

We bid farewell to another Kirkbyite. Khoo Theam Kheng was a great Kirkbyite!

With very warm regards,
RAMA

R.I.P. KHOO THEAM KHENG 58-59 – 27-8-2018

At 7.44 am this morning, Bala (58-59) forwarded me this message from Tay Soo Hock (59-60) in Sydney:

“Just received news Khoo Theam Kheng (58-59) passed away this morning in RNH hospital. Wife’s name is Grace Khoo.”

Then shortly afterwards, Soo Hock called me and we had a pretty long conversation.

He mentioned Theam Kheng’s demise.

I immediately recalled Peter Ng’s (59-59) call only a few days ago from Melbourne. Peter wanted to find out about Poh Yuk’s health. In the course of our conversation he mentioned that Theam Kheng was down with pneumonia and had been in hospital for a month.

Soo Hock explained that Theam Kheng was admitted to a Rehab. Hospital for physio exercise where he came down with pneumonia following which he was admitted to another hospital for medical treatment. He made a recovery from this first attack of pneumonia and went back to the Rehab. Hospital to continue with his physio program. BUT here he had a second attack of pneumonia and was referred for admission to The Royal North Shore

|Hospital where records of his earlier renal treatment are kept.

This was the hospital where he had his kidney transplant 20 years ago as well as his heart bypass.

In spite of the best efforts of the doctors, Theam Kheng did not respond to the medicine. The doctors gave up; he was off medication, food and drink during the last three weeks or so.

Soo Hock visited him two or three days ago and sadly saw him in a much deteriorated condition.

You might say that it was a blessing that our dear Theam Kheng passed away peacefully.

Theam Kkeng was a very friendly and jolly Kirkbyite – always in a happy frame of mind. He had attended almost every Kirkby Reunion except the one in JB last month. He was too sick to make it.

I remember Them Kheng in Kirkby for one reason. The Gymnastic Club met on Thursdays for their activities at night in the hall, On one occasion he taught me how to perform the neck spring. It was due to his assistance that I mastered it very quickly.

After college, Theam Kheng was posted to Kelantan together with his seven college mates, some of whom were Cheah Teong Teik, Lee Chee Wah, Lee Chong Lay and Lee Mun Kee.

In 1962, he went to STTI to follow a course in the Education of the Blind. When I went to STTI in 1963 to

follow a similar course, Theam Kheng was lecturing in the Blind Department and taught us how to use the Walking Stick for our mobility lesson.

Later on, he was transferred to Kota Bharu in Kelantan to start the Integrated Blind Programme. After that he was posted to the St Nicholas School for the Blind in Penang, his home town.

Then he migrated to Australia. I understand that he taught at St Mary's and later on joined the Blind School within walking distance from his home. He retired here.

Theam Kheng had travelled widely and had visited many countries.

I had called him a few times in between the Reunions and he was always overjoyed to receive these calls.

He was a good friend and many will undoubtedly cherish his friendship.

Let us be reminded:

“Death ends a life, not a relationship.”
— [Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie](#)

Theam Kheng leaves behind his wife, Grace, his son Khoo Boo Hock, his daughter Khoo Poh Sim and two grandchildren,

Those wishing to contact the family will find the following information useful:

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Yours in sorrow,

RAMA