

Kingsley Aikens

Kingsley began working in the head office of CTT in Dublin before moving to represent Coras Trachtala, the precursor to Enterprise Ireland, and the IDA in Sydney in 1985. In Sydney he he also ran The Australian Ireland Fund until 1992.

From December 1992 he was based in Boston and was responsible for The American Ireland Fund in the US and The Ireland Funds in 12 other countries around the world. In total he worked for The Ireland Funds for 21 years and during which time over a quarter of a billion dollars was raised and distributed to over 1,200 projects in Ireland, North and South. These projects were in the areas of Peace and Reconciliation, Arts and Culture, Education and Community Development. The Funds are now active in 39 cities in 13 countries around the world and 40,000 people attend over 100 events annually.

He stepped down as CEO in December 2009 to set up his own consultancy company, Kingsley Aikens & Associates. In January 2011 he teamed up with Ed Kelly to form Networking Matters to help instruct companies, institutions and individuals on how to develop strategies for networking and building long term, sustainable relationships as we move into the 'Relationship Age'.

In 2009 he published two publications on the subject of Philanthropy and Diaspora. One was a Comparative Review of International Diaspora Strategies which looked at how other countries connected to their diasporas and made recommendations for Ireland to implement. This was distributed prior to the Farmleigh Conference. The second publication was The Ireland Funds' Philanthropy and Fundraising Toolkit. Both are available on The Ireland Funds website -www.irlfunds.org. He is a very popular on the World speaking circuit, especially in his field of expertise.

Edward Kelly

Ed was born in Terenure and attended the college from 1967-1977 partaking in as much of the school activities as he could including playing for the school rugby team and appearing in the annual Shakespearean plays.

After serving as an apprentice solicitor for 18 months in Dublin he moved to Sydney, Australia where he worked in banking for 2 years before undertaking, as he says himself, "the ultimate boys own adventure." Edward and his long term friend Dr John Morgan decided to drive a London cab from London to Sydney with the meter running to raise money for charity. While the journey took six weeks, the project took 4 years to plan, drive, film, edit and sell the distribution rights. It helped to raise AUS\$350,000 and still sits in the Guinness Book of Records as the most expensive taxi journey, £26,000. For this work Ed was awarded the Terenure College Past Pupil of the Year.

Following this Ed spent a number of years in the telecom industry before he undertook a PhD in Leadership Development in 2003. In January 2011 he co-founded, with his long-time friend Kingsley, Networking Matters and he is a expert in his own right in the building and development of networks and diasporas.