



**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC.**

ESTABLISHED 1958

*Serving the
community,
families, schools,
students,
historians and
other researchers*

NEWSLETTER

No. 137

DECEMBER 2021



CIVIC EPHEMERA

In the upcoming book on our collection (to be published in 2022), Julie King writes: 'A highlight in Kew's social calendar was the Mayoral Ball, hosted annually by the Mayor and Mayoress of Kew. The event was a team effort presented by a committee of volunteers, usually the councillor's wives and daughters, who chose the theme, decorated the venue, and organised for the guests to be entertained and refreshed.'

Mayoral balls and other civic events needed to be publicised, and invitations, entrée cards and programmes printed and distributed to guests. The Kew Historical Society is fortunate to be the custodian of a large collection of almost 250 examples of printed ephemera, previously held in the Town Clerk of Kew's office as a record of civic events in local venues. In addition to the Kew records, the collection includes invitations issued to town clerks and mayors by other municipalities. While most items in this collection are printed in black ink on card, a number, including greeting cards issued by a succession of mayors, are full-coloured extravaganzas.

The earliest item in the collection is not a civic invitation, but rather a dance card with an attached pencil for an event named 'Corelli', held in the Kew Recreation Hall, Wellington Street in 1909. The most recent item is an invitation to a garden party from The Mayor, Cr Peter Wallinga, in 1981. Among the collection are rare records of important civic events such as the openings of civic buildings, baby health centres and kindergartens, arts festivals, senior citizens club rooms, and the Kew Traffic School. One of a number of the invitations to successive opening of club rooms for 'elder citizens' has been used as an illustration in the [forthcoming] history of the Kew Senior Citizens Club.

In addition to providing a chronological record of important events in the civic history of Kew, many of the items reveal aspects of social history, including various 'smoke nights' held by mayors, 'receptions' held by mayoresses, and menus within the programmes for mayoral balls. The earliest menu is included in the programme for a ball in 1933. It lists the items of food and beverage as well as the entertainment provided. Musical and elocutionary items were provided by Messrs. Percy Blundell, Joseph Foster, and Gerald Massey. Options for diners included, among other dishes, oyster soup, a fillet of whiting, jellies, and coffee.

CONTENTS

1

CIVIC EPHEMERA

Invitations, entree and greeting cards for important civic events

3

HISTORY NEWS

New acquisitions; Future exhibitions; Grants and sponsors

4

BOROONDARA'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS

An overview of private schools in Kew from 1851 to 1951

6

ALEXANDRA GARDENS

A chronological survey of the gardens from 1906

8

THREE SHORT PIECES

Trinity Grammar School; Alan Sumner; Victorian Collections

9

SALE OF THE HALFEY ESTATE

A tale of two significant houses and two families

11

CENTENARY OF THE MODEL DAIRY

A pair of commemorative silver-plate salvers from 1963

CIVIC EPHEMERA (from page 1)

A sign of changing times is the nomenclature used to describe events. 'Balls' were the preferred term to describe formal events, whereas from 1961, with an ever increasing social informality, the term ball was replaced by 'dinner dance'.

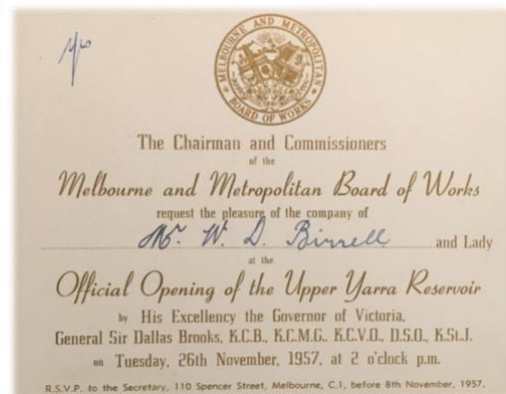
Three notable events, for which there are a number of items in the collection, are the opening of the Kew Traffic School in Cotham Road, the events held during the Centenary of Kew in 1960, and the conferring on Robert Gordon Menzies, former Member for Kooyong and Prime Minister, with Honorary Freeman of the City of Kew in 1974.

The Traffic School was opened at 2.30pm on 15 June 1957 by The Hon. A.G. Rylah, E.D., M.L.A., Deputy Premier. The invitation confirms that the school was sponsored by the Lions' Club of Kew and funded by donations from firms, organisations, manufacturers and private citizens. The purpose of the school was: '... to teach the children to be better road users and to instil in them the cardinal rules of road safety and road courtesy'. The ceremony included a demonstration lesson by officers of the Victorian Police Force and music performed by the Victorian Police Band.

The Right Hon. R.G. Menzies, K.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Australia, was initially honoured by three cities constituting his electorate on 22 July 1939 with a 'Dinner' at the Menzies Hotel. On another occasion, an invitation was issued in 1955 by Cr Marie Dalley to a reception in the Recreation Hall in recognition of his 'record term of office'. Nineteen years later, on Sunday 11 August 1974 [following his retirement], Cr Petrie, Mayor of Kew, and Councillors invited selected residents and dignitaries to a ceremony in the City Hall [now Kew Library] to bestow on him the distinction of Honorary Freeman of the City of Kew. This honour was the highest that a municipal council could confer on an individual. The eight-page programme, printed by W.D. Vaughan Printing Pty Ltd. includes the order of proceedings, the text of the resolution by Council, and a print copy of the signed resolution in the form of '... an illuminated Well Case'. In this instance, invited guests were invited to remain for refreshments. What they were offered in unrecorded.

Some of these important examples of civic ephemera have already been scanned, described and added to *Victorian Collections*. We hope to upload more in 2022, as they are indispensable records testifying to special events in the twentieth century civic history of Kew.

ROBERT BAKER



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE UPPER YARRA RESERVOIR
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, 1957
Kew Historical Society

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PATRON

Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Judith Voce

Vice President: David White

Secretary: Desley Reid

Treasurer: Jerome de Almeida

Archivist / Newsletter editor: Robert Baker

Curator: Judith Scurfield

Members: Richard Bowen | Anne Josefsberg | Mary Kelleher | Julie King | Debbie McColl-Davis

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings of the Kew Historical Society are held in the Phyllis Hore Room at the Kew Library on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding the months of January, March, October and December). There is usually a guest speaker. Visitors are welcome to attend. When we are unable to meet physically, meetings will be held using Zoom meetings.

KEW COURT HOUSE

Members of the Society played a key role in the preservation of the Kew Court House. General enquiries can be made, and viewing of our current exhibition, on most Fridays and Saturdays between 11am and 1pm. Our room is on the first floor of the former Kew Police Station at 188 High Street, Kew.

KEW HERITAGE CENTRE

The Kew Heritage Centre, at the rear of the ground floor of the Kew Library, is generally staffed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10am and 4pm. Entry is by appointment.

NEWSLETTER

This is published quarterly and distributed to all members. Additional copies are made available to the community. Past newsletters can be downloaded from our website.

WEBSITES

www.kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/kew-historical-society

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed, and information provided, by the authors of articles in this newsletter do not necessarily mirror the views and values of the Kew Historical Society. We also rely on authors checking the accuracy of their data and apologise if errors of fact have been made.

Kew Historical Society Inc.
Inc. No. A0010789W | ABN 97 824 890 237
PO Box 175 Kew VIC 3101
KHS Newsletter, No.137/2021
ISSN 0155-1337

HISTORY NEWS

ACQUISITIONS

The Society wishes to acknowledge the following donations to the collection, which have been received between October and December 2021:

- Two evening dresses and an evening coat by Norma Tullo, purchased c.1968, from Patricia Desmarchelier PhD FASM OAM.
- Two ornate silver-plated salvers, inscribed on the reverse with 'Model Dairy 1863-1963', from Anitra Doyne (*see also page 11*).
- Two postcards of the Yarra River, from Robert Baker.
- Two Victorian-era capelets from Susan-Wright-Jones.

EXHIBITIONS

In addition to our regular exhibitions at the Kew Court House, plans are well underway for two major external exhibitions in 2022.

Earlier this year, we submitted a proposal for an exhibition in 2022 at the Town Hall Gallery, focussing on the theme of landscape using maps, artworks, and photographs from our collection. This major exhibition, including significant works from our collection, will be staged in Gallery 4 of the Hawthorn Town Hall between 12 April and 21 May 2022. A selection of the photographs of Henry Christian, about which Robert Baker spoke at the November monthly meeting, will form part of the display. The photographs include what our researchers believe to be a rare surviving photograph of a family group on an outing in Alice Anderson's touring car; the automobile in the photograph has been positively identified as a Hupmobile by the Vintage Drivers Club.



TOURING PARTY

Henry Beater Christian (photo), circa 1925
Kew Historical Society

The second exhibition is scheduled to occur during the 2022 Australian Heritage Festival. Using the exquisite surrounds of the Villa Alba Museum in Walmer Street, the week-long exhibition of nineteenth and twentieth century fashion and design will run from 23 April until 1 May.

GRANTS & SPONSORS

The Society is generously supported by a Triennial Operational Grant from the City of Boroondara, as well as funding for specific projects provided by the National Library of Australia, the City of Boroondara and the Rotary Club of Balwyn. Kay & Burton (Hawthorn) is a corporate sponsor. Printing of this newsletter is generously provided by Tim Smith MP, State Member for Kew.

KAY&BURTON

TRIBUTE

DOROTHY JOHANNA BENYEI (1926-2021)

Dorothy Benyei (née Roberts) was born in 1926 on the family sheep farm at Seymour. In 1951 Dorothy moved to Kew where she lived in a hostel for single women in Princess Street. She became active in many community organisations. She taught Sunday School at the Presbyterian Church, joined the Boy Scout Association becoming 'Akela' at 1st Kew Scout Group, and taught religious instruction at Kew East Primary School. She also volunteered at the Citizens Advice Bureau, joined the Kingswood College Board and the Quakers.

Somehow, Dorothy found time to marry Dr Laszlo Benyei, a Hungarian émigré in 1954 and they had a family of sons.

In 1980, Dorothy joined the Kew Historical Society and served as archivist between 1983 and 2012. In 2007, the City of Boroondara named her its Citizen of the Year. In 2014, Dorothy received the Royal Historical Society's Award of Merit.

The Kew Historical Society held her in the highest esteem and voted her an Honorary Life Member in 2010. Dorothy was a remarkable person, and her loss is felt by those who knew her. We extend the warm thoughts and sympathy of the members of the Society to her family, friends and admirers.

DESLEY REID

MEMBERSHIPS

For new membership applications and renewals, please use the printed form on page 12 of this newsletter, or the online form on our website, making your subscription payment to our bank account 633 000 171300288. Please send any queries to secretary@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

BOROONDARA'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS

1851-1951

The question I'm frequently asked is: Why did you write this book? I was curious as to why the seemingly successful Irving's Hawthorn Grammar and Coutie's Hawthorn College did not survive, unlike, for instance, Ruyton Girls' School or Trinity Grammar School, which have thrived to this day.

I initially planned to write a short article for the Hawthorn Historical Society's newsletter, but the more I looked the more former schools I found – I thought I would expand the project to cover Hawthorn's former schools. Then what about Kew's schools along Barkers Road – the boundary between Hawthorn and Kew? Xavier College, Methodist Ladies' College, Carey Grammar and Preshil. So, the project expanded to include all of Boroondara's former schools (with brief coverage of the survivors).

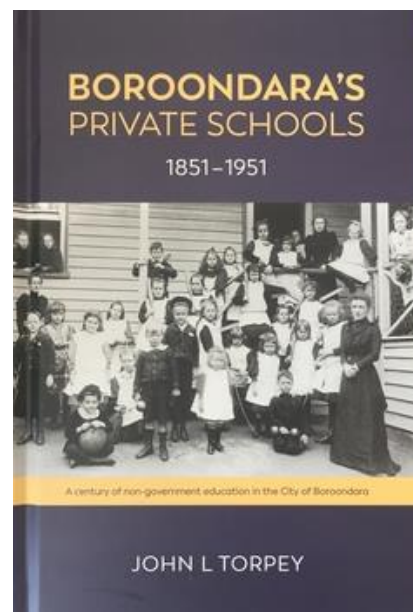
I began this project in mid-2015 and after the frustrations, the blind alleys and brick walls encountered on the way the book was published at the end of August 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic was a major obstacle with physical access to records being denied.

The former Shire of Boroondara before it separated into Kew, Hawthorn, Camberwell and the rest, also contained the eastern part of Elgar's Special Survey bounded by Canterbury and Elgar roads and the Yarra River and Koonung Creek; this section was excluded in the 1994 council amalgamations that resulted in the present City of Boroondara.

I trawled through Trove, poured over documents in the Public Record Office Victoria, scouted around the State Library of Victoria, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the libraries of Hawthorn and Kew, and, of course, Hawthorn Historical Society's files. Every time I thought I'd got the lot, I'd find another. Indeed, after publication while on another search, I found Miss Perry's Seminary, Kew Road, 1863-66 in the Sands & McDougall directory of 1865. Another frustration was the paucity of information about some schools. All I could find about Alfred Hill's 'Leisure House' school in Studley Park Road, was a transcription of a prospectus in the Hawthorn Historical Society's files.

The earliest schools in Kew were Stevenson's (1851), Mrs Wright's (1852), James Bonwick's (1855), Gladstones' (1859), and John Waldrock's (1865). Jesse Dannock's hand-drawn map *Back to Kew 1875* records the following schools: Gladstones', Stevenson's, Waldock's, Franklin's Girls, Ingle's Kew High School and Ratten's Kew Grammar School.

The earliest private school in Kew appears to have been Mrs Wright's Orphan Asylum school in the Asylum grounds which lasted from 1852 to 1856 when the children were moved to the Orphan Asylum in Emerald Hill [South Melbourne].



BOROONDARA'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS 1851-1951
John L Torpey (author)

Next was the Church of England school No.346 in about 1856 with Mr and Mrs Samuel Stephens in charge. Third was the Congregational school No.356 with John Gladstones as principal. These schools were amalgamated in 1875, becoming Kew State School No.1075, which is still operating.

It is a truism that trade follows the money; and so, as Kew became more populated by the merchants and professionals of Melbourne seeking a healthier environment, so the demand for private education for their children rose – they didn't want their children to associate with tradesmen and mechanics.

The origin of Ruyton Girls' School illustrates this aversion of the well-to-do to have their children mix with the lower classes. Following the death of her husband James in 1878, Mrs Charlotte Anderson employed a governess, Miss Barton, to educate her six children, two boys and four girls, despite the existence of several private schools and Kew State School in the vicinity. By 1880 the school had 21 pupils and action was taken to secure larger premises. Mrs Anderson moved the school in 1881 to *Edgcomb* in Studley Park Road, a two storey building on four acres of land. She named the school Ruyton after the village Ruyton-XI-Towns, England, where an ancestor had been vicar.

The first non-family pupil who attended the school was Miss Maud King of *Madford*, Wellington Street, Kew, who married a doctor, William Butler Walsh in 1886.

> Page 5

BOROONDARA'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS (from page 4)

They lived at *Wilton* on the corner of Charles Street and Cotham Road and their four daughters went to Ruyton.

Kew High School was founded in 1872 at the request of some of Kew's leaders with Ernest Ingle BA the first headmaster. The school was initially located in Cotham Road but an increase in enrolments prompted the school to move to Charles Street between Cotham Road and Wellington Street; the final move was to the south-east corner of Charles and Wellington streets. On 20 May 1875, *The Age* reported that an outbreak of typhoid at the school in Cotham Road, had confined Mr Ingle, his servant and one boarder to the Kew Lunatic Asylum; Ingle died, and John Hemming Thompson took over as headmaster.

The *Registration of Teachers and Schools Act, 1905* caused devastation among girls' schools in Kew because the lack of secondary registration became 'the kiss of death' in terms of competition and income. Tuxen's Baldur Girls' Grammar School gained the coveted registration, and this set off a chain of amalgamations: the Macey's Brougham College took over Woodbury College as their headquarters and bought the goodwill of Lillsden Ladies' College in 1908. The Misses Dick acquired Baldur in 1915 and registered it as Kew Girls' Grammar School and re-located it to Walpole Street. Woodbury College took it over in the same year. The final amalgamation was in 1921 when Woodbury College merged with St Andrew's College.

Finally, the answers to my initial curiosity concerning the fates of Hawthorn Grammar School and Hawthorn College are:

Hawthorn Grammar School

Professor Irving joined the Public Service Board in 1884 and his son Edward took over. In Irving's reign the school became one of the biggest in the Colony. In 1880, the school had an average attendance of 183 pupils; by 1889 with Douglas Howard in charge it had 32. One could blame the Depression of the 1890s for the decline, but other factors could also have contributed. The property was sold and subdivided and only the facade, now incorporated in a block of flats, remains.

Hawthorn College

William Bonwick started this school in Oxley Road, Hawthorn in 1871. His brother-in-law Benjamin Beddow was principal from 1876 to 1889. Next was George Coutie who claimed to have started the college in 1890. He was responsible for the two-storey building which still exists in Minona Avenue. The last principal was Quinton Smith. Camberwell Grammar School acquired the goodwill in 1910 and the school closed in 1911.

PAST SCHOOLS

Mrs Wright's school
Athol special school
Baldur Girls' Grammar School
Boroondara Boarding School
Brougham College
Cintra School & Kindergarten
Clarence Ladies' College
Clayland House Academy
Conniston Girls' School
Continental Pensionnat
Gladstone Street School
Gladstones' school
Kew & Hawthorn College
Kew Grammar School
Kew High School
Kew Ladies' School & Kindergarten
Kew Preparatory Grammar
Kindergarten Training School
Lillsden Ladies' College
Mrs Franklin's Ladies' School
Mrs Young's Ladies College
Oriol College for boys
Orphan Asylum School
Panshanger Ladies School
Ruyton Kindergarten
Somerville Girls' School
St Andrew's College
Stevenson's school
Turinville Boarding School
Wallington School & Kindergarten
Woodbury College

CURRENT SCHOOLS

Carey Baptist Grammar School
Genazzano FCJ College
Methodist Ladies' College
Preshil, The Margaret Lyttle Memorial School
Ruyton Girls' School
Sacred Heart Primary School
St Anne's Primary School
Trinity Grammar School
Xavier College

© JOHN TORPEY, 2021

ALEXANDRA GARDENS

A CHRONOLOGICAL AND HORTICULTURAL SURVEY

The Alexandra Gardens on the corner of Cotham Road and Gellibrand Street are on part of Crown Allotment 80 which was originally sold to Charles Whyte in 1851. There were several owners after Whyte and prior to the 1864 purchase of the property by William Siddeley. *Elm Lodge*, Siddeley's large Wellington Street property was renamed *Madford* in about 1874 by new owners, the King family. The Borough of Kew purchased the land, about 1.2 hectares, for £2,500 in 1906 from the widow of Arthur Septimus King, grandson of Philip Gidley King, third Governor of New South Wales. The King family called the land it sold to the Borough, 'the lower paddocks'. The transformation into a beautiful and peaceful garden of sloping lawns, exotic trees, shrubs, and wide garden beds contrasts with its indigenous state.

Kew Council identified the need for a centrally located park as the reserves at the time were Studley and Victoria Parks, which were at the extremities of the Borough. When George Pockett was appointed Curator of the Kew Municipal Gardens in 1906, he embarked on a programme of garden beautification. A competition for the design of the Alexandra Park saw the design submitted by his brother, Thomas William Pockett, succeed.

The gardens are slightly sunken below road level, the lawns of Buffalo and Kentucky blue grasses are rolling and richly carpeted, and initially the deep garden beds were densely planted with different flowers blooming throughout the year. The serpentine paths edged with bluestones were destined to be shaded by trees, both indigenous and exotic. A mulberry grown from a cutting from Shakespeare's Garden at Stratford-upon-Avon and a Siberian crab apple, both produced edible fruits. Tea trees, jacarandas, horse chestnuts, birches, English ashes, acacias, eucalyptus, and hawthorns represented different countries. Sadly, many cannot now be found in the gardens. Palms, however, have thrived and there are many varieties reflecting the horticultural preference of the period. Bluestones edge the ornamental pond and a bridge with iron fencing, allows views over waterlilies and goldfish. Some other gardens, either built or renovated to T.W. Pockett's designs, include the Malvern Gardens, the Central Gardens in Hawthorn, and the Barkley Gardens in Richmond.

Named after Queen Alexandra, consort to King Edward VII, the official opening of the gardens took place in April 1908 by the Governor Sir Reginald Talbot, and Lady Talbot. Mayor W. Warren Kerr welcomed the vice-regal couple, other dignitaries and about 2,000 citizens. He thanked Kew residents for generously donating funds and exotic plants for the gardens project and commended George Pockett for overseeing the laying out of the gardens over two years.



ENTRANCE TO THE ALEXANDRA GARDENS

Two Cootamundra wattles were planted by the vice-regal couple, who were soon to return to England. Possibly, the choice of tree was inappropriate as wattles are not long-livers and are not mentioned by George Pockett in a planting description he wrote in 1919.

Shortly after opening, stoning of goldfish in the ornamental pond by intruders caused a picket fence to be erected around the gardens. The caretaker was required to open and close the gates daily, including weekends and public holidays. For this he was paid an additional £25 per annum.

In 1910, Jubilee of Kew celebrations were hosted in the gardens by Mayor and Mayoress McCrea. To commemorate the event, Governor Sir Thomas and Lady Gibson-Carmichael planted two oriental plane trees as part of an avenue of plane trees and opened the publicly-funded band rotunda. It was used by the Kew Brass Band for the first time and pronounced, 'the best in Melbourne'. The large brick, wood, and tiled rotunda on two levels was designed by architects Grainger and Little in pagoda style. Problems with the floor of the rotunda appeared within 12 months and in 1913, a surveyor was employed to report on improvements. Over time the rotunda fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1967.

Following the installation of electric lighting in 1911, the gardens remained opened to 10pm with a series of bioscopic and musical entertainments throughout that summer. During the First World War, the gardens were used for a range of fundraising events such as, the Lady Mayoress's Patriotic Fund and the Australian Wounded Soldier's Fund. Prime Minister Billy Hughes, a Kew resident, opened a Christmas fete in aid of the Expeditionary Forces. The gardens were crowded as Mayor Ratten donated X-Ray equipment on behalf of the citizens of Kew for use in field hospitals at the front.

> Page 7

ALEXANDRA GARDENS (from page 6)

Paradoxically, the years of the First World War saw plant thefts from the gardens, and increased security was proposed in the form of barbed wire along the tops of the fences to prevent intruders.

In 1920, the land in front of the then Kew Post Office was chosen by Council as the location for a War Memorial. Already on the site was the Jubilee Fountain, erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's 1887 Jubilee. The project to move the fountain to the north-western entrance to the Alexandra Gardens was not completed until 1925.

According to W.D. Vaughan in *Kew's Civic History*, 5,000 people gathered in the gardens in 1921 to witness Kew attain City status. The Governor, the Earl of Stradbroke pronounced the dedication of the City of Kew. To mark the occasion, his Excellency planted a gum near the Gellibrand Street entrance while the Countess of Stradbroke planted an oak near the ornamental pond.

In 1928, Council proposed using part of the gardens for a new town hall. Fortunately, when a negative legal opinion on the proposal was received, the plan was abandoned. Council's previous attempt to acquire *Southesk* on the corner of Cotham Road and Charles Street by compulsory acquisition, had been denied by the Minister of Public Works, following the failure of negotiations with the owner.

The sum of £150 was allocated by Council in 1933, to build the bluestone gateway at the main entrance. This entrance is in the Arts and Crafts style and is located close to the Jubilee fountain. Stone piers are linked by a vine covered timber pergola, and stone slabs pave the entry in a crazy paving design.

Some trees have died or were removed over the years to allow for minor alterations to the garden design. Most of the original flowering plants are no longer grown in the gardens and while the overall style of the gardens hasn't changed, plantings have been updated with more sustainable species.

Kew Centenary Celebrations were held in the gardens in December 1960, but the blue cedar Mayor Dickinson planted is outside the entrance to the current library, then the newly opened Kew City Hall. A photograph (above right) taken on the day shows that the Kew Band performed on a rostrum in the gardens, not in the rotunda.

The Kew Community Festival began in 1974 and its Gala Day was held in the gardens until 2013. The established shady trees provided a lovely canopy for the festival programme. The Alexandra Gardens were a central and popular location for the festival. Residents enjoyed the food stalls, children's activities, and entertainment until the move to Victoria Park.

The Kew Garden Club was commissioned in 1978 by the City of Kew to identify and label the significant trees in Kew's parks and gardens. The project was launched in the Alexandra Gardens where the first name plate was attached to a flowering chestnut, in bloom as I write. Some of the name plates can still be seen today.

A time capsule, commemorating the Australian Bicentenary, which was placed in the wall of the Kew Municipal Offices in 1988, was moved into the gardens near the north-eastern entrance in 1998, due to the sale of the Municipal Offices. It is not due to be opened until the Tricentenary in 2088.



**CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS : GARDEN PARTY 15TH DECEMBER
1960 AT ALEXANDRA GARDENS : MAYOR'S ADDRESS**
Stuart Tompkins Studio (photo)
Courtesy of City of Boroondara

The absence of a rotunda was a sore point for Kew residents who wanted it replaced. The new rotunda built in 1988 on the foundations of the original rotunda is in neo-Victorian style and was jointly funded by the City of Kew and a Bicentennial grant at a cost of \$19,660. The designer was the Ivanhoe firm, F.T. Design P/L. The single-storey structure is not a recreation of the original Edwardian rotunda. That would have cost more than was budgeted. The rotunda was refurbished in 2000, when a sloping entry replaced the steps.

In 1990, Council began charging for the use of the gardens and rotunda for weddings and other events. It was noted that most bookings came from non-residents and the Council was keen to recover cleaning costs. Marquees, arbours, and other shade structures are currently not permitted in the gardens.

The ten bronze sculptures dotted throughout the gardens were a gift of the sculptor Leopoldine Mimovich OAM in 1990. Many of the sculptures are small and at children's eye level. Different to her ecclesiastical subjects, these have a secular theme, but exhibit her usual simplified forms.

The calming ambiance and beauty of the gardens make them a popular spot for family picnics, barbecues, exercising, and dog walking. In recent years the children's playground has been replaced in a style and design suited to a heritage garden.

© DESLEY REID, 2021

With the assistance of Emily Grant, Boroondara Council's Family & Local History Librarian; and Suzanne and Mark McWha.

DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS

Readers may recall a short article I wrote for the last edition of this newsletter, which referenced my grandfather Selwyn Sutton and his prowess at rifle shooting and his Sargood Cup medal. Well, Selwyn was also an intelligent young chap and, in 1917, was awarded the Senior Science Prize as a student of Trinity Grammar while in Form VI.

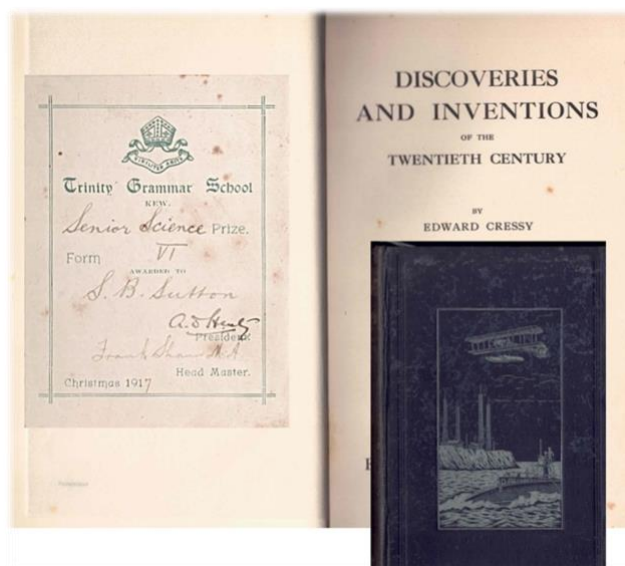
As you can see from the images accompanying this article, Selwyn's prize was in the form of a book presented by A.O. Henty. Henty was a solicitor and long-time member of the Trinity Grammar School Council. A grandson of James Henty (one of the Henty brothers who founded Victoria's first permanent settlement at Portland), he was the son of Henry Henty (who owned *Tarring*, now part of Ruyton) and nephew of Herbert Henty (who owned *Roxeth*, now part of Trinity Grammar).

The Head Master at the time was Frank Shann. He was Head Master for over 25 years – from 1917 to 1943. As you can see, he also signed the book.

Selwyn also had a close connection with Kew being a son of Canon George Sutton – the vicar of Holy Trinity in High Street and a member of the Trinity Grammar School Council from 1904 to 1934. The service of A.O. Henty and Canon Sutton to the school is recognised in the school's house system, with Henty House and Sutton House among those to which students are allocated.

And the book – *Discoveries and Inventions of the Twentieth Century* – is a large, impressive tome. It was published by E.W. Cole, of the fabulous Coles Book Arcade in Collins Street. The book is in excellent condition; indeed, it doesn't look like it has ever been opened! Perhaps Selwyn would have preferred one of Coles' famous 'Funny Picture Books' as his prize.

BRAD MILES

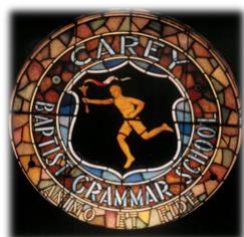


ANOTHER ALAN SUMNER WINDOW

A recent newsletter of the Kew Historical Society included an article about *The Four Seasons*, the beautiful modernist window in the eastern wall of the Kew Library, crafted by Alan Sumner. Mention was made of his stunning windows in the Genazzano Chapel. Now we can mention another Sumner window in Kew, the stained glass window commissioned by Carey for the School's Memorial Great Hall, which opened in 1954. Alan Sumner's brief was that the torchbearer, a potent symbol of the school, with the motto 'Animo et Fide' [Courage and Faith] be the subject for the window.

With thanks to Carey Baptist Grammar School and to Joanne Horsley (School Archivist)

FELICITY RENOWDEN



VICTORIAN COLLECTIONS

The Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards were held on Tuesday 5 October 2021. The Awards featured a celebration of organisations using the Victorian Collections online collection management system. They acknowledge the hard work undertaken by organisations in documenting and preserving their heritage materials. Award recipients were chosen based on the quality, quantity and public accessibility of collection entries produced over a 12-month period across 2020 and 2021. Kew Historical Society won the award for excellence in cataloguing by volunteer-run organisations. [To date, we have photographed and described 5,481 items in our collection, but there is still a lot left to catalogue.]

Three other organisations received cataloguing awards: The Beechworth Burke Museum, Melbourne Legacy, and Wangaratta Art Gallery. Clare Gervasoni of Federation University received the Martin Hallett Award for individual contribution to Community Heritage. Clare is the daughter of Kathleen and Jack Gervasoni and a supporter of the Society.

ROBERT BAKER

THE SALE OF THE HALFEY ESTATE

ORDSALL (SOUTHESK) & HERMOSA (NORTHESK)

As Kew's old houses have been sold over the years some of the new owners have changed the name of their newly purchased home. This article follows the story of the sale of John and Annie Halfey's house *Ordsall* at the corner of Cotham Road and Charles Street to David and Alice Carnegie, who renamed it *Southesk* and their subsequent purchase of the Halfey's Sorrento summer residence *Hermosa*, which they renamed *Northesk*.

Southesk in Kew has since been demolished but the two-storey limestone house, now known as *North Esk* still commands a view of Port Phillip Bay over the beach from an elevated position at the corner of Bowen Road and the Point Nepean Road.



NORTH ESK

David White (photo), 2021

John and Annie Halfey lived at *Ordsall* from 1858. Active in the movement for Kew to separate from the Boroondara Roads Board, in 1862 John Halfey was elected the second chairman of the Kew municipality. He was successful in business and public affairs in Victoria and the Halfeys entertained lavishly at their Kew mansion.

David Gourlay Carnegie was the third son of Jabez Bunting Carnegie of *Ivanhoe* in Studley Park Road. He was a director of Carnegie & Sons, the successful piano manufacturing and importing business, founded by his father. In 1895, he married Alice Maud Crespin, the eldest daughter of prominent Melbourne merchant and Melbourne City councillor Godwin George Crespin of *Sharlands*, also in Studley Park Road. After their marriage, David and Alice Carnegie first lived in a house named *Southesk* in Hawthorn Grove. Although David Carnegie was not directly related to the aristocratic Carnegie family in Scotland, the names *Southesk* and *Northesk* probably referenced the titles Earl of Southesk and Earl of Northesk in the Peerage of Scotland. [Coincidentally, in the mid 1890s, David Wynford Carnegie, 4th son of James 9th Earl of Southesk, was involved in prospecting and exploration in the interior of Western Australia.]

In October 1888, 140 guests danced to the newest music in the ballroom at *Ordsall*, strolled the brightly illuminated grounds and conservatories and sat down to a sumptuous supper as John and Annie Halfey hosted a 21st birthday party for their younger son Percy Frederick Halfey. Later that year, on the advice of his doctor, John and Annie Halfey sought relief from a spell of extremely hot summer weather at *Hermosa*, their house in Sorrento, which they had purchased in 1886 from James Service, the Premier of Victoria.

A few days after returning from Sorrento, John Halfey suffered a heart attack and died while with his son Percy in his office at *The Herald* newspaper. At the time of his death, in addition to his four-seventh majority partnership in *The Herald* with S.V. Winter, Halfey was chairman of the board of directors of the Australian Alliance Assurance Company, the Investment Company Limited, and Johnson's Gold Mining Company (Sandhurst); and a director of the Long Tunnel Extended Mining Company (Walhalla), the Opera-house Company (Melbourne), and the Bay Excursion Company.

Following a choral service at Holy Trinity, Kew, and a burial service at Boroondara General Cemetery, on 6 January 1889 John Halfey was interred in the family vault, joining his elder daughter Violet Halfey who had died aged eight months in 1866 and his second son Frank Nixson Halfey who had drowned aged nine years and ten months while bathing in the Yarra in 1870. Pallbearers included Railway Commissioner Mr R.G. Ford, Mr S.V. Winter (the other proprietor of *The Herald*) and Mr Henry Henty.

John Halfey's estate was valued for probate at £184,825. Although the probate inventory listed two properties in Melbourne and land at Sorrento, other than furniture at *Ordsall* in Kew valued at £2,500 and furniture at a Sorrento house valued at £327/15/10, there was no mention of either *Ordsall* or *Hermosa* suggesting that the properties were either mortgaged or held in trust by others. His will appointed trustees to administer his estate in order to provide an income for Annie Halfey, and following her death, its equal division between their children John Carr, Percy Frederick and Madge Dagmar Halfey.

A few days after the grant of probate on 28 March 1889, Annie Halfey, accompanied by her three children, left Melbourne by ship, bound for London.

> page 10

THE SALE OF THE HALFEY ESTATE (from page 9)

Percy Halfey arrived back in Melbourne alone on 12 January 1890. On 30 January, at St Hilary's Church, East Kew, he married Emma Carlington Marston, the eldest daughter of successful Collingwood pharmacist Carlington Marston of *Wimba*, Cotham Road. The newly-wed couple left for England on 12 February arriving back in Melbourne on the 31 May. On their return they moved into a rented house in Coleridge Street, neighbouring *Tarring*, the home of Henry Henty, in a location now part of Ruyton Girls School. Their first child, a daughter, was born at Coleridge Street on 10 November 1890, before they moved to a house at 20 Belmont Avenue, owned by Percy Halfey.

Annie Halfey, her two other children and a servant, returned to Melbourne on 6 March 1891 and left again on the same ship on 28 March. Following their visit, *Ordsall* was advertised for lease, furnished or unfurnished, then an auction of furniture at *Ordsall* was advertised, to be followed a few days later by an auction of the Halfey collection of oil paintings and drawings.

These efforts to lease the house and sell its contents appear to have been unsuccessful, and Percy and Emma Halfey took up residence, entertaining 70 guests at *Ordsall* in September 1891. Emma gave birth to a son there in December 1891, followed by twin daughters in February 1893.

Percy Halfey appeared to be following his father into a life of business and public affairs. In March 1891, he became a shareholder and director of *The Sportsman Newspaper Company Limited*. In August 1891, he was elected to Kew Council and in September he officiated as a judge and donated a trophy worth £15 for the inaugural road race of the Kew, Hawthorn and Camberwell branch of the Fernside Cycling Club. The following year, when all nine existing councillors stood for re-election as Kew moved to a system of five wards each represented by three councillors, he was not re-elected.

Percy Halfey was involved in speculative gold mining ventures in Queenstown, near present day Kangaroo Ground, where in August 1894 he chaired a public meeting called to encourage the extension of the railway line from Heidelberg to Eltham. However, despite receiving an allowance of £700 to £800 a year from the trustees of his father's estate, Percy Halfey experienced financial difficulties.

In June 1896, John Halfey's estate ceased payments to him and began direct payment of an allowance of £25 per month to Emma Halfey. Percy Halfey then embarked on a voyage to England to visit his mother, seeking money. Before he set off, his father-in-law purchased his interest in his father's estate for £1,200, providing funds for the passage and settlement with his creditors.

Percy Halfey arrived back in Melbourne in October 1896 and, although his mother had given him £2,000 before he left England, by June 1897 he was declared insolvent, the result of the failure of his mining ventures, inability to obtain employment and debts.

In September 1897 Judge Molesworth heard objections to an application for a certificate of discharge of his insolvency, which attracted sensational attention in the press of the day, including headlines such as, 'A FORTUNE SQUANDERED / A VICTIM TO DRINK / INSOLVENT ESTATE OF P.F. HALFEY.' Judge Molesworth seemed sympathetic, taking the view that some of his creditors had taken advantage of his drinking habit and directed that issue of the certificate be suspended for six months on condition of payment of seven shillings in the pound on his debts. Following discharge of his insolvency, Percy Halfey continued with his speculative ventures. In October 1898, a notice of application for a mining lease at Hoddles Creek by Percy Halfey, for the Ordsall Gold Mining Company of 52 Charles Street, Kew, appeared in the *Lilydale Express*.

In August 1899, the Trustees Executors and Agency Company Ltd advertised the sale of *Ordsall*, described as a brick villa residence, land 4 acres 4½ perches having frontages to Cotham Road, Charles and Wellington streets, suitable for subdivision. Followed in November by advertisements for an auction of the property on 18 November, firstly in one lot, and if not sold, in 9 lots.

There may have been pressure from Annie Halfey for Percy and Emma Halfey to vacate *Ordsall* because, in January 1902, Emma Halfey was declared insolvent as a result of the stoppage of her allowance by Annie Halfey, sickness in her family and pressure of creditors. The family relocated to *Hermosa* at Sorrento where Percy died on 11 October 1902, leaving an estate valued at £40. He was interred in the Halfey family vault on 14 October, joining his father, sister and brother. Emma and her four children continued to live at *Hermosa* and in August 1903, Emma's insolvency was discharged.



SOUTHESK
Stuart West (photo), 1970
Kew Historical Society

THE SALE OF THE HALFHEY ESTATE (from page 10)

In October 1903, *Ordsall* was again advertised for sale now including only 2½ acres of land and in the following November the selling agents reported its sale ‘... at a satisfactory price for cash.’ The buyer was David Gourlay Carnegie and *Table Talk* reported that Mr and Mrs Carnegie gave a very enjoyable garden party at their new home, now renamed *Southesk*, in Cotham Road, on Saturday 19 November.

Following the death of Annie Halfey in England in March 1909, she was interred in the Halfey family vault at Boroondara Cemetery on 12 May 1909.

Before Annie Halfey’s death, *Hermosa*, in Sorrento had already been unsuccessfully put to auction in November 1907. In November 1909, an article in *The Herald* advised that David Carnegie had purchased Mrs Annie Halfey’s ‘spacious seaside residence’ *Hermosa* from the estate of the late John Halfey for £1,750. The Carnegies renamed the house *Northesk*.

After the sale, Emma Halfey and her children were relocated to a house in Elgin Street, Hawthorn. Her belief that she had been unfairly deprived of her husband’s share of the Halfey estate seems to have taken its toll. In 1912, at the request of her son, she was admitted to Kew Asylum. She subsequently died at the Beechworth Asylum in 1928. Although her name is not inscribed on the Halfey monument in the Boroondara General Cemetery, Emma Carlington Halfey was interred in the Halfey family vault on 13 March 1928.

In February 1932 an article in *Table Talk* included the comment ‘*Northesk* ... looks old and solid as if it had a history.’ Perhaps this has been the history alluded to.

© DAVID WHITE, 2021



Left **ANNIE HALFHEY (-1909)**
Anonymous (artist)
Kew Historical Society
Gift of Elaine Grigg, 2017

CENTENARY OF THE MODEL DAIRY

In September 2021, Desley Reid, KHS Secretary was contacted by Anitra Doyne with an offer to donate two Hecworth reproduction Old Sheffield plate salvers with foliate edge on three feet, impressed maker mark on reverse rim and engraved with the words ‘Model Dairy 1863-1963’ in the centre of the reverse. The salvers had passed to her by descent.



The Museum of Applied Arts and Science (Sydney) notes that Hecworth Plate was made by Platers Pty Ltd at 39 Greeves Street, St Kilda. Platers introduced ‘Hecworth’ Sheffield Reproduction Silverware in 1940. In 1946, ‘Hecworth’ was acquired by Rodd Pty Ltd.

The Model Dairy had been founded in 1863 by James Venn Morgan. Morgan sold the company in the 1890s to John Simonton who renamed the business The Model Dairy Co. Simonton moved the business to Belmont Avenue in c.1899. In 1924, following his retirement, the company expanded to become The Model Dairy Pty Ltd with Arnold Thompson Simonton and John Tanner as its owner/directors.

With new processes including pasteurisation, the Belmont Avenue site no longer met required standards for processing and bottling, so its operations moved to 191 Cotham Road. The company celebrated its centenary in 1963. A new factory, built in 1959 to a design by Bates, Smart & McCutcheon, was purchased by Bib Stillwell Motors after the dairy closed. The site has since been redeveloped.

ROBERT BAKER

Above **COMMEMORATIVE SALVER**
Hecworth Reproduction Old Sheffield plate
Kew Historical Society
Gift of Anitra Doyne, 2021

Kew Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 175
Kew VIC 3101

MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY – KEEPING ALIVE KEW HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Society has operated continuously for over 60 years holding monthly meetings, conserving historical records and items, undertaking historical research, arranging public exhibitions and lectures, and giving guided tours. You can become involved and support the Society's work by becoming a member or renewing your membership and/or making a donation.

[Tick relevant boxes]

- I/we wish to join the Society
- I/we wish to renew my/our membership *Note: Renewals are due on 1 July each year*
- Individual membership (2021-22 annual fee \$20)
- Household membership (2021-22 annual fee \$30)
- Student membership (2021-22 annual fee \$10)
- I/we agree to be bound by the rules of the society.
- I/we prefer to receive the Society's quarterly newsletter by email.
- I/we would like to volunteer – on a committee, on the courthouse or supper rosters, or with research.
- I/we would like to make a donation of \$ _____ *Note: All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.*

NAME/S: _____ *[PLEASE PRINT]* TITLE/S: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____ POST CODE: _____

PHONE PAYMENTS: MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please mail form and cheque, made out to Kew Historical Society Inc., to KHS, PO Box 175, Kew, 3101.
 OR Pay by direct bank deposit to Kew Historical Society Inc, account 633-000 171300288 with your surname as the subject or reference and email payment details and/or scanned form to secretary@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Privacy note: The KHS will not pass your details to a third party without obtaining your permission.

Kew Historical Society Incorporated Registration A001078W ABN 97 824 890 237 info@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

Amount Paid:	Email data base:	M'ship Data Base:	Mailing label:	Name Tag:
--------------	------------------	-------------------	----------------	-----------

Printing: Courtesy of Tim Smith MP, State Member for Kew.
 Suite 1/400 High Street, Kew 3101
 (03) 9853 2999 | tim.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au | www.timsmithmp.com