troypincin@internode.on.net

Netball

The Old Concordians' four Netball Club teams are having a fantastic summer season and we've had some new additions to the club, including lots from the Class of '22 and some older graduates join as well, which has been wonderful!

We look forward to the 2023/2024 summer season beginning in October 2023, playing in the SAUCNA competition on Wednesday nights. Old Concordians' of any age or playing abilities are welcome to join one of our current teams or start their own team with friends. Registrations are due in August.

For any queries and further information, please feel free to contact **Chrissy Barnard** cbarnard@concordia.sa.edu.au

Pedal Prix Club

Since our last race back in late September 2022, the Old Concordians' Racing teams had a few months of well deserved rest while Trike repairs are underway to prepare for our first race in in Mount Gambier on April 1st.

Recently we have had our 2023 racing information night to prepare for this year's racing and welcomed several new team members from class of 2022.

We have also been busy fundraising and recently held a pizza and band night, with the Old Concordians featured in the band!

Old Concordians are always welcome to race with us, if you would like more information , please contact **Nelson Harris** on 0422 147 154.

Soccer Club

 OldConcordiansSoccer

After a strong finish to 2022, the Old Concordians' Soccer Club are preparing to do it all over again in 2023. The club will be looking to further cement itself within the top division of the Collegiate Soccer League and build upon its 7th place finish in division 1A in 2022. With the possibility of entering 4 teams again this season there is plenty of room for newcomers of all ages and abilities.

For anyone interested in joining please reach out to **Cameron Basnec (Class of 2015)** cbasnec@gmail.com



Volleyball Club

The 4th and final season of 2022 saw the two Old Concordian Volleyball Teams have their most successful seasons yet. The B-grade boy's team had a nearly undefeated season, only losing one game and winning their grand-final 2 sets to 1! The boys will now be moving to A grade which is very exciting and a first for the Old Concordians volleyball program. The girl's team came back from a slow start to the season and were undefeated for the second half of the season, jumping up into second place. This resulted in another grand-final, with the team just falling short in the last set. Overall, it was another very successful year and we look forward to next season.

For information please contact club co-ordinator, **Emma Whyte** emma.whyte@internode.on.net



Old Concordians Supporting CC Sailing Team

The sailing team sported their new bibs and caps at regattas in 2022 and look forward to the 2023 sailing season. Training sessions at the BSYC resume after the summer holidays at the beginning of Term 1. With a fairly new team, the focus of this season has been on rebuilding the team and acquiring new skills. In addition, the four metro championship regatta provide the team with an opportunity to learn how team racing works and experience the regatta atmosphere leading up to the state championships in April 2023. It is fair to say that all team members improved hugely over the season and that new skippers were able to further develop their skills at the helm.

For more information, please contact sailing co-ordinator, **Emily Ward** sailing@concordia.sa.edu.au

Reunion Reports

The following reunions have taken place since our July 2022 edition of Old Concordians' Connect.

1. **Melbourne Reunion**
Thursday 25 August at Pepe's Italian
2. **Year 12 OCA Breakfast**
Wednesday 7 September at Concordia College
3. **60+ Lunch for the Class of 1962 and prior**
Tuesday 18 October in The Suaviter
4. **30 Year Reunion, Class of 1992**
Friday 28 October at Concordia College
5. **20 Year Reunion, Class of 2002**
Friday 11 November at Concordia College
6. **10 Year Reunion, Class of 2012**
Friday 25 November at The ED
7. **5 Year Reunion, Class of 2017**
Friday 9 December at The ED



**If it's important
to you it's
important to us!**

We love hearing from Old Concordians of all ages, both near and far, so please do get in touch to share stories, milestones and any news, or simply to update your contact details.

To update your details, visit our website (www.concordia.sa.edu.au/community/old-concordians/update-your-details/) or email Alumni Manager alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au

Interested in joining the Old Concordians' Association committee?

We would love to hear from you! Please contact the Alumni Manager, Sue Spry, for more information - alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au



OldConcordiansAssociation



2023 Diary Dates

CLASS OF 2022

WELCOME TO THE OLD CONCORDIANS

Thursday 23 February, 5:30 - 7:00pm

Concordia Art Courtyard

Free Event // Drinks & finger food

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CBUPR

70+ HARMONY IN THE CHAPEL

FOR THE CLASS OF 1953 AND PRIOR

Friday 12 May, 2- 3:30pm

Concordia Chapel

Free Event // Concert by Concordia music

department followed by afternoon tea

RSVP to Sue Spry - 08 8291 9339 or

email: sspry@concordia.sa.edu.au

BRISBANE REUNION

Friday 19 May, 6-8pm

Botany Newstead

76 Skyring Tce, Brisbane

Tickets: \$35pp // Canapes and welcome drink included (subsidised by OCA)

Partners, Past Staff and friends of Concordia all welcome

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFGNJ

CLASS OF 1973, 50 YEAR REUNION DINNER

Friday 2 June, 6:30-9:00pm

The Suaviter, Concordia College

Tickets: \$40pp // Complimentary drink on arrival, catered meal

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFIAE

CLASS OF 1983, 40 YEAR REUNION DINNER

Friday 30 June, 6:30- 9:00pm

The Suaviter, Concordia College

Tickets: \$40pp // Complimentary drink on arrival, catered meal

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFIAL

CLASS OF 1993, 30 YEAR REUNION

Friday 18 August 2023, 5:30-8pm

The Suaviter, Concordia College

Tickets: \$30pp // Drinks, finger food and college tour

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFIAM

CANBERRA REUNION

Friday 8 September, 6-8pm

The Howling Moon, Rex Rooftop Bar,

150 Nouthbourne Av, Braddon ACT

Tickets: \$40pp // Drinks, finger food and college tour

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFIHI

60+ LUNCH

FOR THE CLASS OF 1963 AND PRIOR

Thursday 21 September, 12 noon-3pm

The Suaviter, Concordia College

Tickets: \$30pp // 3 Course Lunch and entertainment

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFGZK

CLASS OF 2003, 20 YEAR REUNION DINNER

Friday 10 November 2023, 6-8pm

Concordia Art Courtyard

Tickets: \$30pp, children free // Drinks, finger food and college tour

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFIAS

CLASS OF 2013, 10 YEAR REUNION DINNER

Friday 24 November 2023, 6:00pm

Cremorne Garden Courtyard,

207 Unley Road Unley

Tickets: \$25pp // Comp drink on arrival and finger food (subsidised by OCA)

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFIAZ

CLASS OF 2018, 5 YEAR REUNION DINNER

Friday 1 December 2022, 6:00pm

Cremorne Garden Courtyard,

207 Unley Road Unley

Tickets: \$25pp // Comp drink on arrival and finger food (subsidised by OCA)

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CFIBD

Keep up to date and like us on Facebook



OldConcordiansAssociation

If you are interested in holding a reunion that is not listed, please get in touch with us, as we would love to assist in any way.

Partners welcome to all events.