

WELCOME

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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FEATURE · GRANT NEWS

Major Project Update

Earlier this month, we received word that our application for a *Saluting Their Service* grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has been successful.

A grant of \$17,420 from the Australian Government



As a result, the Kentian Society Museum will receive this funding for our next major project, **Building Bridges Not Walls** — creating commemorative digital content honouring everyone connected to our school who has served in Australia's military, including many not yet named on existing memorials.

LEST WE FORGET

When announcing the funding, the Veterans' Affairs Minister Matt Keogh said:

"The projects we are funding today help local communities large and small to honour the service and sacrifice of veterans for generations to come.

"Just as importantly, they bring people of all ages together to reflect on the impact of war and conflict on their local community.

"Ensuring the stories behind the names of those that served our nation are told in our local communities is an important way in which we ensure we put into practice the words 'Lest we forget'."

Our February newsletter outlined the key features of this major initiative by our museum to build a free online memorial on our website. The project has three parts.

We'll begin by sharing stories of our wartime heritage in local libraries and on our website to attract new volunteers.

Next, a web designer will build a digital register — one page per person — for all school alumni and family members who served in Australia's armed forces. Volunteers will then verify details, through DVA records and other reference sources, before each profile goes live on the nominal roll.

Our memorial will recognise everyone who served — the fallen, the wounded, the survivors, and the families who bore the weight of war at home.

A password-protected section will also give approved academic researchers access to more sensitive records — to support further medical and social history research into

what veterans and their families experienced, during wartime and long after it ended.

Connections reaching back more than a century

Our museum research team has found military connections to our school going back to the early 1900s. Some of our alumni even have forebears who served in the Boer War, while many others have family who served in multiple conflicts from World War I through to the Vietnam War. Just recently, a member who attended Kent Street in the 1970s wrote in. Twelve members of his family served in World War II: both his parents and ten uncles.

Long-time Society members Elaine (Cook) Linfoot (student, 1949-50) and Bob Linfoot (student, 1949-51) also wrote to us after reading our last newsletter with some fascinating historical information, including news that Bob's great-uncle was a 16th Infantry Battalion private who landed at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915 [see From You To Us].

We've found several sad stories, like a student's brother killed in World War II while flying over Germany; or the father who died in Thailand while he was a Japanese POW, leaving behind four children who were Kent Street students; or two other fathers of our alumni who survived working on the Burma-Thailand railway only to die together at sea, when the Rakuyo Maru was torpedoed by an American submarine on its way to Japan.

And yet, there are also tales of incredible survival. In 1941, when the Germans took Crete, the uncle of one of our alumni hid in the hills alongside other Australians, kept alive by local Greeks. For 14 months they held out. Then he and four others seized a 20-tonne schooner at gunpoint and sailed off the island — but were soon caught by German troops. Things were 'touch and go' for a few days, as the Germans needed convincing they were not British agents. He was eventually sent to Germany by train to spend the next 3 years in POW camps, and under guard in coal mines. He was then strafed by the RAF while on a forced march in German hands before being rescued by the British Army in 1945.

Most importantly, there are literally hundreds of stories of local women and men who came home and rebuilt their lives. While some faced difficulties, we recognise that the conversation around veteran transition is complex. So, this project also seeks to celebrate the large number of veterans who were able to transition successfully to civilian life as it shifts the narrative from viewing them strictly as broken or struggling to recognising their resilience, valuable skill sets, and ongoing contributions

to the community. We hope to support more academic research into this too.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you have information on a veteran who should be listed, photos or any other memorabilia you have which may be relevant to this project, or you'd like to support this important recording of our local history before it is lost, please email us at society@kentians.org.au.

Please also remember that, while the Veterans' Affairs grant will help, it will only cover basic startup costs: printed materials and hire of portable display stands for an initial promotional exhibition, plus funding for the work of a commercial web designer. Ideally, it may also help attract additional funding for the project's future growth.

Financial donations are always very welcome, as they help fund major museum projects like this to ensure the history of Kent Street SHS is protected and accessible for current and future generations.

COMMUNITY VOICE

A Culture of Generosity

Editor: *Australian philanthropy has changed. Where funders once backed individual projects, many now invest in the organisations running them — their systems, their staff, their staying power. This is called capacity building, and it matters because a not-for-profit without it will eventually buckle: programs can't grow, resources stretch thin, and people burn out by wearing too many hats. The following is an edited extract from a public address given last month by Maree Sidey (CEO, Philanthropy Australia). Her full speech is available on the organisation's website at philanthropy.org.au.*

I ask you to take a moment to think about what generosity means to you. Perhaps what comes to mind is simple acts made at the community level, to fill gaps. Think of your suburb, town or community and where and how generosity shows up.

People volunteering in the school canteen, coaching the local sporting club, sitting on the kindergarten committee or the board of a local charity. Coming together as a nation after floods or fires, or crowd funding for a family that has experienced a traumatic loss. Giving Zakat within our Muslim communities; Tzedekah within our Jewish community; or Tithing within our Christian communities. Australians have many ways of being generous and expressing our generosity.

This can be seen even at our darkest moments. Our nation has weathered an awful summer. We have endured

multiple acts of terror. We have seen the sharp rise of racism, anti-semitism and hate speech, and the rise of fear.

Yet even in the face of this, I believe that Australians view themselves as fundamentally generous. We still consider ourselves as custodians of an egalitarian way of life. Through the horror we have seen the best of our national character. We have seen lifesavers put themselves in danger to help strangers in need.

At our darkest moments, Australians are often at their best. That is how we should measure the character and generosity of our nation. Generosity after all is the core of our humanity. That is our culture.

So the question I want to put to you today is: how do we harness this generosity of spirit to create a culture of giving?

The latest World Giving Report makes for interesting reading. This annual report explores how generosity shows up in different countries around the globe.

The 2025 report shows that more Australians give than the global average, but we give less of our overall income. It also found that less of us volunteer than the global average, but for those that do, the number of hours volunteered is higher.

To put it another way, when it comes to giving, we all pitch in a bit of what we can. And when it comes to giving our time, a few look out for the many.

"... when it comes to giving our time, a few look out for the many."

MAREE SIDEY, CEO, PHILANTHROPY AUSTRALIA

This tells me that somewhere along our national story, we have stopped thinking about broader acts of generosity as philanthropy. It has become very clear that most Australians do not relate to the term philanthropy, nor do they see themselves as philanthropists.

Social psychologists will tell you that you can't change behaviour using language and symbols people don't relate to. If we want to truly mobilise more generosity, and build a greater culture of giving in Australia, then we need to meet Australians where they are at and reflect back what we understand to be true about our culture.



Philanthropy Australia CEO Maree Sidey presenting at Western Australia's State of Philanthropy Insight Series

Australians' belief in generosity is measured in how we show up. Our rural and regional communities are run on the backs of tireless volunteers. People who show up week after week to give their time.

People who contribute to the social fabric of their communities. People who look out for one another and their neighbours. That type of generosity is invisible in our data sets but it is vital to the fabric of our society.

From bushcare groups, to volunteers at family violence centres, to supporting a refugee family, these are contributions that aren't measured at tax time. We need to forge a new understanding of philanthropy and generosity that reflects our authentic Australian character. It is a national character worth recognising.

Philanthropy as we currently understand it needs a radical and fundamental rethink in this country. Both how we talk about it and how we represent it. We need to move away from reinforcing in our media and public debate that philanthropy is something that only the wealthy do.

Because no matter how wealthy Australia becomes, Australians will never think about themselves as wealthy. We need to move away from giving just what is required of us. Away from calling for more incentives to give. Away from seeing giving just as part of the final act of a person's life.

The change has already begun. All over Australia, community-led giving is on the rise, corporate giving is accelerating, private giving is expanding. We need to harness this energy and leverage its momentum. Our role is to strengthen all the ways giving shows up in people's lives.

And yes, that extends to online giving, spend down and non-tax deductible giving. We will be bold about mobilising capital towards issues that matter to Australians and we will encourage the use of capital in all its forms. We will enable, embrace and recognise all forms of giving and investing.

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GET INVOLVED

Our Museum Needs You

Making it easier for potential visitors, volunteers or donors to get a taste for what our museum is about is critical for them to take the next step and either visit, join, or donate.

Kent Street SHS boasts unique characteristics: a long history in public education of achieving results above expectations, notable architecture, a wide intake area since its inception covering the south-eastern suburbs of Perth and beyond, and a robust community museum and scholarship foundation operated by its alumni.

Ever wanted to contribute your skills, life experience, diverse background, and interests to a wider purpose, working in a friendly and stimulating environment?

Our museum is growing, and many of our dedicated senior volunteers are stepping back after years of service, so we need fresh faces. We're seeking curious minds from all walks of life — people eager to learn while making a real difference in our community.

We'd like to hear from people interested in helping more generally in a range of tasks (some big and some small) associated with the:

Museum collection

People with experience, or even just an interest, in working as curatorial staff responsible for the care, interpretation, and display of our various collections, as well as the development of exhibitions and educational programs.

Library and Research collection

People with library, archival, genealogical or general historical research skills or experience.

Education collection

People with teaching or practical skills.

READY TO LEARN MORE?

If you'd like to learn more about helping out with any of these various museum roles (training is provided), please email us at society@kentians.org.au.

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FROM THE CHAIR

AGM Report

Editor: Members of the Kentian Society met for their customary Annual General Meeting in the school Cricket Pavilion on the morning of Sunday 24 May 2026. This edited extract from the Report by Society Chair John Ayling is provided for all members' information.

INTRODUCTION

We've made some real progress these past three years — tax-deductible giving has steadied us financially, and our mission to save and share our school's history is now better understood. But that's really only the start. While important, these changes have essentially been structural, laying the groundwork for the next stage in the Society's development.

MUSEUM

In June 2025, after consulting with members and Archives volunteers, the Management Committee approved a detailed Museum Collections Policy to guide how our museum tells its stories and keeps its collections safe.

It divides museum operations into four areas: the main museum collection, a substantial research library of books, photos and documents, a small "hands-on" education collection of spare parts and display props, and an even smaller set of organisational archives in a general collection.

Almost all the historical material previously known as the "Kentian Society Archives" will increasingly be held in the various museum collections outlined above, leaving only a 'general' collection comprising inactive Society and Scholarship Foundation records and historical documentation about both organisations' activities since their inception.

The current small group of Archives volunteers possess valuable institutional knowledge despite their dwindling numbers and energy levels. While they don't feel able to manage the expanded museum's workload, the Management Committee recognises their unique perspective remains essential. Going forward, these volunteers will focus primarily on maintaining the 'general' organisational archive collection.

Meanwhile, every effort will be made to recruit and train a larger group of new volunteers to start working, in accordance with the Museum Collections Policy, in a range of roles associated with the expanded operations of the museum.

FINANCE

The Society operates without any recurrent government funding and runs entirely on member dues, volunteer hours, and donor support.

Of our roughly 400 financial members, more than 80% are "life members" who paid a single membership fee years ago and have no obligation to contribute further. Occasional donations come in, but unpredictably. It's a precarious foundation, and one we've outgrown.

Thankfully, in August 2025, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) approved our Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Official ATO endorsement helps build public trust. It strengthens our credibility, opens access to philanthropic funding available only to DGR entities, and gives us a competitive edge — all of which are essential to our long-term sustainability.

We've also been seeking grants from government, business, and local sources to fund special projects that might draw more people in — to volunteer, donate, or become members. One grant opportunity (offered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs) seemed particularly suitable as a potentially major museum project [Editor: now approved].



Registered Charity · acnc.gov.au/charityregister

This project plays to our strengths. Our school community has an amazing military history that folks would eat up if we shared it, but we don't have space for a physical museum.

So instead, we'll partner with community groups for promotional displays while concentrating on virtual exhibitions and digital content on our website.

Using a team of volunteers to conduct research for the digital nominal roll gives us flexibility throughout the project, while also adding real community value by supporting medical researchers working with our historical records.

We've already uncovered many compelling stories about veterans and their families that will draw new audiences — expanding our museum's reach, our volunteer base, and our donor pool.

The approach is well within our existing capabilities, carries low risk, and positions us well for future projects

of this kind. We hope it will also help attract further funding as the project grows.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER SERVICES

The Society's primary purpose now is to operate a museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Kent Street Senior High School.

To raise awareness of both the museum and our role operating it, we also offer a range of school-related services and activities: encouraging alumni to volunteer in museum activities or mentor current students; helping alumni to reconnect with old classmates or organise reunions; and co-sponsoring with the separate Kentian Scholarship Foundation (Inc) an annual graduate student achievement award.

The Society's free quarterly e-Newsletter sent to everyone who provides us with their email address is also generating renewed interest from both alumni and the broader community.

While each activity requires only a small commitment in time or money from the Society, all of them help generate positive publicity for the Society and its role promoting our school's history.

My thanks go to all those who have supported the Kentian Society throughout the last several years, and I look forward to seeing it continue to retain its importance and value to former students and staff, the school, and the wider community.

TRIBUTE

Honorary Life Members Awarded

Editor: *At the Kentian Society's AGM, the Chair announced an additional surprise item that hadn't been included on the meeting agenda (for reasons of secrecy). He explained the Management Committee had recently considered and approved detailed nominations for honorary life membership for two long-serving volunteers working in the Kentian Society Archives. The detailed rationales supporting both nominations for this honour are published below.*

Graeme Campbell

STUDENT, 1965-69



Graeme Campbell has been an enthusiastic, reliable, and deeply committed member of the Kentian Society Archives group for fifteen years. A foundation member of the Kentian Society, he became fully involved in 2011 during the establishment of the Science "dungeon" as the first dedicated Kentian Society Archives.

His early contribution included the clean-out and fit-out of the "dungeon", during which he demonstrated exceptional initiative, practical skill, and a willingness to undertake physically demanding tasks. His work included installing safety rails in accordance with Education Department OHS requirements, moving heavy items such as map drawers — often using his own equipment — and assisting with the installation of long-span shelving and built-in office fixtures.

Once the Archives were established, Graeme became its unofficial Maintenance Officer, a role he continues to fulfil with dedication. His work has included hanging memorabilia, designing and installing a system for the annual rearrangement of the complete Staff Photo collection, assisting with the installation and maintenance of the second compactus, and sourcing appropriate lighting for the large compactus.

Graeme has consistently made himself available whenever maintenance or new tasks arise, always bringing initiative, problem-solving ability, and his own tools and resources. His contribution has extended beyond the Archives, including the careful rearrangement of the honour boards in the school's reception area.

Graeme served on the Society's Management Committee from 2013 to 2023 and played an important role in the development of the revised Constitution required by the WA Department of Consumer Affairs. Following Judith Lee's retirement in 2014, he took on the role of Minutes Secretary, which he carried out with diligence and professionalism until the 2023 AGM. He has also been a regular contributor to the Year 7 and Year 8 History Orientation Days.

Graeme's contribution to the Society and its Archives has been invaluable. His dedication, skill, initiative, and generosity — both practical and financial — have significantly strengthened the Archives group and the Kentian Society.

Paul de Laeter

STUDENT, 1960-62



Paul de Laeter has been an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the Kentian Society Archives group for thirteen years. Throughout this period, he has been an exemplary volunteer whose commitment, reliability, and initiative have significantly enhanced the work and effectiveness of the Archives.

He also served as a committee member for eleven years and contributed extensively to Year 7 and 8 History Orientation Days.

Paul has attended consistently every week during term time, apart from the occasional holiday, and has been unfailingly supportive of the group's activities. He is always willing to assist fellow members with any task required. His expertise has been invaluable, particularly in relation to computer systems, troubleshooting technical issues, and leading the digitisation of photographs, newspaper articles, and other archival materials.

In addition, Paul has demonstrated considerable creativity through the production of numerous display poster boards. These have showcased themes such as sporting heroes, military heroes, outstanding former students, Olympic representatives from the school, ex-student cricketers, and other topics of historical interest to the school community.

Paul's dedication extends well beyond the group's regular Thursday meetings. He frequently gives his own time at home to resolve computing issues and complete Archives work. He has also contributed generously through both financial support and the donation of equipment.

He is actively involved in all aspects of the operations of the Kentian Society Archives, including searching materials in the compactus, cataloguing, data entry, filing, preparing displays, contributing to discussions and decision-making processes, and providing comprehensive support for the computer system.

Paul de Laeter is a worthy and deserving recipient of Life Membership, and this recognition of his outstanding contribution is both fitting and timely.

MEMBER STORY



The Shy Kentian Lad

Editor: *This piece by Lindsay Best (student, 1967-69) is the first in what we hope will be a regular series from him. For more about Lindsay, please see From You To Us.*

The Fly

Flies are fair game for an Aussie kid, and one was zooming around and landed on my desk.

Whatever the scary teacher was saying disappeared in my concentration on this fly wandering nonchalantly in front of me.

I was very careful not to scare it away and waited for the perfect time to strike.

I hit the desk with a huge bang and all of the class stopped and looked, including the teacher.

Fearful of the consequences, the only excuse I could think of was.... "There was a fly!"

Somehow, the teacher understood.

(The fly survived)

MEMBER STORY

My Short School Story

Editor: The following story has been submitted by Dirk Diepeveen (student, 1958-62).

I was a migrant kid, from the Netherlands in 1954. I was age 10 with no English language skills. We were so fortunate to land in South Perth and lived on the Point.

My first school was Forrest St Primary [later known as South Perth Primary] where, for the next 3 years, I learnt how to speak English, play cricket and Aussie Rules. Together with my cousins, my siblings and I were the first migrants from Europe for some years at this school.

I was fortunate that I had some great teachers and to this day still remember them and fondly remember the 3 years at primary school. The teachers were Mr Drake Brockman, Miss McKnight, Mr Dixon, Mr Gavranich, Mr Lavers and of course the headmaster Mr Clayton, whose arithmetic book was an essential part of the curriculum.

In my last year at the school I was made a prefect, and was the bell ringer, for start, lunch and finishing. That was great as I was also a paperboy and first to get on my bike and beat the rush.

Riding my bike to Kent Street, on the first day I was quickly told that I was at the wrong place and needed to go to Cargill Street school, so on the first day late, and what excuse did I have? Fortunately half the cohort were in the same situation.

The start of high school was a new experience. Having been at a small school we were thrust into a much bigger pond, certainly greater competition, new friends and alliances to form, and basically learning to cope with rapid change.

First year was a blur, so much new stuff, new rules, having to move between classes, copying copiously from the blackboard, finding out you had poor vision so spectacles needed to keep pace with others.

New teachers with varied disciplines imposed, mostly unforgiving for homework, not completed or poorly presented. Having to line up in "TWOS" for Mr Morris, with the appropriate emphasis on the word "TWOS".

Mr Haydock was our History teacher, totally unforgiving. If you did not meet his standard, you were severely chastised and made an example of for others not to follow, with some variation for each student.

The "man", Mr Colin Cook. Fitness guru, insisting that all students reach Bronze medallion lifesaving standard. He was of course a brilliant swimmer and lifesaver, even with poor eyesight and solid contact lenses, which he put in at school each day, having driven to work without them. Probably a little embarrassed with his "coke bottle" lenses in his glasses. He didn't miss a thing. He seemed to have a unique skill in knowing in detail what went on in class and beyond.

My second year at Kent St proper. A completely new arrangement of classes — new geography to learn and new names for teachers. Also the need to sort out reputations and expectations.

Moving between classes was a challenge because of distance and I'm still sure that Mr Deal (Malcolm), would hold us back if Physics was the next class, as he well knew that Jock Bremner was a stickler for being on time. Jock was the Cadet Leader and good discipline was his thing.

The next two years were very busy with sport and working towards the Junior certificate, which then was a significant milestone. The results could give a direction as to continued study or seeking an apprenticeship in a trade that would have a future. It was a time of decision, parents had to think of the continued cost and also the opportunity for income to the family and creating a future for their child.

In my case the decision was for me to continue education to Leaving certificate. The proviso was that I would continue my part-time job to help pay for the continued education. It seemed to be the norm that whatever I earned would be handed to my mother for the benefit of all the family, with little likelihood of much coming back to oneself.

Following completion of the Junior certificate, commencing Year IV was another big change. More than half the cohort disappeared and a new lot of students appeared from other high schools which did not have 5 year program.

My choice of subjects was a little uninformed as I probably gave myself a task beyond my academic ability. However life goes on and sport became a big thing playing soccer and squash.

I recall being reasonably competitive in squash and being challenged by our Maths teacher Tim Clark. After the game I'd have to say I was very much a beginner. I was lucky in scoring even a couple of points. I also tried

football, we had a great coach, Ken Armstrong, who played for Perth club at Lathlain Park.

Fond memories are held for my time at KSSHS.

Had it not been for a serious accident in my final year, which resulted in missing 6 weeks of school, my academic results may have been different. I was given the chance to repeat the final year, but declined.

So off to work we go, first into catering, then in 1963 joined the Commonwealth Bank, where for the next 35 years enjoyed many roles: teller, lending and then to Sydney to learn about computing in 1978. My "golden handshake" came in the 90's. A significant change in career path, first in building supply then later as what I call, pretend academic.

Whilst at High School many of the students sought a place at Teachers College. My results weren't good enough at the time to achieve this. However, in the Olympic year 2000, in Sydney, I volunteered. I was selected to be trained as a driver.

This took two weeks with a somewhat challenging examination process, both practical and in understanding cultural differences. I was lucky to chauffeur Diplomats and Ministers from a number of countries.

Part of the selection process at this level required a high level of security clearance which was done in the background without my knowledge, until advised that I had passed that scrutiny. This subsequently resulted in gaining an entry to UTS (University of Technology Sydney).

As a mature age student I treated the program as a job, which resulted in a position of tutor in my second year of study and completing a Masters in Adult Education. This was then a whole new career which continued as a part-time position for 13 years. A most enjoyable time.

Then, an event that no-one can plan for occurred. My wife of almost 49 years passed away after a battle with cancer. A sad time for me and my children with much adjustment to be made and new horizons to be challenged.

Travel became a large part of my life, Africa, Japan, Europe a number of times, and the North Atlantic, New Zealand and much of Australia. What to do next consumed much of my thoughts.

I had continued living in a large terrace house near the centre of Sydney. This was no longer fulfilling and I decided to move to a small town on the coast of NSW, called Forster. Living here gave me renewed energy and meeting a new partner also provided me with a future to

build. Which we did, we built a brand new house with ocean views and within the sound of the waves. A delightful new beginning thwarted by "Covid", and now with conflict in areas we were due to discover.

I must conclude by saying, as a migrant kid, life has been good. I still have good health, I'm able to travel when we can, still discovering and learning.

STUDENTS I REMEMBER

Clarrie Cowardine, Miles Smith, Brian Brand, Colin Ryan, Bruce Peacock, David Watts, Richard Lockwood, Ron Burns, Ken Gannaway, Gilbert Dinney, Reg Crawford, Robin Draper, Ian Lindner, Dennis Smith, Barry Jones, Graeme Headland, Wain Wright, Bryce Willows, Bill Treby, Maria Frieze, Paul Frieze, Alan Henderson, Brian Gardner, Keith Houghton, Bryan Watson, Keith (Kees) Bronwasser, Dick Stolp, Frank de Graaf, Murray Hill, Ian Manning, Bev Hill, Joan Hodgson, Helen Beaucot, Carol Clifton, Harry Burgraaf, Barry Nevard, David Royce, Peter Hill, Peter Johnson, Richard De Leater, David Gadson, Nikky Tan, Meika Brands, David Cole, John Hearne, Colin Vost

TEACHERS I REMEMBER

Mr Vose, Ken Armstrong, Mr De Garis, Malcolm Deal, George Lambert (headmaster), Mr Colgan (Deputy), Basil Best, John Mumme, Owen Collis, Colin Cook, John Bremner, Mr Morris, Vince Hienricks, Mr Brearly, Peter Kemeny, Marshall Walker, Bob Grantham, Miss Taylor (the very good looking chick)

There are gaps in my memory and for that I apologise.

I have fond memories of the opportunities in education and social skills that were opened up to me in the years at Kent Street SHS. For that I am forever grateful.

MEMBERS WRITE

From You To Us

Readers appreciate the news brought to us by members, and often they're important for inclusion in our museum collections 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.

Subject: Kentian Society Museum

From: Elaine (Cook) Linfoot (student, 1949-50) and Bob Linfoot (student, 1949-51)

Congratulations on the February newsletter! We have been on a similar trajectory for a few years.

On the military aspect, ANZAC Day commemoration is an annual event on our calendar - which is a "family and friends" get together, and a time to reflect on the past.

Elaine's Grandfather was only 21 when he was K.I.A. on "The Somme" near Villers Bretonneux in June 1918, leaving his two year old son, Alan Ronald Cook, an orphan. Alan fought in New Guinea in World War Two, finishing as a Major, and again in the 1950's in the British Army (as Australia's senior representative) in the "Malayan Emergency. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

During this period Elaine spent over a year with her father in Malaya and when "out in country" slept with a pistol under her pillow.

Bob's Grandmother's younger brother (Randolf Anakin) landed at 1715 hours on ANZAC Cove 25th April 1915. A dinky-di ANZAC who lived to tell the tale.

We have attended a couple of ANZAC Days in Villers Bretonneux and Gallipoli. Bob also went overseas to "Nashos" (to Rottneest).

With so many high achievers, and ordinary people with extraordinary stories to tell, there must be a wealth of material to fill many volumes, and we encourage former students to submit some stories, even if only one page.

For years, we discussed having a small family museum at our office / warehouse in West Parade (the old "Golden West" cool drinks factory and office). In 2022, due to an offer too good to refuse, at short notice we sold the property and within 5 or 6 weeks we bought a much newer office / warehouse at 5b Production Road, Canning Vale.

It looked ideal to locate our museum in the upstairs office and showrooms. We soon found we had a problem. This was not a big enough area to display our 'stuff' (which is the technical museum speak for all manner of items such as books, photo, furniture, you name it!)

So we added a further 110 m2 to the upstairs area by adding a mezzanine floor (and a lift) which took a year to construct due to labour and materials shortages. Elaine has rarely discarded a piece of paper, photo, card etc the whole of her life. Our eldest son, Lindsay, not only inherited his mother's hoarding instincts, but Bob's grandmother's as well.

We have over 300 "paper" files, thousands of photos, and three furniture van loads of 'stuff' from our 'hobby

farm' in Furnissdale; including 25 cartons of books. We have two sea containers still with 'stuff' in them.

I (Bob) enjoy reading books on history, autobiographies and personal stories, such as the ones in the Kentian Newsletter. I don't read fiction (except for the newspapers) and we have over 150 short family stories. One day, we hope to put together a book on our families over the 20th century.

Editor: *The information provided by Elaine and Bob has been added to our records for the online nominal roll. Bob also forwarded a longer story about his time as a student at Kent Street and this will be published in our next newspaper.*

Subject: Short Essays of School Day Events

From: Lindsay Best, student 1967-69

I'm formerly a student at Kent Street High School. I currently live in New Zealand and have a ken to send some essays of a mild nature of my time at school. I imagine they could be inserted in places rather than all at once. I offer a sample below to see if it's suitable for your publication.

THE SHY KENTIAN LAD (ROCKING)

For a shy lad, I sure seemed to attract attention to myself.

Like the time the whole class was sitting on the prefabs verandah to get some breeze. The teacher was talking and I began to rock on my chair. What I didn't know was the chair leg moved a little with each rock.

Over time it inched towards the staircase and eventually reached the edge and both the chair, and I, did a backward somersault with a metallic crash. There was a shocked silence, and then a roar of laughter. I was not injured, save for my pride and bright red cheeks. Now, years later, old friends still recall the incident with glee.

Hope that works for you.

Editor: *Please see Lindsay's piece about The Fly on The Shy Kentian Lad.*

Subject: Bryan Phillip "Zoom" Watson

From: Dirk Diepeveen (student 1958-62)

Thank you for keeping me informed re the Kentian Society.

I have in my possession an article from the Australian newspaper dated August 18, 1988 which lists all Australians killed during the Vietnam conflict. Amongst

those listed is Bryan P Watson, affectionately known as "ZOOM".

The story was that in the early 60's BP produced a product for the two-stroke market, called "ZOOM". This was premixed and dispensed from a regular pump at BP service stations. This was great for lawn mowers and two-stroke outboard motors. Although the product was popular in WA, it never took off in other states to the same extent.

At about the same time Bryan was a delivery boy for a chemist shop in Albany Highway in Victoria Park. The chemist shop was owned by Percy Johnson, a well known footballer at the time.

The story was that Bryan was good at the after-school job and it was said that he "zoomed" around the streets after school doing deliveries. The other is that his initials being BP also contributed to the nickname sticking.

Bryan was a good student and a great friend.

We were in the same class for 4 years, and were both at Kent Street from 1958 to 1962. He was well liked by all, an enthusiastic participant in all school activities and always got good marks. Shortly before being called up he started at UWA enrolled in a Science degree course.

Editor: *The information provided here by Dirk has been added to our records about Bryan Watson, who will be included on our online nominal roll (along with many other alumni who served in Vietnam). Dirk very kindly forwarded a copy of the detailed newspaper article he refers to which will be used by our research team. Please also see Dirk's story about his school days in My Short School Story.*

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Society Membership

NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS AND RENEWALS SINCE JUNE 2025

Lindsay Best, student 1967-69

Geoff Cooper, student 1985-89

Wendy Coultas (McNally), student 1964-66

Dirk Diepeveen, student 1958-62

Barry Foster, student 1955-57

Jennifer Hughes (Morris), student 1971-73

Saikhanbileg Munkhbaatar, student 2023-25

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / UPDATE?

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 museum.

Don't risk YOUR membership falling into arrears. We are always reviewing our membership records, 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.

Also, remember to pay your membership fee into the bank account specified on the form. Don't delay - do it today.

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