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NEWSLETTER

No. 139
JUNE 2022



AQUATIC ADVENTURES

Where to swim and how have preoccupied the residents of Kew over a number of generations. Until 1925, when the Kew Baths opened in High Street, swimming occurred in natural waterways. With the redevelopment of the former Kew Recreation Centre, swimming for recreational and health purposes has been curtailed, but it is doubtful that residents have opted to return to the Yarra River as an alternative.

Probably the most famous spot on the Yarra for swimming was at the Deep Rock Swimming Pool, about 500 yards [457 metres] above Dight's Falls. It was there that the Deep Rock Swimming Club was established in 1906. This initial club was expanded in 1916 to incorporate a life-saving club. In 1918, John Wren, the president of the club offered the club £1000, and undertook to sponsor a patriotic carnival in March 1918, at which swimming champions would take part.

The 'pool' was to achieve fame as the venue for a world record-breaking 'swallow dive' of 205 feet 9 inches [63 metres] by 'Prince Wickyama', [aka Alec Wickham], a Solomon Islander. The dive from a special platform on the west side of the Yarra was reputedly viewed by between 50,000-100,000 spectators, with funds going to the State War Council. *The Herald*, 25 March 1918, claimed that the wide area occupied by spectators made more precise estimates impossible.

In the 1980s, the construction of the Eastern Freeway, and the consequent re-routing of the Yarra River led to the site of the Deep Rock Pool being obliterated. A small cairn and plaque on the Fairfield side of the river now marks its former site.

Drownings, especially by children, in the river continued to be a major problem during the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. The problem was exacerbated by many children being unable to swim, and also due to the inherent dangers of swimming in a river.

The Deep Rock Pool was only suitable for able swimmers, so the Studley Park Trust decided to cater for young children by constructing a wading pool [pictured above] in the Studley Park Reserve where the Collins Bridge crosses into Kew. The earliest references to the pool in newspaper articles and letters to the editor appear in the late 1930s.

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Front page

STUDLEY PARK 'WADING' POOL

Yarra Bend Park Trust [undated]

KHS

AQUATIC ADVENTURES *(from page 1)*

In an early photograph of the wading pool (*page 1*) from the archives of the Yarra Bend Trust, the scene is one of a community at play. Adults are seated in the shade in the foreground while numerous children play in the pool. The river is obscured by the high banks beyond the pool. In the distance is the Abbotsford Convent. The pools must have required cleaning as a worker is waist deep in a service cavity at the lower left of the photo. The pool had been constructed at a cost of £400 to cater for the children of the neighbouring industrial area.

The best intentions of institutions do not always work according to plan. The eventual fate of the wading pool was probably sealed by events in January and February 1938, when a series of articles in the Argus and Age newspapers drew attention to unlawful activities 'including dogs and even horses ... wading in the water'. Women were also accused of washing their dogs in the pool. More tellingly, the reporter for the Argus described the 'danger to young children from undesirables, who have been seen to occupy the seats around the pool all day long, and whose language, which may be heard from the bridge, is not at all suitable for youngsters' ears.' In late February 1938, a double fatality occurred when two local 10-year-old girls, who could not swim, crossed a 15 foot [4.57 metre] pathway from the pool to the river, and subsequently drowned.

The eventual closing date of the Studley Park Pool has not been discovered, but it was clearly still in existence in 1940 when a representative of the Trust described the facility as one of many public fixtures requiring regular maintenance. The Studley Park Reserve, located at the western point of Kew still caters for children through the provision of playground equipment. Its largely flat grass lawns are bisected by the Main Yarra Trail, and no trace of the wading pool remains. Ironically, given the events of the late 1930s, it is now an advertised park where dogs can be walked off-leash.

But to return to the latest in a long series of redevelopments of the 'Kew Baths' which most recently began in December 2020. The new 'Recreation Centre' aims to provide a 'modern facility that is suitable for all ages, abilities, and caters to a wide range of health and wellbeing needs', including a learn-to-swim pool structure. It is designed for completion in mid-2023.

ROBERT BAKER

GRANTS & SPONSORS

KHS is supported by a Triennial Operational Grant from the City of Boroondara, and funding for specific projects by the City of Boroondara and Rotary Club of Balwyn. Kay & Burton (Hawthorn) is a corporate sponsor.

KAY & BURTON



CONSTRUCTION OF THE KEW RECREATION CENTRE

City of Kew photographer, circa 1987

KHS

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

Public 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.

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 Fridays (excluding public holidays) 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

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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.

HISTORY NEWS

AT THE TOWN HALL GALLERY

Our exhibition of maps, artworks and photographs at the Hawthorn Arts Centre was a huge success, attracting many visitors to see these rarely exhibited items.

Members of the Management Committee and volunteers were invited to attend the opening night of the exhibition.

David White, our Vice President, visited the display and wrote: 'At the Hawthorn Arts Centre the recent exhibition of paintings, maps and photographs from the Kew Historical Society brought together images of the changing Kew landscape over a period of a century. The Yarra River, which forms Kew's longest boundary was a feature of a number of the works. The Dannock *Back to Kew 1875* map recorded the early street layout and location of buildings as remembered in 1931, with additional annotation of events and people associated with the early settlement of Kew. Henry Beater Christian's photographs of views and activities along the Yarra were a standout section of the exhibition.'



INSTALLATION VIEW, 'THE INTERPRETED LANDSCAPE', TOWN HALL GALLERY, 2022.

Photography by ImagePlay

Following the conclusion of the exhibition, Alana Seal, curatorial support officer, stated that: 'I'm pleased to advise we have had a lot of interest and positive feedback in regards in your exhibition so far. Several individuals informed us they made the trip to Town Hall Gallery specifically to see the exhibition. ... I'm pleased to report on Saturday we had a lot of visitors in to see the exhibition on its last day. One visitor brought in her own photos of the area to show and another said it brought back warm memories of living as a child with his father in the 1960s.'

MEMBERSHIPS

At its May meeting, the Management Committee resolved to make a modest increase in membership fees. A \$5 increase will make individual memberships \$25 and household memberships \$35. Student memberships will remain at \$10. Membership renewals are due on 1 July 2022.

THE COLLECTION

We acknowledge the following donations to the collection, presented by generous members and supporters during the second quarter of 2022. Each item listed fills a gap in our collection or complements another collection item such as the necklace (*pictured below*) that was worn with a mayoress' grey velvet evening dress previously donated to the collection by Judith Goodes.

- Five boxes of photographs and documents from the estate of Dorothy Benyei, presented by the Benyei family.
- Printed reports produced for and about the Kew Football Club, presented by Ian Job.
- A 10oz milk bottle produced for the Model Dairy, presented by Fran and Malcolm Paul.
- A silver and crystal necklace (*below*) worn by the Mayoress of Kew to functions during the centenary of Kew, presented by Janet Dickinson.
- A framed original drawing of a house in Marshall Avenue, Kew.
- *Printed on stone: the lithographs of Charles Troedel*, presented by the author, Amanda Scardamaglia.
- A white jersey and guipure lace wedding dress made by 'Franke, Stuart' of Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn in 1975. Two crocheted Irish lace items (collar, jabot); a late Victorian tape lace pelerine; a tape lace collar; and a silk and lace cap. An early 20th century child's smocked silk dress and an exquisite rhinestone and velvet evening bag, purchased in London in 1955, presented by Kate Reeve.
- A City of Boroondara flag used by Kew Scouts at parades and public events, presented by Brad Miles.
- East Kew Primary School Centenary documents and a book on Louis Kahan, presented by Desley Reid.
- A gold-coloured chain and medallion, purchased as part of a Norma Tullo outfit in the late 1960s, presented by Desley Reid.
- An illustration by A.M.E. Bale for the 1904 Pickwick portfolio (*see page 9*).



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

HUSSEY BURGH MACARTNEY

SPECULATOR OR PRESCIENT INVESTOR?

James Bonwick's *A Sketch of Boroondara* (1858) lists the 'speculators' in Kew's early land sales. Amongst them, in 1851 was Hussey Burgh Macartney (1799-1874), Archdeacon of Geelong and the Church of England's second-most senior cleric in the new Colony of Victoria. Who was he and what did he think he was doing?

On 24 January 1848, the *Stag*, 678 tons, sailed into Hobson's Bay three and a half months after leaving Spithead, England. On board were newly appointed Bishop Charles Perry, wife Frances, and five of his future clergy, including Macartney, the most experienced. A small steamer carried them up the Yarra to Melbourne and the Port Philip area with its approximately 43,000 residents.

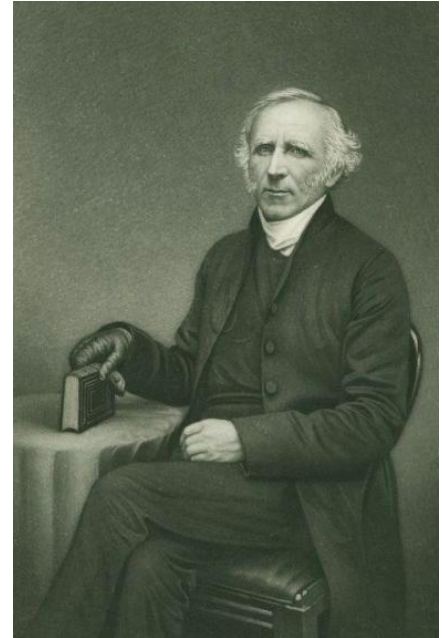
Macartney was the son of Sir John Macartney, member of the Irish House of Commons, a failed investor. Educated privately, then at Trinity College Dublin, ordained in 1823, he served several curacies in Ireland. 'My mind was filled with romantic longings and imaginations. ... The austerity of religion never took a real hold of my mind. ... I had wished to enter some secular profession.' (Memoirs 1. 33,34-37). Those longings answered inducements from his Irish relations in Melbourne – William Foster Stawell (1815-89); John Fitzgerald Foster (1818-92); and especially Charles James Griffiths (1808-63), later Chancellor of the Diocese. With residual health concerns, in 1847, 'Black '47', the worst year of the Irish Potato Famine, Macartney's offer to serve in the new Diocese was accepted, and he came with his wife and eight children.

Appointed to Heidelberg, he alternated with the Presbyterians in Scots Church and on other Sundays ministered in Broadmeadows, Whittlesea, Lower Plenty and Moonee Ponds, before sailing to Geelong in November 1848, where he 'was Archdeacon for the whole western district from Port Phillip to the South Australian border.' (Memoirs 1.p160)

In 1851, the Port Phillip District became the Colony of Victoria. Gold discoveries at Clunes and Anderson's Creek, then Buninyong, drew people from all over the world into Melbourne and out to Ballarat. The colony registered 77,345 in March. In April 1854, it was 236,798. [More than 160,000 women were among the 600,000 who came before 1860. By the 1890s, Melbourne was the second largest city in the British Empire after London.]

'1851 ... was a happy time for buyers ... property had greatly fallen in value ... the people were rushing to the Sydney diggings or scattering about our bush in search of gold.' (Bonwick p.22)

Robert Hoddle surveyed Boroondara in 1837, naming it from the Wurundjeri people's word for 'the ground is deeply shaded'. It was, and Kew in the 1850s was 'unquestionably the prettiest place out of the dust of Melbourne.'



HUSSEY BURGH MACARTNEY (1799-1874)

From ROBIN, A de Q., (1967) *Charles Perry: Bishop of Melbourne: The challenge of a Colonial Episcopate 1847-76*

Land sales began in 1843, and on 18 September 1851, Macartney bought Lot 71, 101 acres bordered by Burke and Barkers Roads, Sackville and Wrixon Streets at 56 shillings an acre; and Lot 72, 74½ acres at 80 shillings an acre, bounded by Barkers and Glenferrie Roads, Wellington, Davis and Sackville Streets, £580 in all.

The regular steamer service between Geelong and Melbourne may have brought him to the sale, he may have been in Melbourne on church business, or one of his privileged colonial cliques may have acted for him.

There were no bridges linking Kew and Hawthorn with Collingwood and Richmond in 1851. Modest punts crossed the Yarra. The land on which the business centre of Kew was built was purchased in October 1851 by N.A. Fenwick. Farms were being established on the rich river flats purchased a few years before Macartney bought his land. There were only rough bush tracks.

Macartney paid on time, and for his £580 purchase from the Crown he would have received a title deed with a basic description of the land. The registry of freehold land titles with their cumulative history was initiated on 2 October 1862.

He applied for a Certificate of Title for parts of Lots 71 and 72 on 18 September 1873. The Certificate was issued on 10 October. A schedule of 11 mortgages was added on 15 October.

HUSSEY BURGH MACARTNEY (from page 4)

In 1852, Macartney left Geelong to become Dean of Melbourne and subsequently Archdeacon. He was 53 and remained Dean until 1894. The Colony was young, rough, and growing. St James Cathedral, its foundation stone laid by Superintendent Charles Joseph La Trobe, a Moravian Christian, was finally consecrated in 1853. It 'enjoyed a season of civic prominence in the 1850s and 1860s however was too small for purpose'. St Paul's Cathedral was built during the 1880s and opened on 22 January 1891. The Very Rev Hussey Burgh Macartney took an active part in the consecration of the Cathedral.

Large comfortable mansions were not built on Macartney's land for a few decades; however, the district was being developed and opened up as roads were made and gazetted. Two significant bridges across the Yarra, the first Toll bridge linking Kew and Hawthorn with Richmond in 1857, and the Studley Park Toll Bridge which opened in 1858, encouraged more activity in Kew.

Macartney and his neighbour, Edward Dumaesq, provided for a much needed thoroughfare, Sackville Street, named by Macartney and gazetted in 1865, running between Burke Road and Wrixon Street. Sackville Street was the main thoroughfare in Dublin, Macartney's home town [renamed O'Connell Street in 1924]. Other streets gazetted in 1865, bordering near or within his lots were Barkers, Glenferrie, Burke and Cotham Roads, and Fitzwilliam, Wellington and Davis Streets. These were rough, dirt tracks for horse-drawn carts and coaches.

A visitor to Macartney's land in the 1880s and 1890s would have seen fine private mansions on large blocks of land with fountains, stables, ferneries, orchards, vegetable gardens, a cow or two, and poultry. *Tarring*, in Selbourne Road, was built for Henry Henty in 1872 on land he had bought from Macartney, his Anglican colleague, and from Peter Davis. John Beswicke, the prolific colonial architect built many homes on Macartney's land, including *The Hawthornes* in 1887 in Brougham Place [now Daniell Place] which was demolished in the 1960s. Many of these fine old homes became institutions for aged care, orphanages, children's homes and schools.

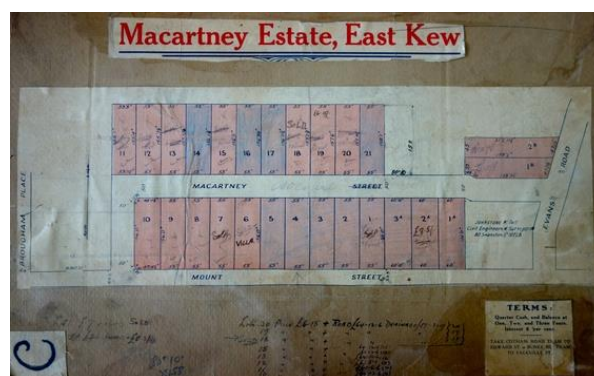
Much of the land was cleared for farming, as can be seen from paintings of Kew in the 1880s and 1890s. Chinese market gardeners worked the land at the east of Macartney's Lot 71.

On Macartney's Kew land were and are many schools. East Kew Collegiate School operated from c.1899 in Barkers Road, near Burke Road, before closing in 1913. Lillsden College at 99 Edgevale Road was a primary school from 1899 to 1905 before being absorbed by Woodbury College in 1908. Brougham College at 26 Brougham Place [now Daniell Place] operated from 1899 to 1910.

The Methodist Ladies College was founded in 1882 by forward thinking Methodists who paid £2,600 for Kelly's Paddock, three acres bounded by Glenferrie and Barkers Roads and Fitzwilliam Street sloping south westerly. Ruyton Girls' School, just up the hill, purchased *Tarring* from Henry Henty in 1919.

East along Barkers Road is Carey Baptist Grammar School on the corner of Wrixon Street. The school now occupies at least three of the original old boom time homes built on Macartney's land: *Urangeline*, [originally known as *Edzell*, later *Mildura*] built in 1884, *Fairview* built in 1891, and a number of old homes in Wrixon Street.

Further east along Barkers Road is Preshil, The Margaret Lyttle Memorial School, registered in 1933 which occupies three large old houses, *Arlington*, No.395, its Junior School, set well back from Barkers Road, built in 1898. In Sackville Street are two grand old mansions, *Kalimna* at No.12, built in 1890-91 and *Blackhall* at No.26, 1890-91, now the Senior School.



MACARTNEY ESTATE, EAST KEW

George G. Henderson Pty Ltd, Auctioneers, 1924
KHS

Land continued to be subdivided and new roads and streets made and gazetted. 1893 was a significant year. Wrixon Street was renamed and Davis, Coleridge, May and Scott Streets and Selbourne and Edgevale Roads gazetted. There was a charming and unusual shopping strip on Edgevale Road which followed subdivisions and residential development from the 1880s. A water course and creek flowed down to Fitzwilliam Street where it often flooded.

Homes of many architectural styles continued to be built. Trains, trams, water, sewage, electricity appeared, and Kew continued to be a sought after suburb.

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HUSSEY BURGH MACARTNEY (from page 5)

Macartney was not looking for a quick profit, holding some of his land for three decades and more. As a supporter of education, he would have approved of today's schools standing on his land. His name lives on in Macartney Avenue [originally Street] made in readiness for the Macartney Estate East Kew subdivision of 1924. Remembered ecclesiastically in the Macartney Chapel at St Paul's Cathedral, he died at the Deanery in East Melbourne near *Bishopscourt*, 8 October 1894, aged 95, and is buried in the family vault in Melbourne General Cemetery.

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TONY MCCUTCHEON 2022

WHERE IS NORTH KEW?

There is a North Kew Kindergarten, a North Kew Maternal Health Centre and a North Kew Post Office – but you won't find North Kew in the Melways.

What was known as the North Kew shops is now called Willsmere Village. It is on the corner of Pakington Street and Willsmere Road. These shops are on the edge of a subdivision north of Earl Street that was also referred to as North Kew and was the original home of the North Kew Tennis Club in Grandview Terrace.

Further east, when I was growing up, residents who lived near the Greenacres and Kew Golf Clubs and in the subdivision north of Kilby Road around Munro Street, would have said that they lived in North Kew.

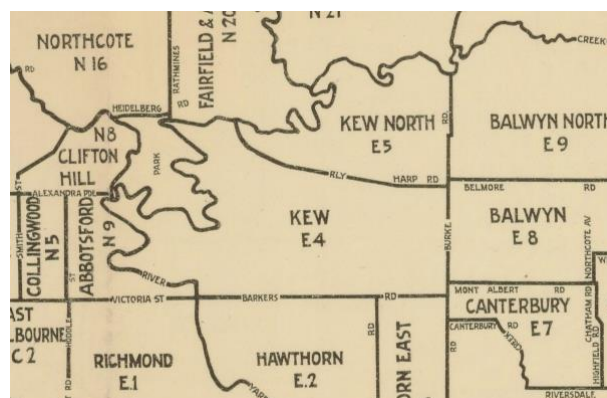
What about the North Kew Football Club? Until they merged with Kew Football Club in 2007, their home was at Stradbroke Park, in what is now Kew East and nowhere near Willsmere Village!

Is there a North Kew post code? No, but prior to 1967 when post codes were introduced, there was a postal district number for 'North Kew' – 'E.5'. Unfortunately for us, East Kew shared the same 'E.5' district number.

Surely there's an official Government name for each locality? Yes, in *The Register of Geographic Names*, every suburb is named and given a specific boundary. In our part of Melbourne there are only two – Kew and Kew East. However, each suburb may include one or more 'neighbourhoods'. The suburb of Kew East includes two – the 'Harp' and 'Kew North'.

But neighbourhoods don't have a defined boundary, so we don't know where they actually are (and the neighbourhood of 'Willsmere' is not in Kew East but in Kew!).

So, 'North Kew' is pretty much anywhere you want it to be, other than at the North Kew shops!



[Section] POSTAL DISTRICTS MAP 1927
Courtesy State Library of Victoria

A section of a Postal Districts map of 1927 shows the boundary of district E.5 and names it Kew North. At that time however, the only post office in the postal district was the Kew East Post Office – the Kew North Post Office wasn't opened until 1936 (and it never delivered mail, with all E.5 mail being delivered from the Kew East Post Office)! Note that part of the E5 boundary was inscribed 'RLY', no doubt the alignment of the old Outer Circle railway.

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JUNE 1922

Kew, Camberwell and Essendon Councils reject a proposal by the Trades Hall Council that they should take advantage of the *Housing Act* to borrow money to erect workmen's houses that could be let or bought on extended terms.

Residents protest against unsewered areas in Melbourne including that part of East Kew north of the Outer Circle railway line.

Kew Council resolves to approach the Kodak company, which was planning to build a factory, residential quarters etc on the Golf Links Estate bounded by Willsmere, Belford and Kilby Roads, to acquire it for a sports ground.

Kew Council approves the construction of three courts and a club house for the East Kew Tennis Club in Victoria Park at a cost not exceeding £500.

Frederick W Humphrey of Edward Street was charged and fined in the Kew Court for storing bins of manure in his yard, which were offensive and dangerous to health. A similar fine was imposed on Bing Lee for throwing vegetable waste on the road in Winton Street.

HAROLD BLAIR'S KEW COMMITTEE

When the Kew Philharmonic Society choir, under the direction of Dr A. P. Ehrenfeld, presented a performance of Arthur Sullivan's 1886 cantata *The Golden Legend* at the Kew Recreation Hall on the evening of Wednesday 13 August 1947 the soloists included Harold Blair, a promising young tenor from Queensland. While he was a student at the Albert Street Conservatorium in East Melbourne, Blair lived in Kew with John and Gwenda Lloyd in their family home at 29 Wrixon Street.



FORMER LLOYD FAMILY HOME, 29 WRIXON STREET, KEW

David White, photographer, 2022

The story of Harold Blair's journey from the Aboriginal Reserves of Queensland to become Australia's first classically trained aboriginal singer has been told in Kenneth Harrison's 1975 biography *Dark Man, White World: A Portrait of Harold Blair* and has also been the subject of a 1994 documentary *Harold* directed by Steve Thomas, which was first screened on ABC's True Stories in 1995.

This article will concentrate on Harold Blair's time in Kew and introduce the members of the Kew community who were instrumental in securing a place for him at the Albert Street Conservatorium and providing support for him during the period of his studies there.

Harold Blair (1924–76) was born at Cherbourg Aboriginal Reserve in Queensland in 1924. Six months later he and his teenage mother were moved to the Salvation Army run Purga Mission near Ipswich. When he was two years old, his mother was transferred to a position as a domestic servant off the mission, however Harold remained in the care of the Salvation Army at Purga Mission until he was almost sixteen. After working on local farms, when he was eighteen, he went to work on the canefields when the government requested that aboriginal men volunteer for war work. During this time, he was granted a Certificate of Exemption from the *Aboriginal Act* which freed him from the control of the Department of Native Affairs.

The chairman of the West Morton Trades and Labour Council, Harry Green, introduced Blair to a singing teacher and encouraged him to consider singing as an alternative to agricultural labouring.

The opportunity to audition at the Albert Street Conservatorium then came about after Harry Green took Blair to the Council for Encouragement of Music and the Arts (CEMA) Victorian branch office in Collins House, Collins Street. There they met Margaret Sutherland who was acting secretary of CEMA at the time. CEMA was a movement which had been established in Australia in 1944. It was based on an English organisation of the same name with the aim of promoting music and the arts in Australia, and was the predecessor of the Arts Council.



Figure 3.6 Photograph of Margaret Sutherland at the Piano with Harold Blair and a Number of Children, Records of the Australian Musical Association, 1952–95, 1940s, Envelope S, NEA.

Margaret Sutherland at the Piano with Harold Blair and a number of Children

Photo – Records of the Australian Musical Association. 1952–95, 1940s, Envelope S, National Library of Australia

Margaret Sutherland (1896–1964) was a Kew-based pianist, composer and teacher and was active and influential in the Melbourne arts community. After attending Baldur Girl's Grammar School in Kew she studied at both the Albert Street Conservatorium and Melbourne University Conservatorium. She spent two years between 1923 and 1925 living in London, Paris and Vienna where she studied and observed the music scene.

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HAROLD BLAIR'S KEW COMMITTEE (from page 7)

Sutherland's husband from 1927 to 1948, physician and psychiatrist Dr N.A. Albiston, was said to consider her aspirations as a composer to be a sign of derangement. In 1943, when it appeared that a proposal championed by Keith Murdoch to relocate the National Gallery of Victoria, and establish a state theatre on the Wirth's Circus site would be derailed by the development of the site as a business centre, Sutherland was instrumental in the formation of the Combined Arts Centre Movement (CACM). She became its secretary while fellow Kew resident John Lloyd undertook chairmanship of the organisation. The movement's immediate aim was to have included in any Government post-war plan the establishment of a Centre, including a Symphonic Hall, a Chamber Music Hall, an Opera House for opera, ballet and drama, an intimate theatre for intimate drama, a Children's Theatre, in addition to the new National Gallery of Victoria. CACM attracted broad support from the Victorian community and in November 1944 John Lloyd, accompanied by fifty representatives of the arts community, presented a petition with 40,000 signatures to the Chief Secretary of the Victorian Government calling for the establishment of a combined arts centre on the Wirth's Park site in St Kilda Road.

Following an audition with Clive Carey at the Albert Street Conservatorium in 1945, arranged by Margaret Sutherland, Harold Blair was accepted into a three year course. A committee was formed to support him while studying in Melbourne. It included a who's who of the Kew arts community: Vance Palmer - reading supervisor, Miss Irene Webb - speech and drama tutor, Margaret Sutherland - musical supervisor, Gwenda Lloyd - educational supervisor, and John Lloyd - general welfare and liaison with the Queensland committee.

Vance and Nettie Palmer's significant influence on Australian literary and cultural life was the subject of an article by Desley Reid in the March 2018 KHS Newsletter. Vance Palmer was a founder of the Fellowship of Australian Writers and chairman of the Commonwealth Literary Fund's advisory committee (1947-53). He was responsible for introducing Harold Blair to Australian literature, reading to him at the Palmer home at 7 Ridgeway Avenue, and preparing his reading list.

Irene Webb (1899-1988), daughter of a Collins Street surgeon, attended Clyde girl's school in St Kilda Road from 1913 to 1917, before commencing an Arts degree at the University of Melbourne in 1918. She left the course in 1922 to join Alan Wilkie and his touring Shakespeare company, travelling to England in 1925 to gain further theatrical experience. During the 1930s, she was a teacher of Speech and Drama at numerous private girls' schools and began to teach at the University of Melbourne in the Conservatorium and Education faculties. During the Second World War, she was an assistant to Clive Carey at the Albert Street Conservatorium. After the war, she opened a drama school - Theatre Crafts - operating from her home at 208 Cotham Road and the Kew Recreation Hall.



"HAPPY IS THE BRIDE."—In the sunshine at Holy Trinity Church, Kew, Miss Gwenda Kent Hughes and Mr. John Lloyd, whose wedding on Saturday was celebrated by Canon E. S. Hughes, assisted by Canon Sutton.

John Lloyd (1895-1964) and Gwendolen (Gwenda) Kent Hughes (1899-1965) were married at Holy Trinity Church Kew in 1930. Their photograph [above] on the steps of the church shows, indicative of their progressive ideals, that they eschewed the formal wedding attire of the time. Gwenda's brother was Wilfred Kent Hughes, MLA for Kew from 1927 until 1949, who would humorously suggest that he hid the best whisky when visited by his sister Gwenda, the 'family communist'.

John Lloyd was a public servant employed in the Victorian Titles Office. According to his wife's entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography he had served in the First World War seeing action at Gallipoli and the Western Front. In addition to a cultivated knowledge of music and a deep concern for peace and a more egalitarian society, he had strong ties to the trade union movement and belonged to the Communist Party of Australia, although he was not included in a list of present and former members of the Victorian branch in the 1950 report of the Victorian Royal Commission into the Communist Party in Victoria.

Gwenda had been educated at Melbourne Church of England Girls' Grammar School. She had then cared for her terminally ill mother for two years, before working at the Repatriation Hospital in Macleod, prior to enrolling at the University of Melbourne in 1919 (BA 1922, Dip Ed 1923). After travelling abroad following her graduation, she joined the staff of Melbourne Church of England Girls' Grammar School (MCEGGS) where she taught history at middle and senior levels.

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HAROLD BLAIR'S KEW COMMITTEE (from page 8)

After a break in her teaching career to care for her two children Gwenda returned to MCEGGS in 1940, beginning a creative working relationship with the newly appointed progressive head mistress, Dorothy Ross. Both were members of the New Education Fellowship, which aimed to ensure that all students received an education to equip them to be thoughtful, concerned citizens.

During his time living in Kew and training at the Albert Street Conservatorium, Harold Blair progressed from being a naturally talented amateur singer to a confident and poised, classically-trained stage performer. In addition to his musical studies, he played football and cricket with local Kew teams.

His public performances at the Kew Recreation Hall, Collins Street Assembly Hall and Melbourne Town Hall gained appreciative reviews.

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PICKWICK PORTFOLIO

A NEW ACQUISITION TO THE COLLECTION

In May 2022, an artwork was listed for sale at an auction held by Gibson's Auctions in Armadale. Lot 97 was described as:

MARK TAPLEY
Pickwick Portfolio
watercolour and ink
signed lower left in margin
34 x 21.5 cm

In our collection we have three copies of publications by the Pickwick Club of Kew (1897-1912). The copy from 1912, lists the membership, which at its peak included almost 60 members. Each member adopted a pseudonym based on a character in a novel by Charles Dickens. Hence, we knew that Mark Tapley was actually the pseudonym adopted by the noted Kew artist, Alice Bale [A.M.E. Bale 1875-1955], whose family home was at 83 Walpole Street. The item for sale was the original watercolour and ink drawing by the 24-year-old artist, which became the frontispiece of the 1904 publication [of which we have two copies] and which was subsequently adapted for the 1912 edition.

Alice Bale's membership of the Pickwick Club is described in *A.M.E. Bale: Her art and life* by Peter Perry (Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum, 2022, pp10-11).

This is the first work by Alice Bale to enter our collection. We are grateful to the Friends of the KHS Collection for making the purchase possible.



[Frontispiece] THE PICKWICK PORTFOLIO
Mark Tapley [A.M.E. Bale], artist
KHS

THE ROTARY CLUB OF YARRA BEND

A connection between the Kew Historical Society and the former Rotary Club of Yarra Bend was initiated when Edda Williams approached the Society with an offer to donate the Club's records to our archives. The offer included a commitment to organising and listing all of the records before the handover occurred. When finally transferred at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the records were stored at the Kew Court House before being transferred to the Kew Heritage Centre in 2022.

While archival records tell their own story, it was important that a brief history of the Rotary Club of Yarra Bend was completed to alert members and the community of its achievements. Anne Josefsberg agreed to examine the Club's archives, interview past members and write a brief account of the Club's achievements.

Within the area that is Kew, there are many service and charitable institutions. The Salvation Army has a shop and headquarters in High Street. 'Vinnies' has an opportunity shop at the other end of High Street. Rotary International has a Fair Trade opportunity shop, also in High Street. All of these organisations make positive contributions to the community. The story you are about to read is the story of The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend – its beginning and its end.

Any Rotary Club has a life. Some Rotary Clubs survive and live to celebrate many years of projects and friendships. The story of The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend began on 18 June 1986 and ended with its merger with The Rotary Club of Canterbury.

In 1986, The Rotary Club of Kew East was chartered with 26 members. At that time, it met at the Greenacres Golf Club. In 1996, with fifty members in tow, it moved to a variety of venues in Kew, Camberwell and Hawthorn. On the way, The Rotary Club of Kew East became The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend. It met at what was then known as Rydges Hotel, Bridge Road, Richmond.

The number of members in any Rotary Club can fluctuate. When the good times come, the membership numbers rise. However, life takes over and members leave for all sorts of reasons. The number of members at The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend declined to ten.

The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend accomplished much in each of the five avenues of service: Community Service, International Service, Vocational Service, Youth Service, and Club Service.



(R) David Shave, Tony Boyd, Mark Miller, Bruce van Every, Anne Brown, Bob Lambert, Matt Pollard, Ed Brown, Bill Chow, Phillip Naughton
J) Graham King, Peter Leonard, Ann Leonard, Ian Lynton, Justin Wilbrow, Bob Farrowell (Charter President), Jeff Flatther, Mike Freeman, John Durell.
Absent: Ian Cuthbert, Gillian Murray, Anthony Tung. Deceased: David Currie, Tom Wilbrow, Mark King. (Photograph taken 23 March 2016.)

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF YARRA BEND

How can I explain the process involved in the demise of one Rotary Club and its merging into another? For example, after the Rotary Club of Boroondara declined to 15 members, many of us merged to join The Rotary Club of Canterbury. As a member of The Rotary Club of Canterbury, I have been fortunate to inherit some of the many accomplishments and projects of Yarra Bend in the Youth Service portfolio. These include the financial and personal assistance given to young people at a local school and involvement in the National Youth Science Forum. Both projects enrich and encourage young people in their educational and personal lives in a very practical manner.

John Pocock, currently a very active member of The Rotary Club of Canterbury and a co-ordinator of the Sunday Camberwell Market, was formerly a member of The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend. He joined what was then The Rotary Club of Kew East in 1997. He served as Treasurer in 2003 and from 2011 to 2019. He also produced the weekly newsletters in 1998 and 1999. How he came to join The Rotary Club of Kew East was through a customer at his place of work inviting him to attend a meeting. At that time, the venue was Greenacres Golf Club. He has been enriched through his experience at the Camberwell Market, Gardening at Kew High School, Camcare and the Salvo premises. He recalls that he enjoyed participating in Sausage Sizzles. Teamwork was the aspect of the weekly meetings which most engaged him. Prominent in John's memory of The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend is working with three members in the Gardening Project and a successful day at a Portsea youth camp.

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF YARRA BEND *(from page 10)*

David Shave, also a member of The Rotary Club of Canterbury, began his Rotary life as a member of The Rotary Club of Melbourne La Trobe. He went on to become President of The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend. At that time, there were 20 members.

David agreed to extend his Presidency for 2004 until 2005. For those unfamiliar with the ways of Rotary Clubs, the time sequence is per the financial year. David was President twice at The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend (2008-09, 2010-11). He also undertook the roles of Secretary, Club Service, Youth Service and Vocational Service. He spent seven years as Speaker Co-ordinator, and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow with two sapphires, in addition to the one he was given with one sapphire. Once again, for those unfamiliar with the Paul Harris Fellow, it is awarded for work that members of the Rotary Club consider worthy of recognition.

David Shave is proud of the contribution made by The Rotary Club of Kew on Yarra. He recalled that a \$5,000 surplus, split five ways, was sent to five different destinations. It had \$60,000 in accumulated funds, when it ceased to exist as a standalone rotary club. Ten core members of The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend moved to The Rotary Club of Canterbury as a block. He gives credit to the President Edda Williams for dealing with the closure of the Club and the merger with The Rotary Club of Canterbury.

Edda Williams is the current incoming President of The Rotary Club of Canterbury for the year 2022-23. She joined The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend in 2016. Encouraged by Bob Lambert, she took on the role of Director of Youth Services with Anne Brown, due to her role in education. She then became President in the Rotary Year of 2018-19. Her emphasis, and this continues to be one she still supports, is on Parks Victoria planting projects, as well as garden and playground maintenance.

Edda mentioned the Servants group, which is a new house for women escaping domestic violence. In her words, 'The satisfaction came from seeing a need and being able to fill that need in a meaningful way.' What made it special for her was the way annual scholarships were, and still are provided to students at Kew High School, which enable them to continue their education. Other leadership and education initiatives include Rotary Youth Leadership, Rotary Youth Enrichment Program, and the National Youth Science Forum; the Boroondara Cares Foundation and CHANCES, which supports students in District 9800, to be active in the education system. Edda recalled that: 'We were a quietly dynamic group who worked hard to achieve exceptional outcomes for those in need.'

As you can see, The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend made an effective contribution in the community. Now, as members of The Rotary Club of Canterbury, they continue to be a powerhouse. Yarra Bend projects, many of which I have become a beneficiary, especially in the area of Youth Service and Education, continue to enrich the lives of children and families.

Bob Lambert is a Director of Community Services, John Pocock co-ordinates our presence at the Sunday Camberwell Market and David Shave is actively involved in the speaker program at The Rotary Club of Canterbury. Thus, though The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend no longer exists as a separate Rotary club, members from that Rotary club continue to effectively contribute to the avenues of service at The Rotary Club of Canterbury.

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SOME RECORDS OF FORMER LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND SPORTING CLUBS HELD IN OUR ARCHIVES

Auburn Heights Recreation Club
Auburn Heights Men's Bowling Club
Auburn Heights Women's Bowling Club
Auburn Heights Tennis Club
Kew Bowling Club
Kew Heights Sports Club
Kew Heights Men's Bowling Club
Kew Heights Women's Bowling Club
Kew Heights Tennis Club
Kew Community Festival
Kew Ladies Benevolent Society
Lioness Club of Kew
East Kew Women's Club
The Rotary Club of Yarra Bend (including the East Kew Rotary Club)

VALE

Alexia (Lexia) Allen, a Life Member of the Kew Historical Society died on 4 May 2022 at Donvale. She was KHS Secretary between 1985 and 1989 and again from 1991 to 1997. Lexia was Joan Fernauld's sister [dec.], therefore sister-in-law to Rodney. She lived for many years in Mary Street, Kew, and was part of the Morris family.

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]

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- ☐ Individual membership (2022-23 annual fee \$25)
- ☐ Household membership (2022-23 annual fee \$35)
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- ☐ I/we prefer to receive the Society's quarterly newsletter by email.
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- ☐ I/we would like to make a donation of \$ _____

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