

## Felix Kenny



Felix and Dulcie Kenny

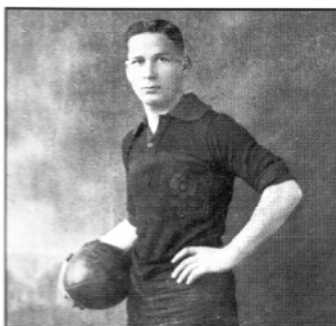
Felix Kenny is the original Kenny.

He attended Rostrevor as a boarder in 1923 from Colton on the Eyre Peninsula and began a long association with the College for the Elliston Kennys.

Felix was due to go to Boarding School at C.B.C. Wakefield St. in 1920. Unfortunately his father became ill and Felix stayed home for the next 2 years to help on the farm. Sadly, his father was not to recover from the illness and after his death in 1922 it was decided that Felix should go to Adelaide to finish school.

In May 1923, Felix can remember **Br. Purton** and the Senior boys carting load after load of furniture and equipment from Wakefield St. to Rostrevor.

He distinctly remembers travelling in a modern truck, with solid rubber wheels, balancing the Matron's prized tea-set on his lap, all the way out to Rostrevor.



He was happy to move to the rural atmosphere of Rostrevor. C.B.C. Wakefield St. had a foundery in the lane directly behind the classrooms and when a hot northerly was blowing the classroom would fill with smoke!

Felix made the trip from Elliston to Adelaide on vessels such as the Paringa, Wandana, Wookata and Quorna. One trip on the Quorna took four days as the Quorna was towing a barge that was taking water. Eventually the barge broke free in rough weather and sank. Felix was four days late to school! Sometimes he would make the trip back to Pt Lincoln by boat and then catch the motor bus to Elliston.

He remembers Br Purton fondly but was aware of the stress he was under in establishing a new school.

"He was a worried man, sometimes he had more wrinkles on his brow than a wash board. He could be very bright when things went right and he enjoyed our sporting teams succeeding."

Felix recalls some of his contemporaries going on to make a name for themselves in football. **Reg Betts**, who came from Ceduna, played centre for Pt. Adelaide after 1925. Bill Guthrie played for South Adelaide. **Stan Jaffer** went on to play for South Adelaide and Captained both Souths and the State Team and **George Margitich** played for South Adelaide and Melbourne in the V.F.L.

**Stan Jaffer:** He came to Rostrevor in 1923 and soon showed outstanding sporting potential. At 13 he played in the 1st XVIII and 1st XI and continued to do so for the following four years. He also represented the College with distinction as a boxer and a gymnast and was a gifted speaker and prominent committee member of the Literary Society. In his final year he was appointed Head Prefect and was a born student leader. As Captain of the 1st XVIII in 1927 and Gosse Medal Winner ( Student Association B&F ) in 1926 he was to lead a team to an undefeated season in which their smallest winning margin was 7 goals. He again won the Gosse Medal and went on to play for and Captain South Adelaide and the State Team. Writing in apology to his absence at the 1957 reunion of the 1927 team, Stan identified a Rostrevor ethos borne out today and he communicated in his words a personal quality which embraces that ethos. " There was, however, only one team in 1927, and that was the full team which assembled in the old chapel each morning, and again in the evening...There was the strength!" and of the Brothers he wrote, "...these Christian Brothers planned, taught, worked, and built an objective. I remember them all.."



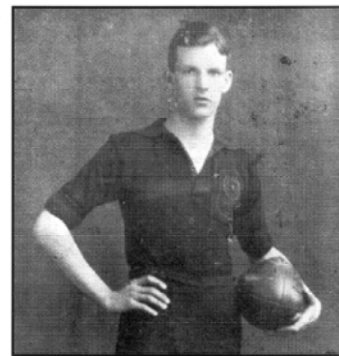
**Sidney Pick:** Sid was one of six brothers who came from a station property called 'Coondambo' 700 kilometres north-west of Pt. Augusta. Although only 15 years of age Sid sat for Leaving Honours in 1923 and was placed first in the state in English and was awarded the prestigious Tennyson Medal. In 1924 he repeated Leaving Honours and was equal first in the General Honours list in the state, first again in English, second in Modern History and third in Latin. Naturally he was Dux of the College that year. He was still considered underage as laid down by the regulations of the time and therefore chose to sit Leaving Honours for a third time in 1926. He was again placed first in the state in the General Honours List and was first in English, Chemistry and Modern History. Sid Pick was an outstanding member of the student body and was a Prefect and then Head Prefect in his years at Rostrevor. He was Secretary of the Literary and Debating Society and was a fine speaker. He was also good at sport representing the 1st XI and 1st XVIII in his final two years. He graduated Law in just four years and practised in Pt. Augusta and Alice Springs. Sadly he died in 1940 at the age of only 33.

It was in 1923 that the Students' Sports Association was formed and regular inter school games were played. **Br. McMahon**, the Sportsmaster, was keen on creating opportunities for the boys and invited Mr. Tom Leahy the coach of Norwood to come and take training.

Felix remembers Br McMahon being an excellent footballer and an inspiration to his charges.

Another Brother Felix remembers, more with amusement, was **Br O'Sullivan**.

"Br. O'Sullivan and **Sid Pick** (1923 Tennyson Medallist, 1925 Head Prefect) had a row and Sid walked out the door with Br O'Sullivan in hot pursuit. Sid was walking hurriedly up a slippery incline as Br O'Sullivan caught up with him. Sid slipped over and Br O'Sullivan came crashing down on top of him. At this moment Br. Purton walked around the corner to find Br. O'Sullivan lying on top of Sid Pick."



**George Margitich:** He attended Rostrevor in 1923 and was a member of the 1st XVIII from the age of thirteen. In his final year he Captained the 1st XI. In 1927 he kicked 151 goals in eleven games at a remarkable average of almost 14 per game. In his five years representing Rostrevor he kicked over 400 goals. On leaving Rostrevor he played for South Adelaide and then went to Victoria and played for Melbourne in the V.F.L. He was a College Prefect for two years and throughout his life he retained a close interest in Rostrevor.



An amusing image and an anecdote that has probably been told many times with great mirth. Felix certainly still enjoys the recollection.

In 1923 the Rostrevor Cadets were formed and Felix remembers marching down to an army depot in Magill to collect his uniform. Felix recalls the grate coat and boots being popular attire at evening study during the cold nights of winter. **Mr Reg Kearnan** was instrumental in establishing the cadets at Rostrevor. Apparently he did some teaching at the College and in 1939 become an Officer at Keswick.

Felix recalls the Matron, 'Blanche', fondly. **Matron Coward** worked at the College from 1923 to 1942.

The Bungalow was yet to be built in 1923 and Sewells, the previous owners of the property, still had glasshouses on the site of the current Bungalow Oval.

Felix's close friends of that year and for years after were **Eugene Mahar** of Minlaton, **Bill McAuley** of Georgetown and **Leo and Don Stanley** of Wandera.

Felix married Dulcie Miller of Farrell Flat and they have 5 children. Two daughters, Janet and Margaret-Anne and 3 sons, **Desmond, Peter and Lawrence** who all attended Rostrevor. Peter's sons, **David and Frank**, also attended Rostrevor.

Felix and Dulcie have been married 66 years and enjoy good health in their retirement in Adelaide.

**Reginald Kearnan:** An old scholar of C.B.C. Wakefield St., he graduated in Law at the Adelaide University. When Rostrevor opened he became Vice President of the Literary Society with Br Purton as President. In 1924 he became President, cheerfully giving up his Sunday evenings to further the work of the Br Murphy Society.

After World War One, compulsory military training was introduced and senior students were obliged to train for a designated number of hours annually. Major Reginald Kearnan became Officer Commanding and continued until 1929, when compulsory training was abolished by the Scullin Government. At the outbreak of World War Two he enlisted and served with distinction retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Later in his career he was appointed State Crown Solicitor. He died in 1975 aged 76 and Rostrevor will be eternally grateful for his generous interest and assistance in College life over many years.



**Matron Blanche Coward:** At the end of 1942 Matron Coward left Rostrevor after 20 years devoted service since 1923. As Matron Bloxham in 1923, in her quiet and efficient manner she had looked after the health and welfare of the boys and the Brothers and managed the domestic affairs of the College. She successfully combined the duties of nurse, house keeper and domestic staff manager with a minimum of fuss. She was the backbone of the boarding school during some difficult years during the depression and Rostrevor's debt to her is great. She lived her life after Rostrevor in Victoria as housekeeper to Christian Brother Communities. In the 1942 Annual it was stated, "The interests of the boys have been her interests, and she has followed their fortunes long after they have left Rostrevor."



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