

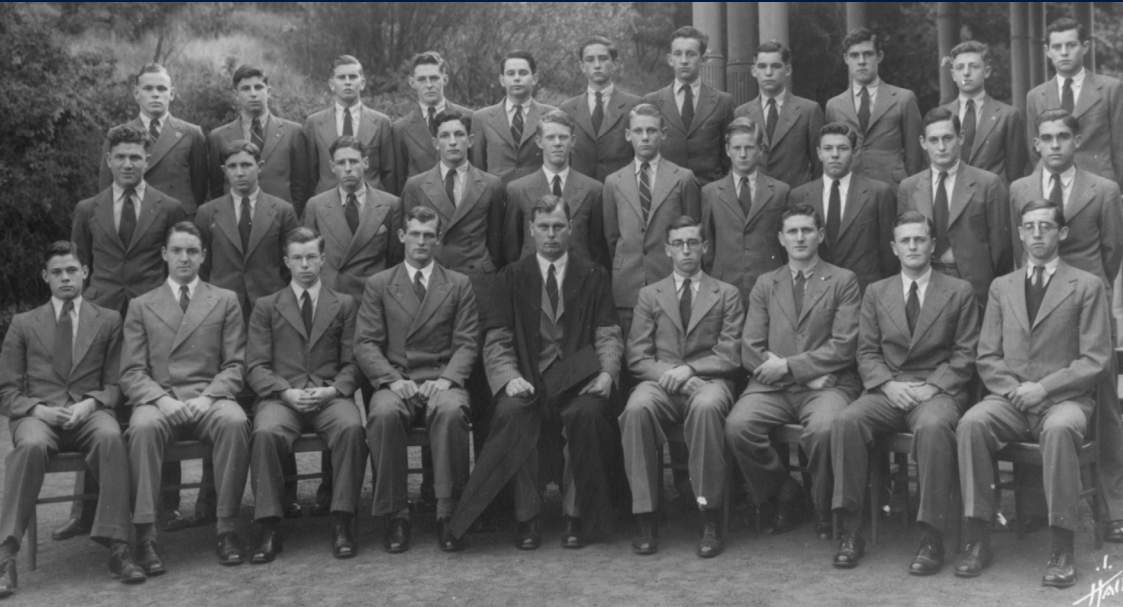


The Joklik Family
32 Years of support for



CRANBROOK
SCHOOL

EST. 1918



Helene Joklik Endowment

- 88-93 Alexander Ebner
- 94-96 Fergus McDonnell
- 99-03 Robert Franklin
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The Joklik Brothers, Bill (OC 1943) and Frank (OC 1944)

The Joklik family arrived in Sydney from Vienna in February 1938 aboard the P&O liner Orion. The family consisted of Karl Friedrich Joklik, Helene Adele Joklik and their sons Wolfgang Karl (Bill) and Guenther Franz (Frank); the brothers were aged 11 and 9. Their father, an electrical engineer, had been tasked by an Austrian specialty steel company to open offices in Australia. After a brief review, the family decided on Cranbrook School for the boys.

They adapted quickly in class and sports and established long lasting friendships. The Jokliks were a happy family but when war broke out in 1939 Karl was interned for the duration of the war as an “enemy alien” on account of his Austrian nationality. From then on the brothers’ lives depended on their mother’s ability to cope. For a while she and her sons depended on a modest weekly sustenance allowance from the liquidation of Karl’s office, but this resource was gradually reduced to nothing. Helene, a vivacious, talented teacher and musician knuckled down as a domestic worker to support her sons’ education. She bore the drudgery with resignation. Aware of their mother’s sacrifice, Bill and Frank took up all Cranbrook had to offer. They admired their teachers and enjoyed sports.

Based on their performance the School Council partially waived school fees. Without this act of generosity the boys would have had to leave the School. As it was, both were Dux of their respective forms, passed the Leaving Examinations with First Class Honours and were awarded Public Exhibitions by the University of Sydney. Helene eventually returned to Vienna to rejoin her husband who had been repatriated. She fondly remembered Australia despite the hardships she had endured.

The Joklik brothers went on to have highly successful careers. Their post doctoral paths diverged in that Bill, a virologist chose academic research whereas Frank, a geologist and mining engineer, pursued his profession in industry. Bill accepted several prestigious research appointments in Australia, Europe and the United States before being appointed James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at Duke University. He is known as “one of the earliest molecular virologists”, was editor in chief of the keystone medical textbook, Zinsser Microbiology, and a multiple award winner for his research. Frank’s leadership was key to launching successful metal mining projects in Australia, Papua New Guinea, the United States and in Spain. He became President of Kennecott, a large American mining company, directed the company through difficult cost reduction measures and rebuilt its operations.

Both Bill and he received wide peer recognition with membership in the National Academies of Science and Engineering respectively. In 1986 the brothers established the Helene Joklik Endowment at Cranbrook to provide scholarships for boys, like them, who have leadership potential and come from families with limited means. Both brothers attribute their achievements to the confidence, perseverance and sportsmanship they learned during their formative years at Cranbrook.

Dear Dr Joklik,

I am grateful to have the opportunity to thank you once again for the generosity of the scholarship I was awarded in 1998 and apologies for not being able to attend the event at Cranbrook as I am now living abroad in London. While I find it a little difficult to summarise my last 20 years in this short letter, I can hopefully give a brief update on whether I'm still an all-rounder for which the scholarship was originally awarded!

After finishing school, I studied Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sydney before entering a job in the asset management industry. I have always been hungry for learning and in the last few years, I've continued my studies in artificial intelligence and machine learning which I am most passionate. Only a few years ago, computers could not tell the difference between a dog and a cat and now they are able to drive cars or help diagnosis in medical imagery. It's fascinating to learn how this works, and even after adjusting for all the hype in this area, I really feel it can make a big difference across a broad range of industries and am excited to be a part of this.

I also continue to love sport and the outdoors. I race triathlons and ultra-marathons and sail an 18 foot skiff competitively. These days I enjoy competing less against the clock and more against my own limits and being closer to nature. Some people find it a bit odd that I've sort the outdoors more actively since leaving sunny Australia and arriving in the UK. Maybe it's because my university drinking days are well behind me or it could be since I've discovered the beauty of the mountains in Europe. The photo I attach below from when for some reason, I thought it would be a good idea to run around three countries in a day in Mont Blanc.

I have been living in London for 7 years and recently became a British citizen (although not the best timing with Brexit!). I also met my amazing wife, Therese, over here at a running event a few years ago and we got married earlier this year. Fortunately, she is also from Sydney so I shouldn't be stuck in the UK forever! As much fun as it is over here, we look forward to moving back when starting a family, in the hope that our children will have the same great opportunities and good fortune we have each had at home in Australia.

Once again thank you for the support you gave me for one of best educations I could have hoped. I am passionate about teaching and find mentoring others very rewarding. It is very special what your family has done for the school and the impact it has had on many of our lives.

Best wishes,

Rob Franklin - 2003



Dear Dr Joklik,

Unfortunately I am not able to meet you in person during your visit to Sydney, however I would like to express my gratitude to you for your generosity which provided me with the opportunity to benefit from attending a great school like Cranbrook.

At Cranbrook I received a well-rounded education with a focus on far more than just academic study. The school's motto; "To be rather than to seem to be" summarises the ethos and culture of the school and is a principle that I have always tried to live by.

After finishing high school I went on to study Civil Engineering and following that I spent a number of years travelling and working overseas. This included four years of voluntary work in South India where I helped design and build a number of social infrastructure projects for the local Indian and Tibetan refugee community.

During this time I met my wife Natacha, and we are now very happily married with two beautiful children Max (11) and Mia (5).

I am currently working as Program Manager on one of the largest transport infrastructure projects in Melbourne's history, the Metro Tunnel Rail Project, which is an exciting city shaping project that I am enjoying a great deal.

I continue to spend a lot of my spare time with the charitable work I started in India almost 17 years ago, and I am on the Board of a charitable organisation called Shenpen which supports spiritual and charitable activities and projects in India, Europe and Australia.

My experience working with Shenpen over the years has taught me the importance and value of kindness and generosity, and as a great believer in cause and effect I would like to think that the seeds of my interest in helping others were planted when I received the generous gift of an education at Cranbrook school from you.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your visit to Australia and I wish you and your family lots of happiness for Christmas and the New Year.

Warmest wishes

Alex Ebner - 1993



Dear Dr Joklik,

Firstly, I wanted to say how thrilled I am at the prospect of meeting you for lunch in early December. It's difficult to put into words how appreciative I am of the opportunity you have given my family and I; I will do my best in this short note, but sometimes a handshake and a smile can be more effective (so I'm glad I'll get the opportunity to do so shortly as well!).

My time at Cranbrook is something I look back on fondly, especially because I know it wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of a complete stranger. Growing up, my parents were some of the hardest workers I had ever seen, and they did everything they could to provide for our family and ensure my brothers and I experienced an upbringing full of love and support. Their dream was to give their children all of the opportunities they never had, one of which was a great education. Unfortunately, financial difficulties meant that they would have to settle for something less than their dream school for me, Cranbrook. That is, of course, until I was given the opportunity to attend through the Helene Joklik Scholarship. I still remember the day I found out, and I remember very specifically deciding that I was never to waste this opportunity out of respect to my parents, as well as to you and your family.

Entering every situation and opportunity with enthusiasm and gratefulness meant that Cranbrook was the perfect school for me – to put it simply, I got out what I put in. Academically, I was consistently fostered by the teaching staff who seemed to especially invest in those that were hungry to learn. I took pride in my grades and became very close to a number of teachers throughout my entire schooling that I regularly looked to for support. I also took a keen interest in basketball, following in the footsteps of my older brothers, and was lucky enough to be part of the first ever 1st V team to win a CAS Championship. Not only did I enjoy some of the best basketball of my life while at school, I continued to be involved as coach in the years after high school where I was given the opportunity to work with enthusiastic kids, just like I had been only a few years earlier.

After completing a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Sydney, I decided to begin my career in funds management, where I worked for a boutique firm focusing on Australian equities. After three highly educational years, I decided to move into Corporate Advisory, which is where I am working today. It is a great opportunity and I am learning a huge amount of key skills that will undoubtedly serve me well wherever my career takes me.



I truly believe that to be successful, you need a strong work ethic and high intellect; however, this pales in comparison to the huge amount of luck that is needed. There are plenty of smart, hardworking individuals that were never given an opportunity and thus never able to fulfil their potential, all through no fault of their own. I do consider myself a good person and a hard worker, but I cannot say that I deserved this opportunity any more than the next person. It is with this level of gratitude and humility that I thank you.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity given to very few. I promise I will not waste it.

Best wishes,

Adam Congiusta - 2010



Dear Dr Joklik,

I am sorry that I could not attend the lunch and say thank you to you in person for supporting the Cranbrook scholarship fund. I have always felt fortunate to be the recipient of a scholarship to attend Cranbrook, but as the years pass it is more apparent what a remarkable education I received: it's about the best tool a person can have.

I have not lived in Sydney for many years, and have landed in Vancouver, British Columbia. I have read that you were involved with Kennecott- I spent several years in the mining business and have great memories of spending time in exploration camps in the Canadian arctic, including on some old Kennecott diamond claims. I'm now practicing law, married with two young girls (who will be on skis this winter for the first time) and all of a sudden it's been over 20 years since I left Cranbrook- time flies.

I hope you enjoy visiting Sydney and meeting some of the men whose lives you helped, and I wish I could have been present.

Regards,

Fergus McDonnell - 1996



Dear Dr Joklik,

I often reflect on the impact that your scholarship has had on my life.

I have spent the past decade of my life working as a director of theatre and opera, and it was at Cranbrook that I developed my passion for the performing arts. I was blessed at Cranbrook to have an incredible Drama teacher, Robert Wickham, who inspired us to take the school play incredibly seriously. And we did. I performed in, wrote, and devised scores of plays at Cranbrook, and it was there that I also directed for the first time. I would go on to study directing at the National Institute of Dramatic Art.

I also honed my leadership skills at Cranbrook, which culminated in being appointed Head Prefect, Captain of Drama, and Captain of Debating in my final year of studies. These skills and passions coalesce now in my role as Artistic Director of the Sydney Theatre Company. I would not have found myself in this privileged and fortunate position without the generosity of your scholarship.

Thank you for honouring your mother in a way that has given so much to me and to others.

Best wishes,

Kip Williams - 2004







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