KENTIAN SOCIETY

SUPPORTING KENT STREET SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Chairman's Report

With Bill away at the moment, I am the Acting Chairman until his return.

Earlier this year the Kent Street Senior High School 75th Anniversary Dinner was held at the Bentley Pines Restaurant. A great night was had by all with eighty people attending. The positive reaction we have had from attendees has prompted a discussion about holding functions for other important anniversaries, such as the Kentian Society's 25th Anniversary in 2017. For more about this great night please see Pat's article on the back page above her archives report.

Murray Paddick, an ex-Principal at Como Primary School has contacted us to ask if any of our members had experiences, anecdotes and memories of being a student there that they would be willing to share as Como PS will be celebrating its' centenary in 2016. Please email murpad@iinet.net.au if you can help.



Pat Dean proposes the toast beside Kentian Scholarship holders Rohan Khanna and Sandon Dutt

Later this year we will again be jointly holding a Christmas function with the Kentian Scholarship Foundation on 4th December. For more information please email us.

I wish to appeal to any member who has not yet supplied their email address to do so as this will help to reduce our postage costs and keep you informed of upcoming events.

Chris Lesiter
Acting Chairman

Patron: Bob Linfoot
Chairman: Bill Prince **Secretary:** Lach McKinnon **Treasurer:** Christopher Lesiter
Archivist: Pat Sanders **Assistant Archivist:** Vicki Duball
Committee Members: Graeme Campbell, Jim Langford and Bill Shepherd

Kentian Society (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1402
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Kent Street SHS 75th Anniversary Dinner

As you know this year is the 75th since Kent Street Senior High School then known as South Suburban Central School opened its doors. Everyone will remember the very successful 70th Anniversary celebrations five years ago, a result of months of effort put in by a dedicated team of hard workers. This time the Kentian Society decided to host a dinner to mark the occasion. It was held at Bentley Pines Restaurant on June 17th and was attended by 80 guests including two students from the original intake in 1940, Pat Dean (nee McDonald) and Norm Bradshaw.

Bentley Pines Restaurant is the training venue of Polytechnic West for its hospitality courses. The impressively presented delicious five course meal was prepared by twenty or so young chefs about to graduate. The same number of neatly attired young wait staff, also nearing the end of their training, served the meal and the abundant good quality wines impeccably.

Most of the guests were students at the School from the 1940s to 1980s but two young men, currently holders of Kentian Scholarships, attended and spoke very commendably of their ambitions and what it has meant to them to attend Kent Street SHS. Apart from the addresses by the Scholarship holders, short speeches were given by School Principal Kath Ward and Kentian Chairman Bill Prince and the toast was proposed by Pat Dean. Photos from this very enjoyable evening can be viewed from the Kentian Website.

Archives Report

In recent months the Archives have received big parcels of information from the School Administration, the Aviation Faculty and from Norm Tredrea's Estate for sorting, cataloguing and storage. Thanks to Jim Langford, Paul de Laeter and Vicki Duball on the computer all of this work has been completed.

A very interesting letter was discovered among an old file of Malcolm Yeo who was a science teacher and aeronautics instructor at Kent Street. It was written by an ex student of the School in response to an advertisement in 1989 offering scholarships to girls encouraging them to study physics and chemistry .

Maidee Smith (nee Pearce) commenced at Kent Street in 1944 with the ambition of becoming a pharmacist. She was horrified to discover that she was unable to study the required subjects of physics and chemistry ***because she was a girl!*** She was a very determined young lady however and did not rest until she had succeeded in gaining admittance for herself and ten other girls into those entirely male dominated classes, as well as being responsible for the formation of a Latin class which was also a requirement for pharmacy studies.

Despite successfully completing her schooling, passing the pharmacy Entrance Exam, serving an apprenticeship and attending night school for four years, circumstances and family commitments meant that Maidee who was married by then, was not able to fulfill her ambition. She never the less lead a very full and productive life including serving as Councillor and President of Harvey Shire.

The long fascinating letter written over 25 years ago is full of memories and observations of the early years of Kent Street. We would be very interested to learn any further information about Maidee Smith whose efforts at school must have had made it possible for girls to study physics and chemistry in future years.