

Former Pupils' Association Newsletter

KING GEORGE V SCHOOL

Jan 2006





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For Contact FPA

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CHAIRMAN

Hello everyone,

YES, THE 2007 REUNION IS ON IN HONG KONG!

I would like to apologise for the absence of activity on this end since the Centenary Reunion. I do however have good news for you. As I have mentioned in the past, the Association has essentially been a "club" for those of us from the 50's, 60's and early 70's. Without the school being actively involved in the Association, we will never be able to attract the younger generation to join, and the association will inevitably fade away.

So, the good news is, the present principal, Ed Wickins, has moved forward on Dennis Cox's (the previous principal) decision to take the Alumni on board. I will be giving the Associations records, bank accounts and data base to the school from which time the Association will become a formal part of the school (as it should be) and be run by the school with all its resources. The committee will, and has to remain involved, but I hope that we can involve members of the senior student body.

The school will hold and develop the data base as well as encourage all leaving students to join, thus making this a true alumni association. It will also develop the alumni website, which has been inaccessible by the association and inactive since Sirdar Kahn's untimely death.

I would like to mention a couple of other things that I have written about before:

I still feel strongly that the heart of the Association is and should be at the school – this is after all where it all started, and although the Association is about friendship and keeping in touch, it is also about that special feeling and attachment for the school that most of us have. The last time I dared suggest this, I was hit with a barrage of emails to the contrary.

I still hold to this view. We should therefore, I feel, hold a major reunion for all alumni every five or ten years here in Hong Kong to coincide with the anniversary of the school's beginning, or of KGV itself on the present site. Other regional reunions can and should be held, but can be attended by others if they wish. Smaller reunions can be held ad hoc in year groups and so on. To have a major reunion frequently will not sustain itself.

So this, I hope, will be the way forward, and the next major reunion will be here in 2007. I would encourage those of you who have never come back to a Hong Kong reunion to attend, as they are always great fun. You will find preliminary details below. May I also suggest that no large reunions are planned elsewhere in 2006 or 2008 as this inevitably will affect attendance in Hong Kong – as it did with the Centenary Reunion.

We also need to consider a change in the name of our Association as it is a bit of a mouthful. If you do have any suggestions, please let us know. Suggestions so far include the KGV Alumni Association and The Lions.

As many of you know, a history of the school was produced for the centenary and is available for sale. It has been published in a hard cover "coffee table" version and a leather bound limited edition in a presentation box. It is a wonderful book and I am sure all of you would want one. Publication of the book was funded jointly by the KGV FPA and the KGV PTSA, and a special account was set up by the PTSA for proceeds from the sale. This will go towards funding a perpetual joint FPA/PTSA annual award, yet to be decided. You will find details below.

Finally, when Sandra Fattedad (Quinn) left Hong Kong I took over running the Association because no one else wanted to do it, and we feared the Association might not survive. After eight years I do not have the time needed to do this, and must admit to having become somewhat disillusioned. I am so glad that we now have new blood raring to go!

Now that the administrative burden has been lifted, I am sure that the committee will be able to function more efficiently. I will be resigning as chairman at the next AGM, but hope to continue my involvement in the committee. Eleanor Sackett has very kindly agreed to "take over", and I'm sure is going to do wonderful things – she wields a mighty whip!

I look forward to seeing many of you here in 2007. We will have a great reunion for you.

Dan



THEN AND NOW

Johnny Monteiro



To Johnny Monteiro a quick draw has nothing to do with either John Wayne's gunslinging skills or Picasso's speedy sketching. It has everything to do with whipping a comb from the back pocket of his Levi jeans as the teenage party animal sat on the railings on Saturday mornings, outside the Princess Theatre on the corner of Nathan and Kimberley Roads, while waiting for the matinee to start. The slick move made sure that the James Dean and Elvis Presley-inspired coif was always perfect and the comb was as much a 'must-have' accessory circa 1957 as the obligatory silver ID bracelet made by a Kowloon City silversmith.

But the handsome Macanese didn't only rely on his looks to break hearts, he was renowned for his dancing skills.....and to this day he can clear a dance floor of other dancers with jiving that belies his age. Chuck Berry's Johnny B. Goode will always be associated with 'our' Johnny.

Johnny talks with fondness of the fun-filled days at KGV, and fifty years on his close circle of friends is still largely intact. They meet regularly to shoot the breeze about the great lifestyle Hong Kong enjoyed in the 50s and 60s.

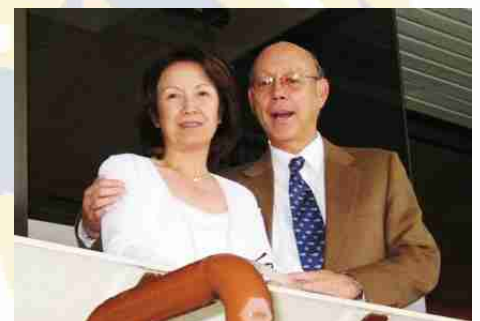
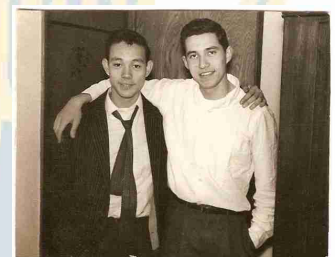
"Flirting with the girls at school was a no-no and many of us spent hours standing on the 'square' as punishment," he recalls. "Crossing over to the girls' side of the school was an even more serious infringement and usually resulted in a caning by the much-feared 'peg-leg' Potter."

But he describes the canings of the day as the equivalent of receiving a Purple Heart during wartime, and in the macho community of those pre-PC days immediately raised the status of the recipients to hero level!

A proud member of Upsdell House, he was the school swimming champion and also played hockey for the school as well as representing Hong Kong in two Asian Games and the Tokyo Olympics.

After a long and successful career with Duty Free Shoppers, Monteiro is retired and a proud grandpa four times over.

He commutes between Hong Kong and San Francisco and still cannot sit still when a rock and roll backbeat attacks his senses.





SCHOOL REPORT

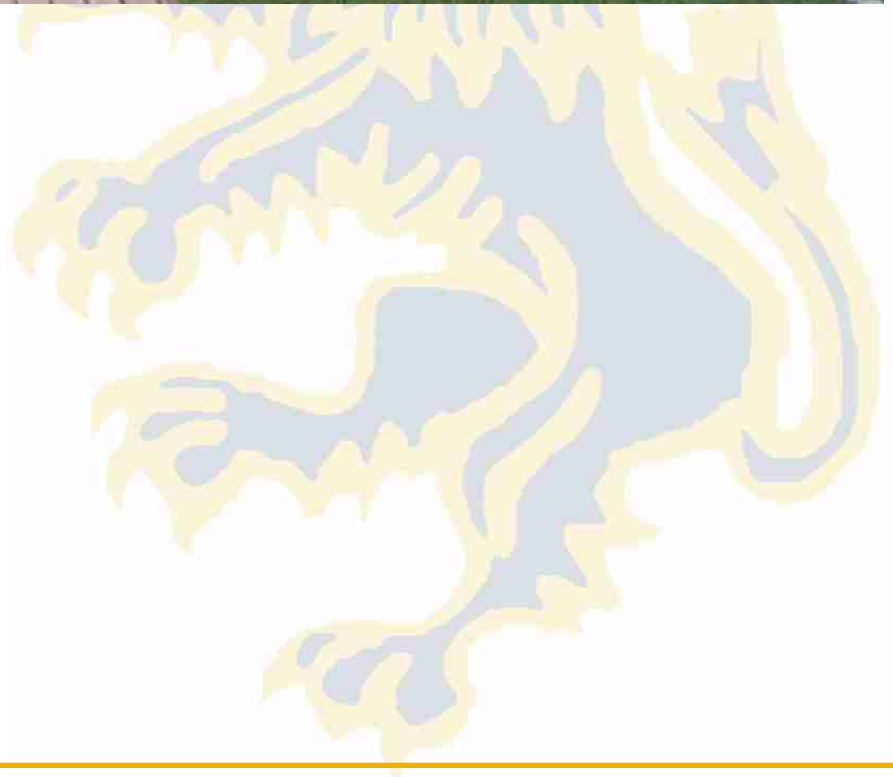
With both KJS and KGV requiring further expansion, architectural plans have been prepared in an ambitious project to utilize the area between the two schools and the sharing of some facilities. The pool will be relocated within a very attractive design.

The squash courts are no more, having been replaced by state of the art Drama studios. The running track is a distant memory since the field was converted to 95% Astroturf – a true delight to play on especially when dramatically floodlit

Beyond merely the physical, KGV is very much in keeping with modern times. Its already impressive website (www.kgv.edu.hk) is being continually improved upon, to the benefit of all who wish to keep abreast of the “ins and outs” of such a vibrant school.

With its feet on the floor and heading for the stars, KGV looks not only forward, but remembers its past, Ed Wickins, the new principal, an avid member of the Cambridge Alumni, is keen to update links between the school and its illustrious past. Reunions are cropping up all over the world and there is a genuine desire for communication between former pupils to be facilitated by the school itself. With such strong ties forged, the school, its pupils and all that have passed through its gates shall reap rewards.

The future looks bright!





A NIGHT OF NOSTALGIA

Gerry and the Pacemakers China Coast Community charity night at KGV
December 12th, 2004

The unique China Coast Community home for the aged in Kowloon Tong shares many similarities with KGV. Besides the geographical location, it has the same cosmopolitan mix of nationalities and races and the English-language culture which is much appreciated by the residents who would find it very difficult to fit into an environment where radios and TV sets are normally tuned to local Chinese stations.

So when ex-KGVers from the 60s Anders Nelsson and Rhoda Madar heard that the Home was in trouble in the autumn of 2004 they immediately offered to help arrange a fund-raising event.....and what better venue than the KGV assembly hall? Their event company had Gerry & the Pacemakers coming in for a corporate event a few weeks later and a deal was quickly struck with Gerry to perform on his day off between gigs in Hong Kong and Shenzhen across the border from Lowu.

The event was a huge success with youngsters and old timers alike chowing down on hotdogs and burgers whipped up by the canteen, while volunteers handed out wine, beer and cokes. The over 50s crowd was misty eyed with nostalgia as a haughty Vice Principal scolded them for daring to consume food while crossing the nearest quadrangle.....shades of Miss McCorkindale in a time warp.

Gerry, who only 18 months earlier had had a triple bypass operation, was in fine shape and kept the motley crew on their feet for two hours as he rocked through a collection of rock and roll favourites, all his hits and ending (of course) with You'll Never Walk Alone.

Close to HK\$100,000.00 was raised for the home and a great time was had by all.

"I wish some of my old friends who have moved away could have been here," late 50s alumni Johnny Monteiro was heard to sigh as he inspected some scars on the old parquet floor which had no doubt been inflicted by his then-new and trendy Cuban dancing boots as he jived to Johnny B. Goode at a Friday Club dance way back in 1961. They just don't make nostalgia the way they used to!

2007 REUNION KGV Handover Anniversary Reunion Friday 28th September - Tuesday 2nd October

With memories of the Centenary Ball just beginning to fade, the KGV FPA Committee have set a date for the next big KGV reunion in Hong Kong. This will be held over 5 days to give everyone a chance to participate in something to their availability and liking. Dates chosen coincide with the end of the Lantern Festival and China National Day, which means there are public holidays here and plenty of firework displays. The main event will be a function on Saturday, 29th September. Details are on the 2006 Reunion website. www.kgvreunion.org, and will be continually updated.



REUNIONS

LONDON
14th - 16th July 2004

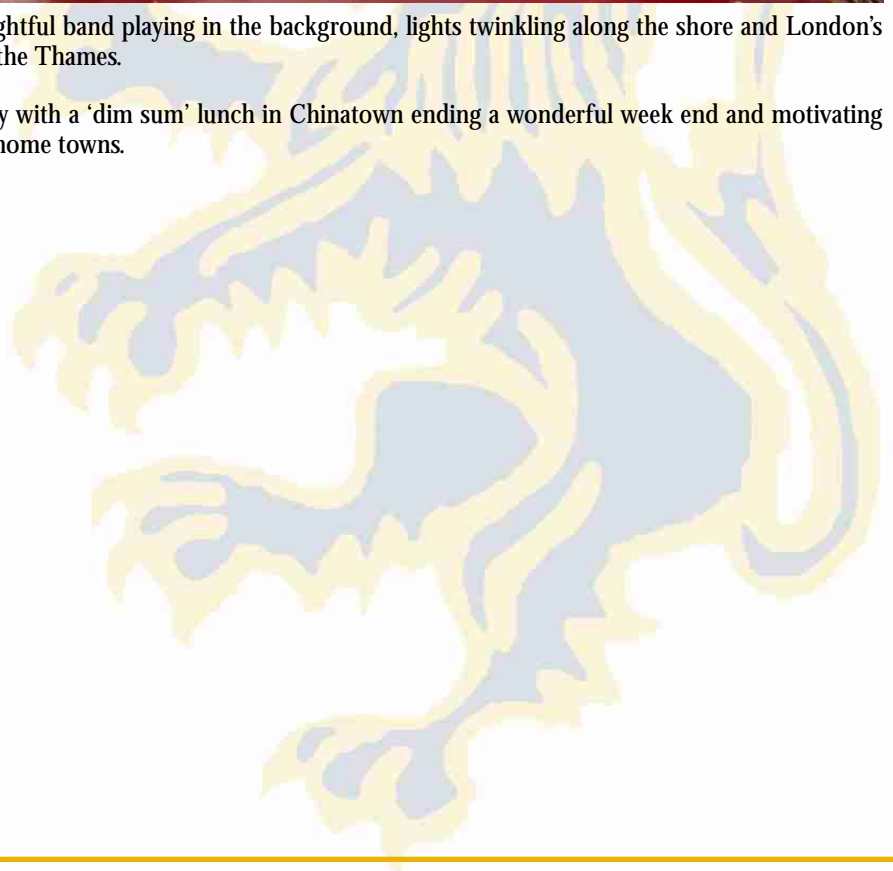
This was a well-organised get-together by former Head Boy ('79) Denis Remedios and classmate Julia Harbage (nee Dunkerley). The event took place over a week-end in London and attracted former pupils not just from England but also from HK and as far afield as San Francisco. There was an interesting spread of three decades of former KGV'ers although the bulk attending were those leaving school around the late '70's.

The Friday night gathering was at the London Hilton's Vic Traders bar, where a special cocktail menu was devised to rekindle the "flames of the past"! There was quite a buzz in the air as this was the first time many of the former KGV'ers had seen each other since leaving school some thirty years ago!

The following day saw a leisurely evening cruise down the Thames accompanied by a jazz band with drinks and after dinner speeches. Here was more opportunity to reminisce. Showing his strong attachment to former schooldays, Denis wore his old school tie with pride. Carolyn Etherton and Evie Buckley brought over a special reunion book and celebratory cake from an earlier KGV'ers San Francisco get-together. This was a very special evening made all the more memorable by the excitement of renewed friendships and the camaraderie of a common bond that linked all on board. It was enhanced by the wonderfully long English summer evening, the delightful band playing in the background, lights twinkling along the shore and London's famous landmarks lit up as the boat chugged down the Thames.



The final event and goodbyes were made on Sunday with a 'dim sum' lunch in Chinatown ending a wonderful week end and motivating those from overseas to organise something in their home towns.





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REUNIONS

SAN FRANCISCO August 2005

The reunion in San Francisco was very well attended, with former pupils from every decade...50's through 90's. The opening cocktail party was held in a restaurant right on the Bay, with a stunning vista of Alcatraz and the entire Bay area. Many participants brought interesting photos and memorabilia from their KGV days.

On Saturday two options were given; a city tour on a motorized cable car with boat ride to Alcatraz, or a winery tour in the Napa Valley with lunch and wine tasting. That night a formal dinner party was held in the gorgeous Sheraton Palace, the official hotel of the reunion. On Sunday we had a good old American tailgate party before watching the SF Giants play the Houston Astros. That night we took over most of AsiaSF for some gender-bending entertainment with delicious Asian fusion cuisine. The long weekend was capped off with a dim sum luncheon in downtown San Francisco.

The organizers, Evelyn Buckley, Seema (Nizam) Shams and Carolyn (Etherton) Dilena wish to thank all the participants who came from as far away as England, Canada, Hong Kong and all across the United States, and helped to make this event such a success. Please feel free to view albums taken by various attendees at the following website: <http://www.kodakgallery.com/kgvreunion>

A few photos from <http://www.kodakgallery.com/kgvreunion>



HONG KONG 6th - 13th April 2006

Dave McKirdy and Celia Barrett are organising an era specific reunion themed towards the 1970s for former pupils who are going to be 50 this year, although other alumni are welcome to come along. The reunion will include various activities both around KGV and other nostalgic trips. In order to give everybody an opportunity to come, and due to the school timetable and public holiday on 5th April, Thursday April 6th will be the first official event. A couple of days of school activities are planned: meeting students, assembly etc. for those that are interested, followed by a '70's disco in the school hall on Saturday 8th April. Other events/activities will continue until Thursday 13th April, concluding just before Easter.

Ultimately numbers attending will dictate the scale of some of the events, and in order for us to arrange events/costs etc. people intending to come should indicate ASAP to whether you wish to be included in further updates.

For further details please contact Celia Barrett celiabarrett@btinternet.com. Thanks.



NEWS OF ALUMNI

A recent survey carried out online of KGV alumni showed some interesting results. Some are mentioned below:

Current location

UK – 28%, USA 22.7%, HK 17.5%, Oceania 13.3%, Canada 10.4%, EU 4.3%, Asia/ ME 0.5%.

Tertiary Education

UK 42.9%, US 21.2%, Oceania 14.7%, Canada 10.8%, HK 5.4%, Asia/ ME 3.9%, EU 0.5%.

Marital Status

50% single, 36% married, 12% partnered, 2% divorced.

Children

0 - 28.2%, 1 - 16.7%, 2 - 34.6%, 3 - 14.1%, 4 - 5.15, More than 4 - 1.3%.

Penny Elias (Winship) – '65 – Penny recently lost her husband Egbert after a very long illness, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her. Her four children Danielle, Michelle, Andre and Saskia do well in their careers. Penny now is finding time to return to some of her previous interests, which include writing poetry and the theatre.

Sam O'Brien – '83 – Is now working as a credit controller at Indesit in the UK. He remembers Angela Smith as head of school, as well as Mr. Sherrington, Mr. McMahon and Mrs. White, all very fondly.

Jane Cooper (Cheeney) – '82 – Jane bumped into Paul Maylon ('78) via 'Friends Dating', and they now live together very happily in the Isle of Man!

Clyde Mckay – '88 – Clyde was employed by a company making batteries after leaving school. He was transferred to Dallas and later to Arizona. He later moved into the telecommunications sector as a partner in his own business. He is now also involved in supplies to professional paintball events.

James Chow (Chowie) – '88 – He has been living in Hong Kong ever since he graduated in Australia and has been running his own design company for over 4 years. Recently married to Laura Bennett in St Andrew's, where she was also confirmed.

Luba Estes (Skvorzov) – '49 – Luba is still married to Ron who (it now can be told) worked for the CIA. They live in St Augustine, Florida. Luba relates when she met an old school friend Joy Ford at a dinner put on by the MI-5 station commander. Ron was sitting at a different table to Luba and was speaking to a lady who related her experiences in Hong Kong. When Ron said his wife had grown up in Hong Kong.....! They both have the same wedding anniversaries, and have shared them for most of the past 29 years!

Heeru Dadlani – '87 – Heeru remembers Tim Chow and Keith Weng, pillow fights in the common room, Mr. Minns and his metre long ruler, swimming galas in Hung Hom, the spring fair and the haunted house.

Brian Dewell – '56 – Brian writes that his father worked in the R.N. Dockyard, and is looking for his friends from those days.

Jennifer Choy – '98 KJS – Jennifer is now attending Diamond Bar High in California. She never went to KGV, but is looking for her old friends from KJS.



RETIREMENTS

Shirley Kiu – July 2003 marked the end of an era after thirty years of serving students and staff in the “Tuck” shop. Shirley was originally employed by Swindon’s, but was asked by the PTA to run the tuck and “not new” shop.

During the Centenary celebrations many former students remembered her as the lady who used to work in the “cubby hole” at the end of the canteen block. For those of you oldies, this is where the old woodwork room used to be.

Liz Muscroft – Liz has been an institution at KGV, having been a member of staff for 32 years. She was often seen as a rather serious and “hard nut”, but once through the surface, had a great sense of humour, intelligence and empathy.

A wonderful dinner and farewell was held by some former pupils. Liz remains in Hong Kong, and her husband Roger still teaches at KGV in design and technology.

Other long serving members of staff who have recently left include:

Ken Wright (1976),

Peter Sherington (1978),

Vicki Trennaman (1990),

David Milnes (1992),

Michael Seal ,

Terry and Judy Bugden,

Michael Jackman,

Rod Minns,

Caryl and Archie Hartwright,

Terry Byrnes,

Josie McDonall and Lynne Ostheimer.



OBITUARIES

Phil Barnes – Phil was a teacher at KGV. He was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident during the 2005 Easter holidays. He was a warm generous and good humoured man loved by his students and fellow musicians. He was very active in coaching soccer, and a memorial match was held between staff and sixth formers; this will continue annually with the award of a trophy. Phil's wife Ling continues to teach at the school, and he is also survived by his son Aleks.

Martin Booth (class of '64) – Martin grew up in Hong Kong, and was educated at KGV. His initial love was poetry and he taught English for many years in England before embarking on a remarkably prolific and successful career in writing, which included runner up for the Booker Prize.

Martin wrote many children's books, histories, travel stories and television scripts as well as his more famous novels *The Iron Tree*, *Opium* and *Hiroshima Joe*. Martin succumbed to brain cancer in February 2004 after a heroic fight, and many KGVers will have followed his progress from regular emails from him. In his last year, Martin wrote three children's books and *Gweilo*, an autobiographical account of his years in Hong Kong.

"Gweilo" is a book that everyone who grew up in Hong Kong, particularly in the early days, should read. It is an incredibly colourful tale of life in Hong Kong set against a rather turbulent domestic background. Read it!

Martin is survived by his wife Helen, a son and daughter.

Peter Poulson – Peter and his two grandchildren were tragically killed by his daughter's estranged husband on 15/9/03 in Australia. Peter was a gentleman and a gentle man. He pioneered adult and community education in Australia, holding many positions including principal of the Parramatta College for adult education, State Quality Assessor for Vocational Training and was a member of the executive committee for adult learning. He was involved in redefining adult learning for over 20 years.

Peter's funeral was held in Springwood and attended by many of his old KGV friends. He is survived by his wife Cheryl and daughter Ingrid.

Graham Cochrane – Graham was born in Stanley POW camp in Hong Kong where he spent many years. Graham passed away on 12/3/05 at the RNSH in Sydney.

Malcolm Lonsdale – Mr. Lonsdale died suddenly in retirement. He originally taught at St George's school, but came to KGV in 1968 as head of modern languages. He became Deputy Principal in 1979, holding this position until his retirement in 1990.

He was a keen sportsman, playing first grade soccer and cricket, an accomplished pianist and a lover of crosswords. He is survived by his wife Sue, who was head of Food Technology at KGV and his daughters Sara and Debbie, both students at KGV.

Geoff Coombs – Geoff died in August 2003 in the UK. He was an inspirational teacher of Physics from 1977 to 1992. He will be remembered by the way he dealt with the unexpected after a stroke, returning to teaching with hemiplegia and going on to lead an active life also in retirement. He is survived by his wife Eileen who was at his side when he passed away.

Elaine Chow – We have recently learned of the very sad and tragic death of Elaine M Chow who left KGV in 2004. Our deepest condolences go to her family and to all members of the school community who knew Elaine.

Doreen Handiside – Doreen was headmistress at the Peak School and Glenealy and a past Lady Captain of the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club. Although not a KGVer, many would have known her. Doreen remained a very active golfer in retirement. She passed away on 23 October 2005.

Bill Bird – Bill was a teacher of languages for many years. He passed away suddenly on the 26 November 2005. Unfortunately we have no further information.

William Lam – Husband to lovely wife Karen, and proud father of 16 days old daughter, Chloe when he passed away in the early morning May 10 2005 in Hong Kong. William was a man of honor, integrity and passion, facing every challenge with energy and vigor. He loved his family and embraced his friends in a way that was to set an example for all of us. He touched the hearts of many who knew him, with his fun loving and good heart. While establishing a successful 12 year career with Maersk, he traveled to and stayed in many countries and had an incredible ability to engage with people from different cultures. His heart never did leave Hong Kong though he was far away and we always see him back when he can. Karen is now residing in Singapore with their daughter Chloe, the country that he was planning to move to after Chloe's birth.

Friends can pen their thoughts about their feelings and loss about William <http://www.convivator.com/William/Index.html>

Judy Leung – On Sunday we learnt of the very sad and untimely death of Judy Leung, School Bursar. As many of you will be aware, Judy had been battling cancer for over a year. We were delighted when she returned to work in September but unfortunately the cancer returned in November and she died on January 7th 2006. Judy played an enormous role in the life of KGV and she will be greatly missed by us all. Her warmth, commitment and expertise in a wide range of fields were extraordinary strengths. The school community will be poorer without her. Her husband has indicated that the funeral details have not yet been finalised. We hope to be able to organise a celebration of her life at KGV next month. Our heartfelt support and best wishes go to Judy's family at this very difficult time.

Ed Wickins

