



# KGV Alumni

KING GEORGE V SCHOOL

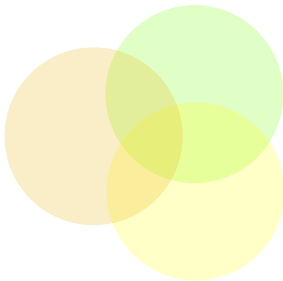
April 2006

Designed by: James Chow '89



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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello everybody,

This is my first newsletter as Chairman of the KGV Alumni, formerly the KGV Former Pupils Association. For a long time now there was talk of changing the name as it is rather a mouthful, especially when promoting our events publicly. So we are now simply KGV Alumni.

On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Dan Hooley, our outgoing Chairman, for his tenacity in keeping the Association going and the Committee together for the last 8 years. He was the steering force behind the successful Centenary reunion and instrumental in the start up of having the Alumni being run by the school with the support of the PTSA. Due to a demanding work schedule and other commitments, Dan handed over the reins at the December AGM, but happily, remains on the Committee.

On this note, our thanks goes to Ed Wickins, Principal, for his support with the mechanics of this new administration. Thanks also to Colleen Melvin, currently KGV PTSA Coordinator, who is the liaison between School and Alumni Committee. Our thanks also to Dan Hayne, Head of IT at KGV, for setting up the new alumni website and alumni registry that is now in place. There has been a very recent change in accessing our website. You now have to go to the school's site first: and on the home page click VISITORS and then click on the word ALUMNI.

Our first objective is to collate the hundreds of Alumni addresses we have between us and put them all on one database. We will then endeavour to contact all these people to ensure the information we have is up to date. Those with email will be contacted first. Those without will take a bit longer. Some of you may have recently registered on our new Alumni registry on the website. If not please help us and sign up so we can be in more regular contact.



KGV Alumni Committee.

From Left to Right:

front row: Colleen Melvin, Dan Hooley, Eleanor Sackett  
Middle Row: Haresh Shamdasani (Treasurer), Therese Thomas, Louise Wong (Hon. Secretary), Liz Muscroft, Nassir Yoonis.

Back Row: Christopher Mackreth, Deedee Chow, Oliver Win, Louie Win

We plan to be more visibly active and have already started by reviving the Alumni Stall at the KGV Karnival (formerly the Spring Fair) which took place on 20th March and making our presence known at the school. We will have updates in the school's newsletter and will have our own newsletter posted on the website at least twice a year. This will include news on past pupils and a "then and now" feature of a past pupil. We intend to compile the best of the news and put this into a hard copy annual newsletter that will be posted to all Alumni members.

In the interim we would love to hear from you, to have your feedback, comments and news.

With best wishes

Eleanor Sackett  
Chairman

KGV Alumni Committee



## KGV Alumni Christmas Get-together

KGV and the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui, together with its predecessor in the same building, the President Hotel, share the distinction of playing significant roles in Hong Kong's history.

Following the Alumni AGM on 8th December, KGV Alumni enjoyed pre-Christmas cheer at the Hyatt Regency's historic Chin Chin Bar, famous as a hangout for local celebrities in decades gone by as well as career springboards for countless Hong Kong singers. Bruce Lee signed his contract with Golden Harvest there and Teresa Carpio, Joe Junior, Esther Chan and many others entertained in this building which closed its doors on January 1st with the wreckers moving in on January 27th.

KGV'ers from the 1960's may have been too young to drink in the President Hotel's bars, but many of them infiltrated the hotel's back stairways when the Beatles stayed there in 1964 or waited patiently for autographs from Ike and Tina Turner, The Osmonds or later, The Clash....

We had over 50 attendees, including some teachers from the 60's. There was a KGV "Do you remember" quiz hosted by Anders and newly elected Chairman Eleanor Sackett.

Such was the success of the evening it is planned to make this an annual get together after every AGM although a new venue will have to be found!



School friends catching up:  
Peter, Greg and John Barnes with Aileen Chalmers and Bolin Jones



Anders the crooner



John "the voice" Malig

With a little musical help from KGV Alumni Anders Nelsson, who with his famed Continentals band brought excitement to the Hong Kong pop-scene in the '60s, former KGV'ers who turned up on the night were able to relive those heady days without fear of having their ages checked! John Malig, who attended KGV a generation later, also performed with his band and local celebrity Joe Junior put in a surprise performance.

## KGV Karnival

After a long absence the Alumni Stall made its appearance at the KGV Karnival on Saturday 10th March. We had a "Guess the name of the Lion" game with a fantastic hamper of goodies to attract visitors to the stall and sold 1,000 cookies generously donated by Starbucks (Coffee Concepts HK Ltd). We also sold the school history books which were very popular. A fair number of alumni came over to chat and although we never signed anyone up on the day, we had a number of interested former students take the forms with them. Such was the success of the stall we will be back, bigger and better next year!



Alumni Committee and friends at the Karnival  
(from L to R) Deedee Chow, Therese Thomas, Eleanor Sackett, Anders Nelsson and Dave McKirdy.



According to the Bible the meek shall inherit the earth and you can be sure that if the 'meek' have an alumni association, Dan Hooley is the Chairman.



Dr. Dan Hooley by Anders Nelsson

Attending Kowloon Junior School (KJS) during the 1950s, he was so quiet and well-behaved that to his great embarrassment teacher Mrs. Leighton often held him up as a shining example of the perfect student. "I guess I was the complete opposite to my nickname of Hooligan," quips the Shanghai-born Aussie, now one of Hong Kong's top surgeons, specializing in sports medicine.

He is also an active member of countless associations, boards of directors and committees....including the former chair of KGV's Former Pupils Association for the past 8 years and continuing as one of the most active members of this recently renamed association and its reunion committee.

Married for 31 years to Sheryl (they have had two children at KGV, Danielle and David), he balances his mild-mannered childhood reputation with some extreme sports ranging from Kendo (Japanese Sword Combat) to flying helicopters and single-engine planes through pistol shooting and horse jumping. "I had to do something to make up for the fact that my biggest sporting achievement at school was winning a sack race!" he quips.



Rumour has it his inspiration to become a surgeon stemmed from seeing a lady sawn in half by a famous magician who visited KJS. Hooley refuses to comment on this, but admits that such visits were highly popular breaks in a routine which consisted of 'school-YMCA-sports-home'.



Whether or not Houdini had anything to do with his Hippocratic leanings, he headed off to the Medical School at the University of Sydney after taking his A Level GCEs in 1966.

With MB,BS, FRCSEd, FHKCOS, FHKAM(ORTH) after his name, he worked in various medical capacities in Australia until 1992 when a yearning for his roots brought him back to Hong Kong. He has been in fulltime practice here since 1994.

He has many fond memories of his Hong Kong childhood. "I don't recall the early days in Shanghai as I was only 2 when we took the last boat to Hong Kong in 1949," he says, "But I remember the playground along Chatham Road back in the fifties when what is now Tsim Sha Tsui East was military barracks." He also remembers sucking honey from hibiscus flowers plucked from the hedges which blocked off the barracks.

Hooley also had a musical streak which kept him practicing the piano for hours on end and he was much in demand as a church organist. He also sang in the choir at St John's Cathedral and worked his way up to head choirboy. "We wore traditional choir robes complete with frilly collars!" he reminisces.

Hooley regrets the wholesale destruction of most of Hong Kong's old buildings and neighborhoods, but memories are still brought to life by strolling through some of his old haunts such as Granville Road and Carnarvon Road. "I remember buying a cheap costume jewelry necklace for my first crush, Pauline McNeill, at a little store on the corner of Granville and Nathan Roads when she was leaving Hong Kong," he recalls wistfully.

Hooley remains mild-mannered and soft spoken, but has shown strong leadership qualities which have taken him to the top of his profession as well as into top positions on many committees as well as on the boards of the Ebenezer School and Home for the Visually Impaired and Australian International School Foundation (Chairman). But when the meek show up to collect their inheritance, Dan Hooley will no doubt head the queue, on horseback and carrying a large Japanese sword!



Caption: Dan and family now. From left to right, Cheryl, Dan, Danielle and son-in-law Ari. David is absent.

**Editor's Note:** Anders also went to Kowloon Junior with Dan, which is one reason he was elected to write this article. "My recollection", he confidentially told me, "is that Dan and I sat next to each other from P1 to P6, but we were both so quiet, shy and reserved that I don't think anyone noticed we were even there...I believe we took turns being teacher's pet just because we were meek and shy....I remember once being very embarrassed (but secretly pleased) when Mrs. Leighton, our class teacher, told the visiting Lady Grantham that she wished all pupils would be as quiet and well behaved as Hooley and Nelsson". After reading this, if you know Anders, then you are justified in believing that he has poetic license with the article. Please note we do not take any responsibility for facts reported herewith!



## 2006 Alumni Reunion in Hong Kong by Celia Barrett (nee Mitchell)

Friends Reunited has a lot to answer for. Out of the blue in April last year came a telephone call from Dave McKirdy in Hong Kong to my office in the UK. Following various emails and conversations with others I dared to ask Dave the question, "We are all 50 next year, what about a reunion in Hong Kong?" Whether it was the diet coke talking or catching him on the hop I don't know, but between us we said we would give it a go. So with Dave in Hong Kong and me in the UK, and with limited email experience, we are organising an era specific reunion for those who attended KGV in the '70s – not excluding anybody else who wishes to join us.

We had a list of school-friends from the Lion magazine who had taken their exams in 1972 and probably about 14 e-mail addresses between us. The first contact was made in July last year. Between the launch of Dave's book "Accidental, Occidental", and me becoming a Grandma, using various web-sites, contacting siblings and regular updates, word has spread and the list has expanded. We now have a contact list of 147 and as the process unfolds, a reunion will be forthcoming on 6th to 13th April 2006.

To date there are nearly 40 flying into HK. Any Hong Kong based Alumni are welcome to join us. To enquire about ticket prices and book your place/s at any of the events below, please contact me

## 2007 Reunion Update

There appears to be a yearning for another big KGVers get-together following the success of the Centenary Reunion in 2002. The Alumni Committee is well beyond the planning stage of organising our next big alumni reunion which will last for a week next year. It will start on a celebratory note with the Moon Festival at the end of September and end with a big bang with the fireworks celebrating China National Day at the beginning of October. The Committee is working hard to make it a big bash and ensure there is something for everyone who joins us but the main component for its success will be your attendance.

Check for updates on our dedicated reunion website created and run by Randy Dilena, husband of Alumni Carolyn Dilena (nee Etherton '79).

Check for updates at [www.kgvreunion.org](http://www.kgvreunion.org)



## 2006 EASTER ALUMNI REUNION SCHEDULE

### Thursday 6th & Friday 7th

School tour including the Special Needs department. Meeting and interacting with current students in an informal environment. Activities and times to be confirmed

### Saturday 8th

'70's Disco in the School Hall 8.00pm until Midnight – cash bar

### Sunday 9th

Free

### Monday 10th

Meet 10.30am at Star Ferry for ferry to Lamma Island. Seafood lunch and return about 3.00pm – evening free

### Tuesday 11th

Early evening tram ride, taking in the hustle, bustle and lights through Western District or Causeway Bay on an antique open-topped tram. Optional dinner to finish the evening.

### Wednesday 12th

A day out in Sai Kung Country Park on a hired bus with lunch and a walk round an ancient and quaint Hakka farming Village.

### Thursday 13th

Final evening:  
BBQ/Buffer at USRC (walking distance from the hotel) 7.00pm until kicking out time