Kentian Society
Supporting Kent Street Senior High School

Newsletter

September 2023

New Management Team

At the Society's Annual General Meeting held in June this year, most of the previous committee members were prepared to continue in that role, but there were no nominations for any of the executive positions. Outgoing Chair Gillian Colclough was then approved to act as Chairperson until more nominations could be secured. That was achieved by August and, at a recent Special General Meeting, several new people were elected to the Committee and all office holder positions have now been filled.

John Ayling and Helen Barns were elected as Society Chair and Secretary, while Gillian Colclough and David Price agreed to stay on the executive as Treasurer and Deputy Chair respectively. New Society member Peter Gerrard was also elected as a member of the Executive Committee. All of these people were elected unopposed.

Profiles of the new members of the management team are included in this newsletter.



Deputy Chair David Price, Executive Committee member Peter Gerrard, Hon Treasurer Gillian Colclough and Society Chair John Ayling after their election to the new management team (newly elected Society Secretary Helen Barns was unavailable due to work commitments) **Photo: Chris Lesiter**

Preparations For School's 85th Anniversary in 2025

At the new Committee's first meeting, incoming Society Chair John Ayling thanked Gillian Colclough and David Price for their very hard work as part of the previous executive team. He also welcomed Helen Barns and Peter Gerrard and thanked them for agreeing to join the new management team.

John said how pleased he was that Gillian and David had agreed to stay on the committee in executive roles as this would help both the Society and the Scholarship Foundation to support each other in their pursuit of common goals.

He added that this was particularly important given the need to begin planning for a major milestone: the school's 85th anniversary celebrations in 2025.

John noted that Kent Street Senior High School, which opened in 1940, is the oldest Government secondary school south of the river in Perth. There is only one older school of its type in the entire State - that is Perth Modern School in Subiaco.

To prepare effectively for this milestone, he said the Society needs to start a campaign now to search for former students, staff and supporters of the school and build accurate and detailed databases for each of these groups, while also revamping the ways the Society communicates with all of its different member groups.

That will help the Society to support the school well when it comes time to make contact with as many people as possible to ensure a successful school birthday celebration.

Society Luncheon

The Kentian Society and Scholarship Foundation will once again host their joint luncheon, to thank school staff and major donors who have supported our alumni group throughout the year, on Thursday 26 October at 12:00 pm at Kent Street Senior High School.

Catering for the luncheon will again be provided by the Year 11 Catering and Hospitality Class under the supervision of teacher Ingrid Hills. Every person who has attended these luncheons in past years has been very impressed by the professional flair shown by the students in the preparation and serving of their multi-course menu.

In order to minimise the cost to the Society of paying for invited guests, all of the board members, office-holders and committee members attending this year will be paying for their places at the luncheon.

Additional places at the luncheon are again available for members of the Kentian Society, at a cost of only $30 per person.

If you are interested in attending, please email us directly at society@kentians.org.au with your name and the number of seats you wish to purchase for the luncheon. We will email you back with further instructions including our bank account details.

Places at the luncheon are likely to be filled quickly so don't delay in contacting us.

Introducing: Our First Monthly Raffle

To raise much-needed funds, the Society is going to trial small raffles of 100 tickets at $2 each, drawn in 60 days or when all have been sold. If there is enough interest, we plan to go to a monthly draw after this introductory raffle.

Prizes will be 1 x $50, 1 x $30 and 1 x $20

To participate, you can message the Society with your email address (and your interest in the raffle) either through our Facebook page or directly at society@kentians.org.au and we will email you with further instructions including our bank account details, or if you prefer, we will give you our special raffle email address to write to.

As soon as we've received your payment, we will issue your tickets. Immediately following each draw, we will write to all ticket-holders, and publish the winning ticket numbers on our Facebook page.

We will ask you if you want us to add your email address to our database for newsletters and other updates, but only if you consent.

You do not need to be a paid member of the Kentian Society to take part.

All funds that we raise from the raffle will go towards supporting the important on-going activities of the Society: keeping you connected and building new connections, promoting reunions, preserving your memories in our Archives and providing student prizes.

Kentian Society Membership

All former students and all current and former staff of Kent Street Senior High School are automatically entitled to free membership as **Alumni Members**. While they don't have access to all the benefits of financial Society Members, they'll receive the Society's quarterly e-newsletter if they register their email address with us.

Full Society Membership is open to any Alumni member who pays the required membership fee. Being a member helps the society to maintain and build its presence at the school and contribute to the funds needed to operate and expand the Archives.

A five year membership is $35 for singles and $50 for couples. Life membership is equivalent to a 20-year membership - $140 for singles and $200 for couples.

You can find applications for new memberships here or just go to www.kentians.org.au
Email the completed form to society@kentians.org.au

Is your email address up to date? If you're an existing member but have not received a copy of this newsletter (or know someone who missed out), the membership application form can also be used as an update form.

Profiles of New Committee Members

John Ayling (Student 1970-71) - Society Chair

After being enrolled in the 1960s at Rivervale Primary School and Kewdale High School, John attended Kent Street Senior High School as a matriculation student in 1970 and 1971, where he was elected as a prefect.

He represented Kent Street at inter-school competitions in public speaking and debating, and continued as a recipient of a Commonwealth university scholarship to study at the University of Western Australia where he completed an MA (Prelim.) in English.

John has spent his whole working career in the field of education, both as a secondary school teacher and administrator and also for about two decades in a range of policy analysis and managerial positions in the central office of the Education Department, including Manager (Industrial Relations). After almost fifty years in education, John is now officially retired but still wanting to contribute and learn new skills while working in a volunteer capacity.

Helen Barns nee McGuiness (Student 1979-83) - Society Secretary

Helen attended Kent Street Senior High School in 1979-1983, where she was involved in theatre productions, gymnastics and in the swimming squad. She was elected as a prefect in Year 12.

She went on to become a primary school teacher which she still does now; and loves it! Helen has worked in both the public and private education sectors.
Helen is currently a member of the Teacher Flying Squad and gets to travel all over Western Australia teaching at many of the remote schools scattered throughout our State. While in Perth she does relief teaching and short term contracts.

Peter Gerrard (Student 1967-71) - Executive Committee Member

Peter began school at South Kensington Primary School and, when that school closed, attended East Victoria Park Primary School.

He attended Kent Street Senior High School in 1967-1971. Peter represented the school at inter-school competitions in football, athletics and swimming.

Peter spent his entire working career in education, teaching in the Goldfields and Perth as well as a stint in the South Metropolitan District Office. He retired in 2018 after spending twenty years as Deputy Principal of Atwell Primary School.