

OLD CONCORDIANS' Connect

Welcome to 2024

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

We wish all Old Concordians and their families a safe and happy 2024 and look forward to welcoming you to the College at some stage during the year for a reunion or an event! You can read about our 2024 program in this edition of Old Concordians Connect.

Happy reading...

The Old Concordians' Association Committee
alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au

Recent Reunions

The following reunions were held in the second half of 2023. Thanks to all who attended!

1. **30 Year Reunion, Class of 1993**
Friday 18 August in The Suaviter
2. **60+ Lunch, Class of 1963 and prior**
Thursday 21 September in The Suaviter
3. **20 Year Reunion, Class of 2003**
Friday 10 November at Concordia College
4. **10 Year Reunion, Class of 2013**
Friday 24 November at Cremorne Garden Courtyard
5. **5 Year Reunion, Class of 2018**
Friday 1 December at Cremorne Garden Courtyard



Spotlight on an Old Concordian

Lifetime Connections - Dennis Wegener (Class of 1958)



Photo taken in Vietnam

Our Alumni Manager, Sue Kleinig, met up with Dennis and his wife Lyn at the opening of the College's Fortiter Gymnasium late in 2023. After taking the time to look at the Concordia Honour Board in The Suaviter, where Dennis is listed for his service in the Vietnam war, Sue was very interested to find out more about his story.

Dennis and Lyn have three daughters who attended Concordia College: Mrs Tammy Hayward (1992), Mrs Kerrie Rivett (1994), and Mrs Jodie Childs (1996), wife of Jake Childs (1994), who also went to Concordia. Lachlan and Jemma Hayward are grandchildren of Dennis and current Concordia students, making them third generation Old Concordians!

Dennis shared an article from the Australian Lutheran Youth magazine from April 1966, which gave a great account of his army career.

We have summarised it here for you:

"When Dennis received the call-up for National Service, he felt it his duty to go along ... Dennis also says he was very patriotic and wanted to see the world. Dennis had been working on his father's farm in country South Australia for 4 years after finishing at Concordia, and on July 1st, 1965 reported to Keswick Barracks where he was given a one-way plane ticket to Puckapunyal. After shivering through basic training there, he was posted to 2RAR in Brisbane for Infantry Corps training. ... After returning home for Christmas, Dennis was transferred to 5RAR near Sydney, and then did jungle training in Qld... Then, after participating in a farewell march through the streets of Sydney, he left for Vietnam."

Dennis remembers clearly the death of Errol Noack, also an Old Concordian, who was killed within a few hours of being flown by chopper inland from the temporary base at Vung Tau. He was the first National Serviceman killed in Vietnam.

"Serving as an infantryman, Dennis was involved in patrolling (No. 2 on machine gun) in bushland and jungle, conducting all-night ambushes, and was always on the alert for landmines. Other hazards were the rain and sleeping on a sheet of plastic, often in wet clothes, as well as the biggest scorpions, spiders and centipedes he has ever seen! On April 30th, 1967, after serving for one year, Dennis marched through Sydney again, and flew home to a warm welcome. Later, when the war became unpopular, soldiers were not welcomed home in the same way."

In 1998 Dennis and Lyn travelled to Vietnam and found it a beautiful country with friendly people. Due to huge areas sprayed with agent orange, there are many eucalyptus trees which were planted where there were once native trees, a very different landscape to the one he witnessed in 1967!



Photo taken on Anzac Day 2023

Spotlight on an Old Concordian

Q&A with Claire Rawlinson (Cass of 2004)

Executive Producer, Audio Studios at Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)



Claire Rawlinson with classmate Rosie Bourne

Where has life taken you since Concordia College?

When I graduated from Concordia, I had a pretty good sense that I wanted to be a journalist, but I felt a bit daunted by committing to another long chunk of study if I wasn't 100% sure. So, I decided to take a gap year - which turned into two gap years - to work, travel, volunteer and test my ambition for journalism. After some amazing experiences in Brazil, the US, London and Europe, and Indonesia (and a lot of shifts in the Myer intimate apparel department!) I began the Bachelor of Journalism at UniSA. Getting this qualification gave me access to all kinds of job opportunities and I started my career at a regional newspaper in Mount Gambier, The Border Watch. From there I took all kinds of other opportunities that came up - reporting for radio and TV from Darwin and across the NT, then in the Melbourne ABC newsroom. Along the way I focused more and more on narrative journalism and podcasting. In 2016 my partner and I married and moved to New York for a new adventure, where I found a role as a producer in the buzzing world of podcasts, at a studio called Stitcher. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we returned home and started a family. Tom (who is also from Adelaide) and I now have a toddler and welcomed our second child in the spring of 2023. I've returned to the ABC in Melbourne as an Executive Producer for podcasts and I also teach broadcast journalism at RMIT University on the side. I love life in Melbourne but I miss Adelaide and we take trips back as often as possible. Every time I drive up Duthy Street I peek down towards Concordia and wonder what life is like there now.

What are your fondest/funniest memories of Concordia?

I have so many fond memories of my years at Concordia. Drama class with Ms Chester was always a highlight, and Mr Modra sparked my love of broadcast journalism by teaching us how to operate TV studios and present programs on Channel 31. I loved walking home every day with my friend Davie and stopping at the bakery for a honey bun, and quickly trying to tuck in my shirt if we ever saw a teacher pass us on our way home. We all pretended we were bored during Chapel every morning, but actually I think we loved the routine of starting the day in such a beautiful space and hearing Pastor Rob's calm voice. In hindsight I'm amazed at the lengths our teachers went to for us - our English Studies teacher Mrs Held invited us all to her house for individual coaching before Year 12 exams, using her spare time and feeding us when we were there too! Most of all, I remember the school as being a supportive place which embodied its motto, **Firm in Principle, Gentle in Manner** - a principle I try to apply as a parent now in my everyday interactions with my son.

What motivates you?

Relationships are central to all my choices - where I live, how much I work, who I work with and the impact of my work. I love the kind of journalism and storytelling that humanises every kind of life experience and portrays the complexity of life, far beyond news headlines. I love to create productions where teams of kind, smart people come together and creativity sparks through collaboration, and we can tell stories that might expand a listener's worldview or challenge a prejudice.

What advice would you give to students?

Enjoy high school! It is such a privilege to go to a good school and have access to great opportunities and people who are there to support you and want to see you flourish. So, embrace that and seek guidance and support so that you can make the most of your time at Concordia... and remember, the relationships you make at high school will last a lifetime, so treat them that way. My closest friends today are still the group of friends I made at Concordia, and I'm honoured to be able to remain connected to this part of my life even through this newsletter Q&A!



Join the Fun!

The Old Concordians financially support the setup and running costs of our sports clubs. If you are interested in joining an existing team or starting a sports club or special interest group for Old Concordians, we encourage you to contact the **Alumni Manager, Sue Kleinig**, for details about how we can help.

Email: alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au

Phone: 08 8291 9339

OCA Basketball

The Old Concordians' Basketball Club plays on Saturday afternoons in venues across central and southern Adelaide.

Recently we also had six members represent the SACBA competition at the Australian Baptist Basketball Carnival in Tasmania 2024. The B2 Men's team with Tristan, Jordan, Alex and Zak took out the championship over Victoria White (74-60). Lauren was in the highly competitive B Women's team which finished runner-up to powerhouse Western Australia (44-49).

We are looking to grow the Club's membership and 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 now or in preparation for the next Winter 2024 season (March-September), please email the

Alumni Manager alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au or

Tristan Prentice tristan.prentice.work@gmail.com

OCA Volleyball

This past season we have had one team compete in a new competition held in Concordia's new gym! This has been a great success - with the boys competing well in the top division. It has also been fantastic to have past players returning to play in the amazing new gym and facilities at Concordia. We are looking forward to the season to come.

If you'd like more information, please email:

Alumni Manager alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au or

Emma Whyte emma.whyte@internode.on.net

OCA Cricket

 [ConcordiaCricket](https://www.facebook.com/ConcordiaCricket)

The Old Concordians' Cricket Club has three teams in the Adelaide Turf Cricket Association. All are having a great season and we are likely to have two or three teams play finals!

Matthew Schmidt (Class of 1993) became the greatest wicket taker in the club's history, surpassing Ev Krieg's (Class of 1972) tally of 422 that some thought would never be beaten. In addition, Troy Pincin (Class of 1999), life member and current president, became the club record holder for games played after recently playing his 267th game, surpassing Ev Krieg's total of 266.

The Club is always looking for new players and sponsors. If you are interested, we'd love to see you at our indoor training sessions, which are coming up soon. Contact the Club at

Troy Pincin concordiacricket@hotmail.com

0430 502 049





OCA Netball

The Old Concordians' Netball Club is having a fantastic summer season so far. We're excited to get back on court and compete in the last few rounds before heading into finals and finishing up the 2023/2024 season. There are lots of new faces amongst our four teams this season, including many 2022/2023 graduates. We've been so happy to have the return of some of our older OCNC players too.

Upon completion of this season in March, we will be looking forward to the 2024/2025 summer season and welcome any newcomers. The season starts up in early October 2024, playing in the SAUCNA competition on Wednesday nights. Old Concordians of any age or playing ability are encouraged to join one of our current teams or start their own team with friends, with registrations needing to be finalised in August.

With any queries and further information regarding your involvement, please feel free to contact:
Chrissy Barnard cbarnard@concordia.sa.edu.au

OCA Soccer

 OldConcordiansSoccer

The Old Concordians' Soccer Club has continued into 2024 after a real growth year in 2023. While the year saw the club relegated to Division 2, the community and club vibes are through the roof! With a solid continuing player base and what will likely be three teams fielded in 2024, the Old Concordians' Soccer Club is a great way to stay connected to your community while engaging in the most enjoyable sport – soccer. Furthermore, with the soccer talent that graduated from Concordia's Class of 2023, we are very excited to maintain a continuing relationship with the College's soccer program and will see our largest contingent of school leavers joining the club since its inaugural year. We are proud to continue building a club that supports the local community while continuously emulating the values of Concordia College. We look forward to a fantastic 2024!

If you'd like more information, please email:

Alumni Manager alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au or
Cameron Basnec cbasnec@gmail.com

Concordia Sailing Team

OCA are pleased to support the Concordia Sailing Team who have had an exciting start to the sailing season, with four metro regattas and the upcoming State Championships in April. Despite challenging training conditions in Term 4, the teams have trained well and will be able to showcase their skills against competitors. The regatta format ensures that the teams will race against various skill levels and further their skill refinement while participating in a spirited competition. With training commencing in Week 2, the sailors are all very eager for this term!

If any current students would like to join for a come and try session, please email:

Emily Ward sailing@concordia.sa.edu.au

Sporting Flashback

Flashback to 1942 and the Concordia football First XVIII were the premiership team in the competition that year.

The team included four exceptional players who also played professionally for Sturt: Ev Leske, Clem Koch, Keith Nagel and Ian Kleinig. These four players will be honoured in a Sturt Football Club history book, which is currently being compiled. We hope to have a copy of it in our Archives soon.



Back Row: V. Georg, J. Paech, T. Lutze, L. Altus, C. Koch, G. Fischer
 Middle Row: J. Juers, R. Paech, Ev. Leske, K. Nagel (Capt.), C. Eckermann (Vice-Capt.), I. Kleinig, L. Grieger
 Sitting: D. Maczkowiack, H. Mitus, El. Leske, M. Minac, K. Oster, J. Nagorcka

Upcoming Reunions

70+ HARMONY IN THE CHAPEL

Friday 10 May 2024, 2:00pm

Chapel & Chapel Narthex

Free Event // Concert by Concordia Music students and an afternoon tea for the Class of 1954 and prior.

RSVP to Sue Kleinig - 08 8291 9339 or email: skleinig@concordia.sa.edu.au

50 YEAR REUNION, CLASS OF 1974

Friday 17 May 2024, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Fortiter Upstairs Room

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

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVDZ

40 YEAR REUNION, CLASS OF 1984

Friday 21 June 2024, 6:00pm-9:00pm

The Suaviter

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

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVDQ

30 YEAR REUNION, CLASS OF 1994

Friday 16 August 2024, 6:00pm-9:00pm

The Suaviter

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

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCX

60+ LUNCH, CLASS OF 1964 AND PRIOR

Thursday 19 September 2024, 12pm-3:00pm

The Suaviter

Tickets: \$30pp // Three-course lunch and entertainment for the Class of 1964 and prior.

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCV

20 YEAR REUNION, CLASS OF 2004

Friday 1 November 2024, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Art Courtyard

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

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCO

10 YEAR REUNION, CLASS OF 2014

Friday 15 November 2024, 6:00pm

Cremorne Garden Courtyard

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

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVCF

5 YEAR REUNION, CLASS OF 2019

Friday 29 November 2024, 6:00pm

Cremorne Garden Courtyard

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

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CNVBS

Partners welcome to all events.



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 Kleinig, for more information - alumni@concordia.sa.edu.au



OldConcordiansAssociation

Keep up to date and like us on Facebook



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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.

We would sincerely like to thank all Old Concordians who generously supported our building projects. As Old Concordians have done for over 100 years, you have helped us achieve the best possible outcome for students of today and for future generations.