Kentian Society Newsletter

Supporting Kent Street Senior High School

May 2024

When One Teaches, Two Learn

Investment banking is a business where some deals happen quickly, but often after years (or even decades) of relationship-building.

Trevor Rowe, student 1957-59 is one of Australia's pre-eminent businessmen, having built a fifty-plus year international career as a specialist in capital markets, investment banking, deal-making and corporate advisory (providing strategic and tactical advice on financing solutions for public and private companies).

He's currently a senior advisor to Rothschild & Co Australia, having previously been executive chairman of the company for a period of seventeen years. He was Director of the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) for almost 10 years, and a long-standing member of both the Australia-China High-Level Dialogue Forum and the Australian Foreign Affairs Council.

His career included over twenty years of work in investment banking, establishing the Australian offices of Salomon Brothers. He held numerous positions with the Wall Street investment bank in Australia and the United States, before joining Citigroup when it bought Salomon Brothers and holding the position of chairman of its investment banking operations. He left in 2005 to become executive chairman of Rothschild Australia.

He was an original member of the Board of Guardians of the Future Fund (the independently managed sovereign wealth fund of the Australian Government) from 2006 until 2012. He also served as Chancellor of Bond University from 2003 to 2009, and in June 2011, he was named an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the finance sector, to higher education, and to the community.

So, how did a young man from Manning with a bricklayer father and shopkeeper mother, who left Kent Street SHS at the age of sixteen to work in an office as a teenaged trainee accountant, achieve such an extraordinary depth of experience?

WELCOME to your **Kentian Society e-Newsletter,** offering two-way communication with all interested members, families and friends.

We hope you find it both interesting and informative.

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Successful people in business often cite a mentor who inspired them in their career or encouraged them along the way with some sage words or game-changing advice.

Trevor is no exception in this respect. For him, the good advice probably started at home.

His father was a soldier in the 2/11th Battalion during the Second World War. After serving in the Middle East, he returned to help defend Australia from the Japanese between 1942 and 1944 (a period when Trevor was born) before being posted to New Guinea to take part in the Kokoda Trail fighting, which was some of the most desperate and vicious encountered by Australian troops.

By the end of the campaign, Corporal Rowe was one of the more than 16 000 Australian troops listed as “sickness casualties” (many the result of a quinine-resistant strain of malaria) and struggled to recover fully after the war.



Members of the 2/11th Battalion resting near the Danmap River in January 1945
Photo: Wikipedia

As Trevor has since described it, his dad when he knew him was “more laid-back” than his mum, who he says was “quite driven.” She probably needed to be to run a small shop while also supporting a young child and a husband badly affected by his war experience. Unfortunately, when Trevor was sixteen, his mum had to tell him that the family could no longer afford to keep him at school. She tried to remain positive by saying that he had a wonderful imagination for telling stories and he should “go out and sell Trevor Rowe.”

Then, he says, he was very lucky. He found someone who he says, “for some reason, took a shine to me and said, ‘you’d make a good accountant’.” This man, who was a friend of the senior partner of Peat Marwick Mitchell, Chartered Accountants, encouraged young Trevor to accept a position there as a trainee accountant.

However, Trevor soon found that it wasn’t an easy road working at this firm. The teenager was a very keen Aussie Rules football player, but the senior partner made it clear he didn’t really like football that much and made Trevor study pretty intensely instead.

Trevor could have given up at that stage but luckily, he says, he stuck at it.

“When I was a young man, I was fortunate enough to have someone give me some sound advice and to mentor me in an informal capacity,” he said in a recent interview, and added, “it helped me to think about how I might position myself and the career I might embark on. It made a big difference to the opportunities I was able to pursue at the time.”

One indelible impression that was left on Trevor at this point in his life was when the senior partner said to him, “Look at a balance sheet, not at the numbers so much, but what’s the story? What’s the balance sheet telling you?” Trevor always liked stories, and could relate to this comment. It’s something he’s remembered throughout his long career.

The evidence regarding the impact of mentorship is compelling. Individuals with mentors excel in their roles, climb the professional ladder more swiftly and report greater satisfaction in work-life balance.



Trevor Rowe in his apartment at One Barangaroo, the residential component of Crown Sydney
Photo: Crown Residences

The genesis of Trevor’s investment banking career started in Malaysia in the 1970s. First, while still at at Peat Marwick Mitchell, he was asked to help with a corporate advisory assignment, which he found really interesting.

Soon after, he worked for a brokerage company on an IPO (an initial public offering), which is when a private company first sells shares of stock to the public.

Afterwards, the senior partner who had been mentoring him generously encouraged Trevor to pursue more of this type of work.

“Look, I sense you might like this,” he said to Trevor, “and you can always come back here if you don’t.”

Then, Trevor got an offer to join a start-up investment bank, developed jointly by the Malaysian Government and several Arab banks, that would operate in Asia and the Middle East. He also later accepted a senior position with an international financial consortium formed to promote viable investment in Asia, mainly in Malaysia.

This gave him his first exposure to international investment banking, and he found that he just loved it. That then led to an offer to join Salomon Brothers on Wall Street in New York. But the man who once planned to retire at 50 admits he hasn't succeeded at everything he's tried.

"I've failed miserably in the retirement stakes. I've evolved from being a full-time investment banker to being someone who manages a portfolio of interests. I like to balance between the public and private, and profit and not-for-profit.”

While the “old boys network” may not be as impenetrable as in the past, Australian boardrooms are still very much a macho club. Trevor is very aware we aren’t using all the resources available. The experience of being a mentee has made Trevor sensitive to helping young people — and helping women in particular to gain leadership positions.

“We need more women at board and senior executive levels and that’s why I got involved in mentoring,” he said a few years ago when explaining why he’d agreed to participate in a mentoring program through the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Interestingly, those who take on the mantle of mentoring also gain insights; as the saying goes, “When one teaches, two learn.”

Trevor Rowe can attest to this, as he also noted recently, “The experience of mentoring makes you step back and think about the skills you have and how you can help others.

“It brings a huge sense of satisfaction. It’s important to build trust with your mentee; to listen carefully, think about where that mentee sits within the broad [business] spectrum and then help to open doors for them.”

[***Editor**: as noted in our last eNewsletter, the Society wants to live up to our Kent Street values by building a network of volunteer mentors who can support alumni going through significant changes (such as people entering an industry, people who aren’t sure about their path, who are leaving school, or starting or changing careers).*

It’s doing this as part of its educational role supporting the current activities of the school (in line with its current Strategic Plan) by encouraging and assisting alumni to renew and maintain their associations with the school and by facilitating more active networking and mentoring among current and former students and staff.

Mentors’ contact details will not be provided to anyone unless the mentor agrees first.]

Please send an email to society@kentians.org.au if you’re interested in becoming a mentor, or want to get in contact with one.

Did you receive a Soroptimists KSSHS Scholarship?
Tell us where are you now!

From 2006 to 2024, the Soroptimist Club of Canning District Year 11 and 12 Scholarship was won by:

Charmaine Dennis (2006/7)	Nadia Chilwan (2015/16)
Sri Saravanya Krothapally (2008)	Jessica Bowman (2016/17)
Pim Chatang (2009)	Sophie Martorana (2017/18)
Josephine Newman (2010/11)	Alisha Zagubien (2018/19)
Meg Atcheson (2011/12)	Jacqueline Tait (2019/20)
Lexi Currie (2012/13)	Indah Marah (2020/21)
Dakota Morrison (2013/14)	Isabella Pecoraro (2021/22)
Muskan Kakkar (2014/15)	Navya Mohamadally (2022/23)
Aimee Dunbar (2015)	Vinorshini Vigneswaran (2023/24)

If you are one of these people, we'd like to hear from you to find out how things have gone for you since school days. Can you send us an update on your post-school journey?

Also ....

We hope you can attend a reunion of scholarship awardees planned for MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2024.

... and ...

Are you willing to use your skills and networks to help us to help others? Talk with us about ways to do that!

So that we can keep in touch, please send us your contact information to:

Karen Beazley | email: sicanningdistrict@siswp.org | phone: 0417 179 587

Find us on FaceBook – search *Canning District SI*

..... and on Instagram – search *soroptimist_canning district*

Soroptimists – working together to transform the lives of women and girls through projects at local, national and global level – advocating for equity and equality; safe environments; access to education; and developing leadership and practical skills for a sustainable future.

Proposal For Society To Become Charity

*[**Editor:** As reported in our last e-Newsletter, the Management Committee established a select sub-committee earlier this year tasked with preparing a detailed report examining the question of the Kentian Society seeking charitable status, and possible endorsement as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR).*

*The Management Committee has now considered that report, and endorsed its main recommendations that the Society's constitution should be amended by putting a special resolution to the membership at the **AGM on 26 May 2024** (see page 19 for more details), and that key sections of the report explaining the reasons for the proposed amendments should be published here for the information of members. The full report can also be found in the Society News section on the Society's website at **www.kentians.org.au**.]*

Some people may consider that this question [of becoming a charity] has already been thoroughly examined many years ago, and dismissed as being far too difficult to pursue. Others seem to think that the Society is simply one organisation comprising a group mostly involved with managing the school records/archives and membership and another smaller group which holds the bulk of funds so it can provide scholarships.

On this basis, it's felt by such people that the scholarship group is the logical one to be a charity and receive donations.

However, this view doesn't fully reflect the history of the Society since it began in the early 1990s, or the creation of the separate Scholarship Foundation in more recent years. [***Editor**: see page 9 below for background from the report about the Society's history.]*

Moreover, given the Society's current lack of sustainable revenue and the poor prospects of increasing it through membership growth alone, the continued financial viability of the Society as an organisation is now seriously at risk.

On a more positive note, giving consideration to the question of the Society becoming a charity does provide an opportunity to articulate what it is really all about, now and into the future. [***Editor**: see page 11 below for further information from the report about the Society's possible key purpose.]*

Issues In Seeking to Become a Charity

To be endorsed by the ATO with DGR status, an organisation must first be registered as a charity by the national charity regulator, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), which is responsible for deciding in accordance with relevant legislation if an organisation can be registered as a charity. [***Editor**: see page 8 below for details about the steps needed to achieve this.]*

The ACNC specifically says that a social club is unlikely to be considered a charity except where the social activities are provided to help meet a charitable purpose, for instance to help people who are socially isolated or disadvantaged.

The third object in the Society's current constitution ("to provide social benefits") is the type of statement specifically cited by the ACNC as being something that, while it might in fact benefit some members of the community, would not necessarily be charitable.

Moreover, the first two objects in the current Constitution are very vague and don't adequately address the two key charitable purposes the Society might wish to specify, namely, the advancement of both education and of heritage and culture in relation to the history of Kent Street Senior High School. A couple of examples can be given to illustrate this point.

First, the Society has long had an archives operation, but has not to date developed this into an ongoing public library or museum (either physically or digitally) which, given the significant history of the school, might seem to be a very attractive proposition.

Second, the possible development for instance of more active networking and mentoring among current and former staff and students, or support for research into (and publication of studies about) the history of public education in Victoria Park and its surrounds, as potential major activities of the Society in future would also be greatly assisted by explicitly linking such things to its purposes now.

In these instances, as well as the Society's other activities, a clear articulation of precisely how the educational and cultural purposes in its governing objects are paramount, and why any related social or recreational activities are merely incidental to those purposes, or simply a means of encouraging the involvement of alumni to further the Society's charitable aims, would greatly assist it being granted charitable status.

Suggested Structure for New Objects Rule in Constitution

Due to the diverse range of operations of an alumni group like the Kentian Society, there may be merit in a structure for the Objects section that captures that diversity while also ensuring that everything is still seen as meeting an overall charitable purpose.

To that end, the following three-part structure is recommended:

1. An explicit statement of the Overarching Purpose (or primary object) of the Society.
2. An outline of a sub-set of Objects that help further the primary object.
3. A detailed list of Functions that facilitate the various objects outlined.

Rather than simply fostering the "welfare" of alumni members (or providing "social benefits" to them), which for instance any social or sporting club could do, the objects should also explicitly be linked to clear charitable purposes and the wider public benefit.

The school has some unique advantages - a long history of public education, significant architectural features, a large intake area since its inception across the southern suburbs of Perth (and now even further afield), and an active archive operation and scholarship foundation developed over thirty years by its alumni group.

It's recommended that particular emphasis be given to continuing to develop the current archives into a public library (of written records) and museum (for the display of physical artefacts) which is digitally or otherwise accessible by the wider community.

This all helps link the objects to the two most suitable charitable purposes of advancing education, and heritage and culture. [***Editor**: see page 12 below for further information about the proposed constitutional amendments.]*

Steps Needed To Achieve Endorsement As A DGR

Prior to the establishment on 3 December 2012 of the national charity regulator, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), it was the role of the Australian Tax Office (ATO) to decide if an organisation was a charity in order to assess eligibility for charity tax concessions.

While it is now the ACNC's responsibility to assess an organisation's eligibility for registration as a charity, the ATO remains responsible for deciding eligibility for charity tax concessions. If an organisation is endorsed (officially recognised) by the ATO as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR), it has the following advantages:

- people who make gifts or donations to it are able to 'deduct' those gifts for their own income tax purposes (that is, the donor can claim the donation as a deduction when filing their personal income tax return); and

- it can receive funds from certain grant makers and philanthropic bodies, which are only able to give money to organisations that have DGR status.

So, when one sees the wording 'donations over $2.00 are tax deductible', it's worth remembering that the organisation offering this as an incentive to the donor has first been 'endorsed' by the ATO as a DGR.

It's important to be aware that ACNC registration and DGR registration are two separate processes. Even if a not-for-profit registers as a charity, it does not necessarily mean it will have DGR status and vice-a-versa.

So, although the ACNC will collect information in respect of an application and pass this on concurrently to the ATO for possible DGR endorsement, it will not make the decision as to whether it will be approved or not.

'Charity' now has a technical legal meaning

'Charity' now has a technical legal meaning, which is set out in the *Charities Act 2013 (Cth)* (the Charities Act). When the ACNC registers an organisation as a charity, it registers it with one or more charity 'subtypes' provided for in the Charities Act.

These subtypes are categories that reflect the charity's charitable purpose – for example 'advancing education' or 'advancing health'. A charity's purpose is the reason it has been set up, or what its activities work towards achieving.

The Charities Act clarifies that to be recognised as a charity, an organisation must have only charitable purposes that are for the public benefit. A charity's purpose is considered to be for the public benefit if achieving that purpose would be of benefit to the general public, or to a 'sufficient section of the general public'. The definition maintains that certain purposes (for example, advancing education or religion, or relieving poverty) are, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, for the public benefit.

It must be remembered that the ACNC looks not only at an organisation's governing documents, but also at the activities undertaken by the organisation when determining what its **true** purpose is.

Generally, the ACNC will decide what an organisation's purposes are by looking at:

- the organisation's governing documents (for example, its constitution, rules or deed) – these usually set out its purpose or 'objects'; and
- other types of evidence, such as the organisation's activities, annual reports, financial statements and corporate documents.

Nevertheless, the objects specified in an organisation's constitution are an important starting point for the ACNC when deciding whether to register it as a charity.

Consumer Protection, which is the State Government agency that oversees all incorporated associations like the Society, recommends that they regularly review their rules to ensure they are still relevant and compliant.

So, if there is any potential for confusion (and possible rejection of an application for charitable status), then it is often better to clarify matters by reviewing the constitution and then amending it if need be by putting a special resolution to the membership.

If passed, the constitutional changes then need to be lodged with Consumer Protection for approval before they can take effect. In summary, the Society will need to take the following steps:

1. Amend its constitution to meet the ACNC requirements regarding charitable purposes.
2. Lodge the amended constitution for approval by Consumer Protection.
3. Then lodge an application with the ACNC to be registered as a charity.
4. The ACNC will forward the application to the ATO for concurrent consideration for endorsement as a DGR.

Background About Society's History

The Kentian Society was formed by past students and staff of Kent Street Senior High School following the school's highly successful 50th Anniversary celebrations in 1990. Like many other alumni groups, the initial impetus for establishing the Society was partly to provide social benefits to members.

For instance, when it was incorporated on 24 December 1992, becoming the first alumni association of a Western Australian Government high school south of the Swan River in Perth, three objects were specified in its constitution:

i. To support and assist Kent Street Senior High School;
ii. To foster welfare of past, present and future students of Kent Street Senior High School; and
iii. To provide social benefits to members of the Society.

Archiving began in 1994 soon after the Society was established. A small team of volunteers working in a spare office of the school's newly-opened Aviation Centre started collecting photos, pictures, programmes, textbooks, student uniforms and classroom material, departmental publications, and student enrolment forms. A digital database was later built using a computer purchased from a WA Lotteries grant.

In 2000, the archives moved to a storeroom (shared with Physical Education staff) that had been converted from the shower area of a former boys' change room. As the Society continued to acquire more donated storage equipment to hold old school records, it eventually became the sole occupant of the converted change room.

Meanwhile, some members of the Society had begun to think about using some of its surplus funds to provide scholarships to worthy students. This idea grew, and the first scholarship was awarded in 2004. This process continued over the next five years during which time the Society's funds grew considerably through alumni donations.

In 2009, a large endowment led to the setting up a scholarship trust overseen by a small sub-committee of Society office-holders and the school principal. However, as the Society was considered to be a social club by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) due to the objects in its constitution, it was deemed ineligible to be granted charitable status.

A decision was eventually made to transfer a significant amount of the Society's funds to a new body called the Kentian Scholarship Foundation, with a separate board (the former sub-committee) managing the scholarship trust holding those funds.

The balance of the Society's funds were mostly earmarked to meet the cost of moving the archives to a converted storage area in the Science wing, along with the additional cost of furnishing an adjacent office provided by the school, as well as paying for the Society's planned involvement in the school's 70th Anniversary celebration in 2010.

"As the sole purpose of the Scholarship Foundation is as a charity, none of its funds can be paid or returned to the Society."

It may have been assumed that the Society could simply replace (at least in part) the spending of those considerable funds with membership contributions. However, that scenario was and continues to be most unlikely as the vast majority of Society members (over 80 per cent) are original or society life members who simply paid $100 each when they first joined and have contributed nothing more to membership revenue since then.

The Foundation was successfully registered as a charity in 2012, and presented its first academic scholarship that year. Since then, the number of scholarships funded by it has grown considerably. Its structure changed on 20 January 2023 to become an incorporated association, with a management committee instead of a board, and it is now legally separate from the Society. As its sole purpose is as a charity, none of its funds can be paid or returned to the Society.

Following the move to the new area in the Science wing, the archives group began organising interactive displays of its historical artefacts as part of the school's annual orientation day for Year 7 students.

However, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on activities in the school since 2020 has brought greater awareness that the Society can and must be involved in more than simply providing social benefits to members.

Report Suggests Key Society Purpose

A proper consideration of the purpose of the Society really needs to take into account the relatively unique circumstances of Kent Street Senior High School, which has historical and cultural heritage significance for several important reasons that should underpin everything the Society does as an alumni group.

The Victoria Park district started its life as a small country town on the southern side of the Perth Causeway. Brick yards, pigsties, blacksmiths, timber yards and soap factories occupied land on either side of Albany Road then.

By the 1930s, the suburb's character had taken shape, being described by Philip Masel in a 1937 detective novel (*In A Glass Prison*) as "a working man's district" because the land was cheap and the suburb was within easy distance of the city and close to the railway sheds and tramway terminus.

The Kent Street school when it opened was only the third secondary school facility in the State, and the first south of the Swan River in metropolitan Perth, to be built independent of an existing primary school. The place has long been valued by the local community, and by the community of its former students, for providing educational facilities since 1940 that have been innovative, and responsive to community expectations.

It has a long history of high academic standards. At the same time, the establishment of various specialist courses, such as formal pre-vocational training and an aeronautics course, provides evidence of State Government policy changes over time to address the increasing retention in the upper school of non-tertiary oriented students, an increase due largely to reduced employment prospects for school leavers.

"The Society is especially well-placed to promote knowledge of the history of the school"

The school still has many of its original group of buildings, which have a definite 'Art Deco' feel. The theme of the earlier buildings, with a red base and painted above, has been carried through into the later buildings, so, even though the styles are quite different, there is a cohesiveness to the whole complex and it is on the State Heritage Register.

This co-existence of old and new at the school also forms the central characteristic of the entire district of Victoria Park, with its modern units co-existing with Federation style homes and weatherboard cottages.

As a result, the Society is especially well-placed to promote knowledge of the history of the school (to respect the old while catering for the new) by making it available to the broader public community, including current and former staff and students, and thereby advancing education, heritage and culture.

That might be said to be its key purpose.

Proposed Amendment to Society Constitution

[***Editor**: Outlined below is the key amendment to the Objects section of the Society's constitution, together with a brief rationale (underlined and in italics), to give effect to the changes needed to help the Society achieve charitable status. A couple of other minor procedural amendments regarding formatting and re-numbering are not included here.*

To avoid confusion, and possible rejection of an application for charitable status, the report says it would be better to specify the Society's objects more clearly and comprehensively in terms of their intended charitable purpose, and more closely aligned with the many activities of the Society (both now and in the future).

In doing so, a clearer articulation to the effect that any related social or recreational activities are merely incidental to the key charitable purposes, or simply a means of encouraging the involvement of alumni to further the Society's charitable aims, would also greatly assist it being granted charitable status.]

Proposed Amendment to Society Constitution

That PART 2 - OBJECTS be changed from the following:

'*The objects of the Society are:*

(i) *to support and assist Kent Street Senior High School;*
(ii) *to foster welfare of past, present and future students of Kent Street Senior High School; and*
(iii) *to provide social benefits to members of the Society*'

by the insertion of a new rule 2 to read as follows:

'2. Objects and Functions

(1) The Society is established to be a charity whose primary object is to advance education, heritage and culture and thereby benefit the community as a whole by:

(b) supporting and assisting Kent Street Senior High School (the School);

(c) fostering the welfare and learning of past, present and future students of the School; and by

(d) promoting knowledge of the history of the School by working towards the establishment of, and then operating, a Kentian Society Library and Museum which is digitally or otherwise accessible by the wider community.

(2) Without limiting rule 2(1), each of the following objects and purposes shall be regarded as furthering the primary object of the Society:

(a) to preserve and enhance the reputation and traditions of the School by raising awareness in the wider community of the important role the School has played, and continues to play, in the Western Australian community and the contributions to Australian society made by the School's alumni;

(b) to support the current activities of the School and of present students and staff, and to encourage and facilitate similar support by former students and staff, by encouraging and assisting former students and staff to renew and maintain their associations with the School and by facilitating contact and communication among former students and staff;

(c) to preserve and maintain records and archives of the School and its students and staff, and to encourage and facilitate the recording of the history of the School and its students and staff, and the primary and secondary schools which have fed into it over time, for the benefit of the wider community;

(d) to promote and support the Kentian Society Library and Museum, and the Kentian Scholarship Foundation (Inc); and

(e) to do anything incidental or ancillary to carry out any of the above objects.

(3) In order to achieve its objects, the Society shall establish structures and ensure resourcing to facilitate the following functions:

(a) using the ethos and values of the School as a means of promoting the various activities of the Society and ensuring that the name, reputation and traditions of the School are upheld within the School and the community;

(b) encouraging the involvement of former students and staff as volunteers and mentors in the activities of the School, and promoting and providing support for reunions and other meetings of former students and staff, with the view to supporting present students and staff and enabling students to develop their full potential;

(c) ensuring that, consistent with relevant legislation dealing with the privacy of personal information, the records of the School are preserved and the history of the School and its students and staff is preserved, interpreted and published for the benefit of the wider community, by:

(i) acquiring, either by purchase, donation or otherwise, and preserving records and artefacts of any description, that may be relevant to the history of the School;

(ii) collecting and making available to the wider community biographical and statistical information regarding former students and staff;

(iii) compiling and making available to the wider community oral and written histories of former students and staff during their time at the School and after their departure;

(iv) identifying and interpreting the historical significance to the original owners of the land on which the School is located for the wider understanding of the community;

(v) undertaking research and collecting, analysing, classifying and making available to the wider community data and information in relation to the history of the School, including, without limitation, its buildings and grounds, educational methods, selection criteria and processes, subjects offered, results achieved and other related matters;

(vi) aiding the advancement of knowledge through research into collections, and into such other matters, and by publishing the results of such research;

(vii) aiding the work of universities, State and Commonwealth institutions and schools, and independent schools by making available the collections, displays, publications and oral and written histories of the Kentian Society Library and Museum;

(viii) training employees and volunteers of the Society in the making, repair, caring for, researching into, recording and displaying of collections of the Kentian Society Library and Museum;

(d) encouraging donations and bequests to the Kentian Society Library and Museum, and to the Kentian Scholarship Foundation (Inc), for the benefit of the School and School activities;

(e) liaising regularly, and where appropriate collaborating, with other official bodies that form part of the School, including but not limited to the School Board and the School Parents & Citizens' Association (Inc); and

(f) initiating projects and processes incidental or ancillary to any of the above objects, purposes and functions.'

Rationale for Changes

New rule 2(1)
This is a statement of the Overarching Purpose (or primary object) of the Society. It notes that:

- *the Society is established as a charity;*
- *its primary object is to advance education, and heritage and culture, which are both legislated purposes; and*
- *this is intended to be for the benefit of the wider community (not just members).*

New rule 2(1)(a)
Captures part 1 of the old objects ("support and assist the school").

New rule 2(1)(b)
Captures part 2 of the old objects ("foster welfare of alumni").

New rule 2(1)(c)
Replaces part 3 of the old objects ("provide social benefits to members") with an explicit statement about the centrality of the intended development of the Society's archives into a library and museum, again for the benefit of the wider community.

New rule 2(2)
This is an outline of a sub-set of objects that further the primary object. It emphasises how the educational and cultural purposes in the governing objects are paramount. Importantly, it doesn't do away with social or recreational activities but correctly notes that they are incidental and intended to be a means of encouraging the involvement of alumni to further the Society's charitable aims. Sub-rules 2(2)(a)-(e) are intended to reflect the wide range of activities (both now and into the future) currently covered for instance in the Society's Strategic Plan, as shown below:

New rule 2(2)(a)
This focuses on raising awareness in the wider community of the significance of the school and the contributions made by its alumni.

New rule 2(2)(b)
This focuses on the role of alumni in supporting the school by re-connecting with it through volunteer activities, communications, and other experiences. The emphasis is on social interaction to help achieve the overarching charitable purposes.

New rule 2(2)(c)
This focuses in particular on the benefit to the wider community from the preservation of records in the archives, and promotion of the history of the school, its alumni, and the wider school catchment area.

New rule 2(2)(d)
This focuses on support for two important arms of the Society (a proposed library and museum, and the separate scholarship foundation). The emphasis again is on social interaction being a means to help achieve the overarching charitable purposes.

New rule 2(2)(e)
This is a general statement that incidental or ancillary activities may also be undertaken, but only if they help achieve the overarching charitable purposes.

New Rule 2(3)
This is a detailed list of functions to help achieve the various objects. The emphasis is on the structures and resourcing needed to give effect to the Society's charitable aims.

New rule 2(3)(a)
This focuses on giving effect to rule 2(2)(a) by using the values of the school as a means of promoting the society

New rule 2(3)(b)
This focuses on giving effect to rule 2(2)(b) by encouraging the involvement of alumni in activities to further the Society's charitable aims

New rule 2(3)(c)
This focuses on giving effect to rule 2(2)(c) by development of the Society's archives into a public library and museum, again for the benefit of the wider community. It breaks things down into a number of specific activities (as outlined below):

> *New rule 2(3)(i)*
> *Acquisition and preservation of records and artefacts.*
>
> *New rule 2(3)(ii)*
> *Information about alumni - databases, analysis and information.*
>
> *New rule 2(3)(iii)*
> *Oral and written histories.*

New rule 2(3)(iv)
History of original land owners (including First Nations people).

New rule 2(3)(v)
Undertaking research on wide range of matters.

New rule 2(3)(vi)
Aiding research by others, for publication by Society.

New rule 2(3)(vii)
Specifically aiding research by educational institutions.

New rule 2(3)(viii)
Training workers in proper archival and historical methods.

New rule 2(3)(d)
This focuses on giving effect to rule 2(2)(d) by encouraging donations and bequests.

New rule 2(3)(e)
This focuses on giving effect to rule 2(2)(a)-(d) by liaison with other school bodies.

New rule 2(3)(f)
This focuses on giving effect to rule 2(2)(e) by again making a general statement that incidental or ancillary activities may also be undertaken, but only if they help achieve the overarching charitable purposes.

Your Say

Readers appreciate the news brought to us by members, and often are important for inclusion in Archives records and displays, allowing us to honour the history and share the heritage of Kent Street Senior High School. Your contributions should be sent directly to society@kentians.org.au

From: Claire Baker (Britton), student 1995-99
Subject: Photos of 'Burger Brain'

I was wondering if there was still a copy of the 'Burger Brain' photos from 1997? That school production was one of the highlights of my years at Kent Street.

I still have my leavers jumper, 1999 year book, graduation sash and both Burger Brain T-shirts and even the Burger Brain script as I played one of the leads, Fran. I was also the lead singer in the school rock band, ran the school radio station and played Ophelia in our production of Hamlet.

Editor: *Claire's enquiry has been referred to our Archives volunteers, who will contact her further after they've hunted down any relevant photos. They'll also be talking to her about the possibility of making copies of her incredible memorabilia collection, and making an oral history of her special memories.*

And if anyone else has any photos from the Burger Brain production, send an email to ***archives@kentians.org.au*** *to let us know.*

From: Lloyd Blake, student 1957-60
Subject: Mentoring

Soon after leaving Kent Street SHS in 1960, I joined the Royal Australian Navy. My service included nine years in submarines. In return, I obtained tertiary education qualifications, great food, modern accommodation, global travel, all at no cost and with generous salaries and allowances.

If I can be useful, I'd be happy to discuss undertaking a Mentor role with younger members of the Society. I'm also interested in talking to current students at the school (who might be prospective applicants for assistance through the Scholarship Foundation) about the value of grasping opportunities to help them achieve their goals.

Editor: *Lloyd was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the preservation of military history (in part due to his co-authorship in 2013 of the book 'Centenary of Silent Service').*

He argues in the book that the ethos of Australia's submariners remains strong even when they leave the sea and take up other occupations. Other ex-RAN members amongst our alumni should also drop us a line - we'd love to hear from you.

From: Aiden Beamish, student 2016-23
Subject: 2023 Graduates Reunion

I'm writing in response to your recent communication with new Graduate Members encouraging us to get in touch with anyone else we know from our Year 12 cohort as we understand the more we grow our network, the greater chance you can help us organise a successful reunion.

I have contacted several of the ex-graduates I know about signing up to the Kentian Society, and received many replies that the link provided to them (in the letter from the Kentian Society at the Graduation Ceremony) did not work, and the application forms online on the Kentian Society website cannot be downloaded.

Editor: *Aiden is one of several new Graduate Members who've let the Society know about the issue with the hyperlink in the letter to everyone in last year's Year 12 cohort. The Society is sorry for any inconvenience caused by this technical glitch.*

Aiden has helpfully forwarded extra copies of the Society's **membership application form** *to as many people as possible. It's also available as a PDF on the website and the Society has again confirmed that it's easily downloaded.*

However, despite the best efforts of Aiden and several other Graduate Members, less than 10 percent of last year's Year 12 graduates have chosen to contact the Kentian Society with their details to become free Graduate Members.

With those sort of numbers, unfortunately it'll be very difficult to help organise any sort of get-together later this year to see how everyone is going since leaving school.

Do You Remember ‘Salad Days’?

Recently, the following photo was posted on several public and private Facebook group pages that are regularly viewed by some of our Kentian alumni members, with the following questions:

Can you believe it's been 50 years since ABBA won Eurovision? And Tracy hit Darwin? And Kent Street SHS had its Salad Days?



And "We Said We Wouldn't Look Back”!! **Photo: UK Independent**

The Facebook post noted that anyone involved in the memorable ‘Salad Days’ school production in 1974 who is interested in catching up for a reunion can drop an email to **society@kentians.org.au** to express their interest, and added that Warren Grellier (Director Extraordinaire) and Ken McLeod (Cleo Night Club Manager) are still around to join you!

New Society member **Warren Grellier, staff member 1973-76** had previously posted some photos of cast members from the ‘Salad Days’ production along with copies of the programme with the names of all the people involved. He did so again (as a reminder to everyone), and also wrote this comment:

> *“50 years on - I can hardly believe it. Would be good to see as many of you who are able to attend a reunion. Maybe reprise some scenes and songs!!!”*

Others have already started responding, and here are a few examples:

Deb: *Wow! A veritable cast of thousands! Thanks for posting this Warren. One of the defining events of my teen years. Turns out the lines of the chorus were prophetic…*

Marita: *I fondly remember the fun of that production. I was in the chorus and only a bit player - I played the manicurist. I now live in Canberra, and would love to join the reunion if it is on when I visit Perth [later this year]. If I can’t join you, raise a glass for me on the day.*

Society Membership

New Society Members and renewals since 1 ***February*** *2024:*

Bev Adam (Smith), student 1953-56
Lloyd Blake, student 1957-60
Bev Booth, staff member 1992-2018
Stephen Cohen, student 1971-75
Marg Fox (Jarvis), student 1956-57
Warren Grellier, staff member 1973-76
Jim Langford, student 1957-61

Have **YOU** completed your **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / UPDATE?**

Membership Application Forms are available on our website **www.kentians.org.au**

Your membership contributions help us to keep you connected, build new connections, promote reunions, and preserve your memories in our archives.

Have YOUR say about the proposed changes to the Society's constitution

Don't make the mistake of assuming that it doesn't matter whether or not you vote.

Any resolution(s) to alter the Society's rules must be passed by a majority of at least 75% of members voting at a General Meeting, either in person at the meeting or by proxy, in favour of the proposed alterations before they can take effect.

Remember, only financial Society members (including life and graduate members) are eligible to vote at the **Annual General Meeting to be held in the KSSHS Cricket Pavilion at 10:00 am on Sunday 26 May 2024**.

Don't risk YOUR membership falling into arrears. A review of our membership register is currently underway, so if you want to remain a financial Society Member please make sure to update your details (including your email address) on our new Update Form and pay your membership contribution into the bank account specified on the form.

Don't delay - do it today.