

Kentian Society Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

'I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.

You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.' - Neil Gaiman

Statement of Purpose

The Kentian Society is a welcoming and inclusive community that creates opportunities for past students and staff to connect with each other and the broader community of the first Government secondary school established on the southern side of the Swan River.

The Society honours, respects and celebrates relationships with our 30,000+ *alumni* (former staff and students) by creating opportunities to connect, learn and give back to the school community. We keep our long history and traditions alive with a continuing love for the school by celebrating the unique impact of a Kent Street education - an impact that stays with us long after graduation.

As past students of Kent Street Senior High School we honour the School Motto "Courage to Achieve" and the school's culture of endeavour, achievement and enterprise through being innovative, nurturing, creative and adventurous. This culture is reflected in the success of Kent Street students over more than eighty years since the school started in 1940.

We recognise that our alumni community offers a great diversity of talents, skills and abilities, which should be acknowledged and engaged to benefit the school, the Kentian Society and most importantly - each other.

Living the Kent Street Way - Living our Values

Kent Street Senior High School values Respect for Learning, Resilience to Achieve, and Responsibility to our School and Community. These values also provide us with our own motivation and purpose as an alumni group.

This Strategy aims to enable all alumni to be supported in the pursuit of these values and it is strengthened by allowing the school values to be prominent in all that we do / offer.

Respect for Learning

- We celebrate lifelong pride in the school and the alumni community.
- We aim for excellence, recognising that meaningful steps to success require innovative and ambitious goals, courage, and a focused and considered approach.
- We provide educational experiences that increase alumni knowledge not only of the school but also of our increasingly interdependent world.

Resilience to Achieve

- We welcome all members of our diverse and inclusive alumni community – our alumni always belong.
- We aim to meet the needs of our members on their life journey - educationally, relationally and socially.
- We treat all alumni with mutual respect and human dignity.
- We listen and respond to the needs of others with kindness and generosity - we choose to care.

Responsibility to our School and Community

- We engage with our alumni community, encouraging commitment and dedication to give back through social justice, community outreach and advocacy to benefit the greater good.
- We seek to support current student experience and to create an understanding of the Kentian Society throughout their learning journey.
- We treat all alumni in a fair and just manner - we are all equal.

Our Focus for the Future

To meet our purpose and live our values, the Alumni Association will focus on four pillars:

1. Connection through networking
2. Connection through experiences
3. Connection through giving back
4. Connection through communications and sharing stories

1. Connections through Networking

What we hope to achieve?

By connecting our alumni through networking, we hope to create opportunities, support each other, share wisdom and learn together.

Why networking?

We deliberately recognise the incredible learning opportunities that abound from networking across all generations of alumni. Traditional networking brings more mature people to mentor youth, but we want a multi-dimensional networking model to thrive. The old can also learn from the young.

Learning, growing and sharing helps us all to live our values and make a difference. Networking also helps us to find new ways to give back to the Kent Street community.

Who we aim to serve through this focus area?

- Alumni going through significant changes (people entering an industry, people who aren't sure about their path, who are leaving school, or starting / changing career)
- Alumni 5 years out
- All interested alumni, including non-Perth based alumni

What we will do?

1. Develop and implement a mentoring program
2. Stay connected with students as they move out of KSSH and into the world – particularly in their 5 years after transitioning from school
3. Networking opportunities for non-Perth based alumni (online)
4. Expanding and diversifying networking opportunities

2. Connection through Experiences

What we hope to achieve?

By connecting our alumni to each other and to KSSHHS through experiences, we hope to include our current and past alumni in various activities which provide mutual benefit, allow our alumni the opportunity to 'give back', learn from each other, and enable fun and friendship to thrive.

Why experiences?

Experiencing connection together is a way to strengthen the Kent Street values we all share. In this post-pandemic era, coming together for serious or fun reasons is so important - we know that this strengthens our school community, enables us to make a difference and give back to the school community, and also supports the wellbeing of all of our alumni and their extended connections.

Who we aim to serve through this focus area?

- All alumni
- Specific year groups / age cohorts
- Volunteers and future volunteers
- Staff and current students
- Extended families of alumni – influence them

What we will do?

- Inclusion / Volunteering at KSSHHS events / celebrations
- Connections via reunions
- Social networking events
- Engagement with community on current issues
- Scholarships for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend KSSHHS
- Provide opportunities for non-Perth based alumni to be involved and informed meaningfully - live stream events
- Keep connected meaningfully with our older alumni (65+)

3. Connection through Giving Back

What we hope to achieve?

By giving alumni the opportunity to volunteer in the Archives or at school events, or to donate to the Society or the Scholarship Foundation, or to offer their expertise to the many services the Society provides, we hope to provide them with another way of connecting through 'giving back'.

The Kentian Society and the Scholarship Foundation will ensure comprehensive fiscal governance that will enable revenue and expenses to be kept in balance. This in turn will increase the reserves and investments for long-term financial viability.

Why give back?

- To support the Foundation's scholarship program and provide funding for students who may not otherwise have an opportunity for a KSSHS education and who have the courage to achieve
- To give back to the broader community through social justice initiatives that align with our Kent Street values

Who we aim to serve through this focus area?

- Our alumni members
- Current students and staff of the school
- Broader school community - local, national and international
- Social justice groups

What we will do?

- Inclusion / Volunteering at KSSHS events / celebrations
- Connections via reunions
- Social networking events
- Provide annual equity scholarships to support families in need
- Provide funding for annual awards to recognise student excellence

4. Connection through Communications and Sharing Stories

What we hope to achieve?

By connecting our alumni to each other and to KSSHS through communications and sharing stories we hope to celebrate and inspire impact - by impact we mean the ethos of 'making a difference'.

Why storytelling?

Stories are powerful – they move people. We want our alumni to inspire our current students and each other - giving them examples of Kentians out in the world, making a difference. We know the stories of our alumni, and the impact of those stories, will further inspire and connect our community.

Who we aim to serve through this focus area?

- Our entire alumni community
- Recently graduated – those who have left in the last five years
- Younger alumni – those about to complete their education, getting them mobilised to stay connected in a different way
- Reunion year groups
- Our 'lost' alumni – re-engaging with alumni we have lost touch with
- Local alumni (Perth and surrounds) as well as those who have moved further afield.
- Older alumni

What we will do?

To tell these stories, and create impact from them, we will:

- Ensure our communications are convenient for people – available for them to access when and how they want it.
- Further build our social media profile / presence on multiple platforms
- Provide regular updates on KSSHS to our community
- Grow the alumni database (the outcome of our communications activities focussed on trying to drive alumni to the database)
- Engagement of the community in the alumni's purpose and work
- Engage meaningfully with our older alumni
- Honour the past - especially through development of our Archives