

KEWRIOSITY

City of Kew, Municipal Offices, Charles Street, Kew 3101. Telephone: 862 2466

JULY 1991



MANNA FROM THE HEAVENS

A Board of Works report on 18 June pointed to a steadily rising consumption of water in Melbourne, which — it proposes — will outstrip existing reservoir supplies in 15 years. At the same time, the National Trust in its June journal discussed possible ways of reducing the pollution running into the Yarra river from storm-water run off drains.

Both the high water consumption, and the higher and higher levels of storm-water being forced into the existing inadequate drainage systems, could be reduced by a simple solution. "Why not encourage urban home owners to build rainwater tanks filled from their roof run off?" asks the National Trust.

"This would reduce storm-water run off, and since about 50% of suburban water use is expended on watering gardens, even if the collected rainwater was used only for watering gardens we would save on water usage (and therefore the cost of building reservoirs) as well as improving water quality, and summer flows, in urban creeks", argues the National Trust.

Well accepted is the danger of drinking water from rain which has flowed over various roofing materials, such as terracotta tiles. However, a strategically placed water tank, under the fastest flowing downpipe from house roof, could provide most gardens with a perennial source of water — at no cost to the consumer beyond the tank.

With the M.M.B.W. now moving towards payment of water rates based upon consumption, it wouldn't take long to recoup the cost of installation of a rain water tank.

A Kew resident reports that his 500 gallon tank can fill up, from zero to full, with a good downpour of about 40 mm of rain; in winter, he diverts the water into the usual storm-water drains, once his tank has filled up. And twice over the last year, a cut-off of the supply of mains water to his property has led to an easy solution, just the usage of his emergency supply of tank water. He even reports that his back garden vegetables prefer the fresh tank water to the Melbourne reservoir water.

NOT BLOWING IN THE WIND

Residents are now again able to recycle newspaper, magazines, telephone books and cardboard by leaving them on the nature strips on the first garbage collection day of each week, along with other recyclables.

Paper should be bundled, or put in cartons. They should not, however, be put in plastic bags for collection.

The Council's recycling contractor, Austral Bottle Company, will collect the papers. Residents are requested to note that it is a weekly collection!

Further details can be obtained from the Engineering Services Department, on telephone 860 5272.

COMPLETING THE PICTURE

To complete a programme to make the Alexandra Gardens more accessible for people in wheel chairs, the toilets facing the scenic Gardens will be converted for use by disabled people. There will be wheel chair access to the park's facilities after the toilet alterations take place in the next few months.

BUSINESS SEMINAR

A business seminar, in which almost 100 people attended, examined ways in which Kew could revitalise its business districts. The function, on 4th July, was provided by the Mayor, Cr Daryl Oldaker. Speakers included Mr Bruce Atkinson, Business Retail Consultant; Mr Doug McLaren, real estate agent; Mr Vin Heffernan, Shadow Minister for Small Business; Mr Tim Warmington, President of the Kew Business Association; the Mayor; and Ms Janet Dore, Director of Planning and Development, at the City of Kew.

The seminar was needed to "develop some vision and an image for Kew", according to the Mayor, Cr Oldaker.

"While other strip shopping centres and business districts have been generally developing and improving their share of retail trade, Kew has been stagnant and in fact, losing its share of customers from the local catchment," he commented.

"If that situation is to be redressed, it will only be through the combined efforts of the Council and business people. The Council has commenced by developing a Kew Junction Strategy as a first step in the process," he added.

He hoped that the seminar was able to provide local business people with up-to-date information about the current state of small business in Victoria, as well as some ideas for Kew's revival.

WILLSMERE GO-AHEAD

No residents or groups lodged appeals against the Jennings development, at Willsmere, during the time allowed by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal for such appeals. The hotel and housing development can now proceed, with the only negotiations necessary being discussions with the Kew City Council about the type, alignment and construction standard of an access road to be built between the new development and Princess Street.

DIARY DATES FOR JULY

5

and 6, 11, 12, 13 — 8.00 pm — “Evening of Comedy”, Hartwell Players, Eddy St.-Halley Ave. Corner, Ph: 752 2161.

8

Local School holiday programmes begin.

10

4 pm — Nominations close for candidates for Kew City Council elections on 3 August. Ph: 862 2466.

8 pm — Kew Historical Society Meeting, Room 3, Library. Speaker Hon. Sir Reginald Smithers on “History of judges resident in Kew”.

Rugby Union football match, Australia vs. England, Olympic Park, Ph: 429 6288.

14

Bastille Day.
Young people's study camp. Ph: 860 5221.

17

9 am-10.30 am — Infant Immunizations, 21 Strathalbyn St. Ph: 859 1380.

10.30 am — Kew Arthritis Group, Library Meeting Room, speaker Jenny Davidson, Ph: 862 1409.

8 pm — Boroondara Bushwalkers meeting, Library Meeting Room.

11.30 am-12.30 pm — Community House Talk, Susan Amiel, social worker, Caritas Christi Hospice.

18

2 pm — Nursing mothers' afternoon tea. Ph: 853 7821.

19

to 21 — “Golden Days of Radio” exhibition, Exhibition Building. Ph: 654 6726.

20

and 21 — Melbourne Gun Show; Camberwell Civic Centre. Ph: 057 64 1234.

21

2 pm — Free concert, Hawthorn City Band, Hawthorn Town Hall. Ph: 810 2444.

24

10.30 am — Camberwell Music Society Concert, Delyth Sian Stafford, Harp, 552 Burke Rd. Ph: 822 3156.

140th Anniversary of end of British “Window Tax”.

25

to 31 — Victorian State Opera performs “Madame Butterfly”, State Theatre. Ph: 11500.

27

11 am-3 pm — McMahon Memorial Kindergarten Birthday.

28

125th Anniversary of birth of Beatrix Potter, South Ken., London.
Vintage steam train to the snow. Ph: 397 1953.

29

2-6 pm — Heritage Advisory Service, with Bryce Raworth. Appointments: 860 5250.

31

130th Anniversary of World's first storm warnings, British Meteorological Department.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

June 23 General Purposes Committee, 7.30pm

June 30 Council Meeting, 7.30pm
Nominations for residents interested in standing for Council close on 10th July, at 4pm. Elections are scheduled for 3rd August for Wards in which more than one contestant each has nominated for Council. Further information is available by telephoning 862 2466.

WINTER: A GOOD TIME FOR BUSHWALKING

Winter doesn't necessarily mean hibernating by the fire indoors, and inactivity. It can be an excellent time of the year to be in the fresh air.

Often the sun is out, but being cool is just the right weather for walking. Also, many of the native plants flower in winter providing splashes of colour to the countryside. Boroondara Bushwalkers Club, based in Kew, continues to offer a wide range of day and overnight walks to suit most age ranges and fitness levels. In recent months members have rambled around Warburton, Flinders Island and a local park!

The club holds its monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Meeting Room, adjacent to Kew Library, Charles Street, Kew. Interested prospective new members are welcome to attend; further information can be obtained by writing c/o P.O. Box 355, Kew, 3101.

KINDER'S 40TH

The J.J. McMahon Memorial Kindergarten is celebrating its 40th anniversary on 27 July, by conducting an open day at the kindergarten on that date. The Centre will be open from 11am to 3pm.

Photos, memorabilia and children's work will be displayed. Devonshire teas will be served and commemorative wind-cheaters will be on sale. All are welcome to attend the special day.

STUDY CAMP

A Study Camp for Year 11 or 12 students from schools in the Kew area is being held from Sunday 14th July to Wednesday 17th July at The Basin Youth and Convention Centre.

Qualified teachers will be attending and tutoring in Maths, Science, Humanities, Languages and English. There will be a session looking at goal-setting, as well as time for private study and relaxing.

The Camp costs only \$70.00. For more information and application forms, contact either Rod Cairns at Kew Baptist Church on 862 3292 or Kate Laing at Kew Council by telephoning 860 5221.

Commentary

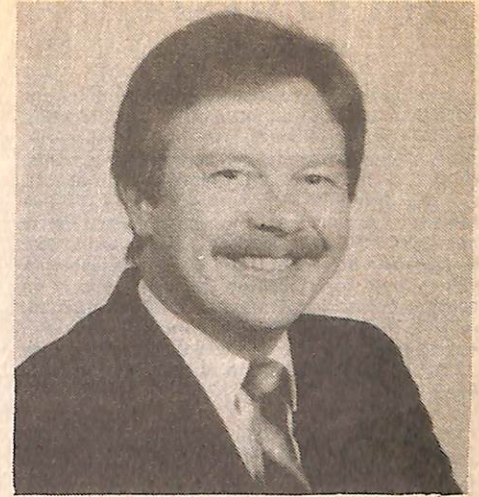
As my Mayoral year draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to summarise the last twelve months. In the face of many sudden challenges to our local government world, including the shock waves from the Gulf War; State Government financial crisis; and the world wide recession, we have been able to keep our cool — and keep on a steady course. But I am particularly proud that in this uncertain environment the City of Kew has been able to rise above a mere series of knee-jerk responses to outside influences.

We have been able to propose a forward vision for our City, in what I regard as a most productive process. Such landmark highlights as the commencement of the development of a corporate plan for the City; a business seminar for Kew business people to decide the fate of the Willsmere site; and various conservation and "skyline" town planning protection schemes, have all eventuated. On a personal note, I have enjoyed my involvement with the opening of the first section of the Outer Circle Linear Park track; the re-opening of the traffic school; the increasingly

successful Kew Festival; the launching of the recycling trial and of "Healthy Choices"; with Youth Leadership Week — and even with the community leisure brochure which resulted in me abseiling down the Municipal Offices' east wall.

My wife opened the Walpole Street Baby Changing Room and we were both involved in exciting new developments in our city.

At a time when the stresses and strains of a biting recession have made quite a lot of people fearful, frightened and withdrawn, these achievements are not trivial. We're not afraid to say, quietly and confidently, that we're here for the "long haul", and that the long term picture we envisage is one of a good future for our close-knit community. We've got so much going for us, as the hackneyed cliché says, that we owe it to past, present and future residents to make the best and wisest use of resources around us. I am certainly going to enjoy watching the good work continue, over the next few years. It's been an honour to wear the Mayoral chain at this exiting time in our history.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COLUMN

The "client base" for local government is far more flexible these days than it has been in the past. More and more, local governments are attracting customers to use their facilities by providing better "user pay" facilities and services.

During the 1980's, a concept for local government which was feared by many, was amalgamation of municipalities. It is however a concept which will again be considered during the 1990's. There are many arguments for and against amalgamation of municipalities. The City of Kew is considered by some to be a prime candidate for amalgamation due to its size.

Kew is the 45th largest municipality out of the 210 municipalities in this state, in terms of population and revenue. In the metropolitan area however, where there are 52 recognised municipalities making up that area, it is the 40th largest municipality. That is, it is approximately the same size as the cities of Sandringham and

Hawthorn, with 12 other metropolitan municipalities being smaller than Kew.

In very brief terms, the arguments for amalgamation of municipalities are:

- the availability for some services of economies of scale; and
- the potential to offer a greater range of services due to the existence of a larger client base for specific services.

The arguments against amalgamation are:

- the loss of accountability, responsiveness and accessibility;
- the loss of local identity and consequently, the loss of volunteer assistance for specific services at a cost to the community.

Each of these for and against arguments, can be countered by alternative arguments. However, in general terms, the proposition of amalgamating municipalities to achieve like size municipalities throughout the state, can be compared to proposing that all business in the state be the same size, with the same number of employees, regardless of their area of specialisation or type of customer. This argument is relevant because local governments do specialise in specific service areas.

The question of economies of scale is progressively losing significance as local governments more regularly either unite to jointly provide specific services where economies of scales exist, or privatise, through contracting the private sector to provide specific services where those services can be provided better by specialists in the area.

From the late 1980's, councils have increasingly reviewed their range of service provision and specialised in those services which are required by their individual communities. In the past, it was quite vogue for councils to attempt to provide the widest range of services possible regardless of the need for those services. In effect, the more services that a Council provided, the more effective it was considered to be.

However this approach failed to appreciate, that what is important to one community, may be totally irrelevant to another. If the concept of making all councils a standard size is pursued,

the ability to concentrate service provision to meet individual community needs is in fact weakened. What is more important to the community as the benefactors and providers of local government services (through payment of taxation and rates), is that local government is efficient regardless of the size of that local government.

In similar terms, businesses in the private sector, either succeed or fail, generally not because of their size but due to either their inefficiency or efficiency.

Demographics are an important issue when considering local government boundaries. The service needs of an ageing community for example, are quite different to that of a young growing community, just as there are quite different standards for parks, streets and community facilities required by affluent communities, in comparison to the priorities of poorer communities. It is that difference in priorities which is most commonly reflected in the price of real estate from one municipality to another.

The problems caused by amalgamation of Councils into larger units, being the loss of accountability, responsiveness and accessibility, can be largely overcome if firstly, the community is willing to accept lower standards in these areas and secondly if the organisation is willing to devote a great deal of effort and resources to ensure that it is accountable, responsive and accessible.

Just as there are economies of scale in some areas through having a larger client base, there are also diseconomies of scale in other areas, through the need to greater supervision and attention to customer needs.

Therefore the question of local government boundaries is not only one of uniformity and standardisation, but also very much one of community needs and priorities which are relevant for the particular community in question.

There are obviously several points from this which are pertinent to Kew. In the end, it must be the community which makes the choice.

YOUR CHANCE TO STAND

Local Government elections are scheduled for 3 August. Four Councillors are facing election due to the expiry of their terms of office this year. These Councillors represent each of Kew's wards, being Cr. Philip Slobom (Studley Park Ward), Cr. Tom Indovino (Willsmere Ward), Cr. Allen Martin (Prospect Ward) and Cr. Gerry Petrie (Sackville Ward). Should more than one nomination be received for a Ward, an election will be held for that Ward on 3 August. If an existing Councillor nominates and is unopposed, or if a new candidate for Council nominates unopposed, then he or she will become a City of Kew Councillor automatically, without the need for an election.

In addition this year, an extraordinary vacancy has occurred in Studley Park Ward, as a result of Cr. Dione McIntyre resigning from Council due to personal commitments. Ex-Cr. McIntyre was a Councillor for two years and followed her husband, Ex-Cr. Peter McIntyre, as a representative of Studley Park Ward. Her expertise, resulting from her professional training as an architect and her willingness to be involved in many community activities, will be greatly missed. If more than one nomination for candidature is received for the vacancy caused by Cr. McIntyre's resignation, the election for the position will be conducted on the same day as the ordinary elections for Council, being Saturday, 3 August.

Details about the eligibility to stand for Council, and about the nomination procedure, can be obtained from either Mr. Malcolm Hutchinson, Mr. Peter Huggins or Mr. Alan Chung, on telephone 862 2466. Nominations, plus the required \$100 "nomination deposit", must be given to Kew's Returning Officer, Mr. Malcolm Hutchinson, before 4 p.m. on 10 July.

There are now strict rules about the printing and publication of 'electoral material'. Generally, candidates must have the names and addresses of the person authorising the election material and printing that material. "How to Vote" cards must be submitted to the Returning Officer for provisional approval of draft copy, followed by the printed version for final approval.

Samples for provisional approval should be submitted to the Returning Officer within three working days following the close of nominations. Final approval of printed samples already provisionally approved should be submitted not less than seven days before polling day. Nominations for candidates in each of the ordinary ward elections, and the extraordinary election for Studley Park ward, can be submitted on any business day between the hours 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

At the time that "Kewriosity" was going to press, each of the retiring Councillors — namely Councillors Petrie, Indovino, Slobom and Martin — had nominated for re-election. In addition, only one nomination, being Mr John Murray, of Gelibrand St, Kew, had been received for the vacancy caused by the retirement of ex Cr McIntyre.

BLINDINGLY OBVIOUS

From the Ipswich Evening Star, in England, comes this story: "Councillors in Trimley have been told that work to the water supply in the village cannot be done at night because the engineers would be unable to see what they were doing".

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

— From Mr Tim Warmington

The Kew Council has made known its desire for the City of Kew to have a quality shopping centre within its boundaries. The approaching finalisation of the municipal budget gives the Kew Councillors the perfect opportunity to show that their talk is not just hot air.

A substantial allocation of funds for maintenance and upgrading of Council facilities in Kew Junction is urgently required. As commercial rates contribute up to 15% of Kew's rate income it is appropriate that some of this income be applied for this purpose. A new toilet block; replacement of the tired parking signs; benches; rubbish bins and car park lighting would certainly assist the shopping centre in these difficult times.

Many traders have recently improved the appearance of their premises. Now is the time for the Kew Council to do its bit for the shopping centre. If this opportunity is ignored, further disenchantment with the Council among the Kew Business Community will certainly result.

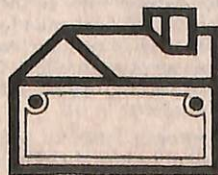
LOOKING INTO WINDOWS

Kew's City Valuer is conducting assessments of all properties in the municipality, as part of the four-yearly regular update of valuation records. These property valuations will be used for the basis of working out each ratepayer's contribution to the Kew City Council, in rate notices sent out in the financial years 1992-93; 1993-4; 1994-5 and 1995-6. The properties' valuations are based upon their worth as at 30th June 1990.

The re-assessment of all Kew's properties, along with identical exercises in Victoria's other urban local government areas, is required by the Minister for Local Government and the Valuer General. To find the value of property, valuers must have a thorough knowledge of sales, rentals and statutory considerations laid down by valuations legislation. Councils must be notified of sales of all properties, and information on rentals is obtained from owners and tenants.

A valuer has statutory powers to enter onto any property "at any reasonable time" and may request information which will assist him or her to make a correct valuation. In some cases, internal property inspections may be necessary, to help in this process.

Board of Works rates, and — if applicable — Land Tax Assessments use the same property valuations as the ones assessed by local government valuers. Meanwhile, in Britain, the controversial "poll tax", based primarily on the number of people resident in each dwelling rather than its market value, has been dropped. And coming up this month is the anniversary of the dropping of another local government taxation scheme. On 24 July, it will be exactly 140 years since the ending of the British window tax. This assessment was made on the basis of the number of windows each dwelling contained.



MAYOR OPENS PARK

The bicycle path along the Outer Circle Linear Park, following the alignment of the 100 year old former railway line, will be opened by the Mayor, Cr Daryl Oldaker, shortly. The section of the park between Burke Road and High Street now carries a pathway shared by pedestrians and cyclists along its length. Next to it are some new trees, planted by Kew Council's parks and gardens staff. Vic Roads contributed towards the 1¼ kilometre path.

An extension of the park, between High Street and the Chandler Highway, was due to be constructed after the building of an arterial road along the route. However, the Kew City Council has been informed that there is no money available for the building of the arterial road, at least not for the next few years. So, the shared pedestrian-bicycle path may be built before the arterial road, which will eventually be placed next to it.

All the bicycle paths along the Outer Circle Linear Park will eventually link up to the Yarra Valley bicycle path, via the river crossing at the Chandler Highway.

In the meantime, path or no path, several Melbourne bushwalking clubs have taken renewed interest in the walk along the former railway line. The gentle alignment; scenic views and historic interest make it an ideal urban walk. And local shops are selling copies of a new book describing the route, titled "The Outer Circle Railway — Walking Melbourne's Closed Railways".

GISBORNE PASSES THIS MOTION

They've banned cats in the Dandenongs at night time. A brand new by-law in Hawthorn makes owners liable for a fine if their dogs leave faeces in a public place. Now the Gisborne Council has proposed that the Dog Act should be changed, to include a discounted "toy dog" category, for registration purposes, in order to encourage "environmentally friendly dogs".

Cr John Lowrey, in moving the motion, suggested: "Chihuahuas do not destroy sheep or chase cattle and we should encourage people who want to keep dogs to keep small ones, as part of our environment protection programme".

Cr Lowrey proposed a 25% discount on registration fees for dogs not exceeding five kilograms in weight and 30 centimetres in height and length, excluding the tail, at one year of age.

The proposals went ahead, because of a debate provoked by a letter to the Council's Planning Committee by Mt Macedon resident and former Deputy Curator of Mammals at the Melbourne Zoo, Marius Yianni. In his letter, which was considered by the Council at its meeting last month, Mr Yianni wrote: "I calculate that it would take 7.39 billion years of constant flatulence for my two chihuahuas to leave any bearing on the ozone layer, whereas some of the dogs and horses in the Shire have an instant effect on the ozone level, let alone touching off an El Nino climatic effect, thus causing drought in the Shire".



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UPDATES — SPEED CAMERAS?

AREA 6: The Area Six Committee's Report on recommendations for a revised Traffic Management Scheme will be presented to the Council's General Purposes Committee at a meeting on 23 July, at 7.30 pm, in the Council Chambers. Interested residents are welcome to attend the meeting and address the meeting, if desired. Please advise Council's Special Projects' Engineer, Mr Russell Fairlie, if you intend to attend. He can also assist with any queries on the matter. Mr Fairlie's telephone number is 860 5232.

AREA 7: The installation of the Area Seven Traffic Management Scheme is currently proceeding. Road humps have been constructed in Findon Crescent and Carson Street. Lane marking changes have been recently introduced at the Carson Street-Studley Park Road corner, and at the intersection of Stevenson Street and High Street South. A temporary splitter island has been installed in Findon Crescent, at Barkers Road, and its effect will be monitored. These works aim to improve safety, to reduce speed and to discourage the intrusion of through traffic in the area bounded by Barkers Road, High Street, Studley Park Road, and the Yarra River. Forthcoming works include the construction of road humps in Young Street and the installation of splitter islands in Howard Street and Edgcombe Street at Cotham Road.

The Council recently decided not to proceed with the proposed three T-intersection deviation treatment works along Stevenson Street, due to problems associated with the loss of on-street parking and access restrictions to abutting properties. Instead, the Council will ask the Area Seven Committee to consider alternative speed control devices for Stevenson Street. Residents of the street will be able to participate in the selection of appropriate treatment works.

AREA 10: Kew Council considered a report by the Area 10 Committee on a Recommended Traffic Management Scheme for Area Ten at its meeting on 4 June. The Council resolved to defer implementation of the Area Ten Scheme for three months, with the exception of the proposed four road humps for Davis Street, which will be installed as soon as possible. The Council will make an approach as soon as possible to the State Government to request the Victorian Police to install speed cameras on certain local streets and "collector" roads. The remainder of the Recommended Scheme will be considered for implementation if the Victorian Police are unable to assist by targeting the specified streets with speed cameras.

NIT PICKING AGAIN?

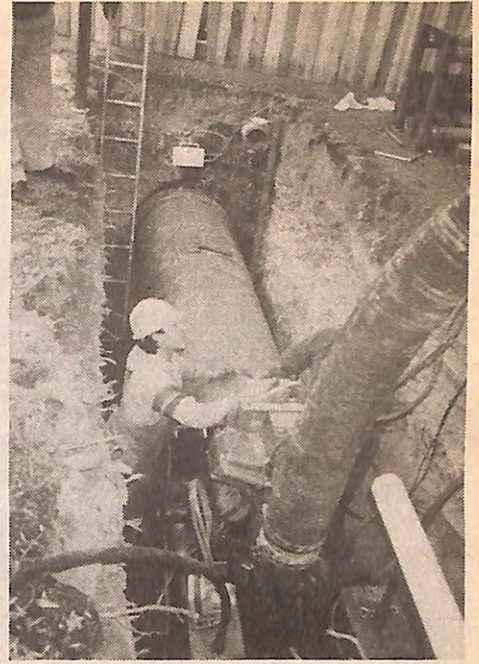
The City of Kew, with the financial support from the Guardian Chemist Chain, has developed a new Head Lice Brochure.

The Brochure is brief, informative and easy to read. Comprehensively, it details all matters relating to the management and treatment of head lice.

The Council's free Head Lice Brochures will be a great source of information for parents on this age old nuisance and may be obtained by telephoning the Council's Health Section on 860 5244.

UNDERGROUND BORE

The photograph above shows workmen installing a most unusual stormwater drain last month. Because the drain, between Willsmere Road and Peel Street, went beneath some private buildings, it was constructed with boring equipment, rather than the usual cut-and-cover method. Altogether 106 metres of pipe, 900 mm in diameter, were put in after the long horizontal hole had been bored. The old brick drain that it replaced was filled with concrete, and that should preserve it for future archaeologists.



CONCERNED ABOUT POSSUMS?

Possoms are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975. They must not be harmed in any way or retained without authority from the Department of Conservation and Environment.

Are you annoyed by the night time activity of possums in and around your home? The following details will assist you to live and cope with urban possums.

There are two varieties of urban possums that are identifiable in and around the City of Kew.

Common Brushtail Possum. This possum has large pointed ears, grey fur and bushy, black tail. The Brushtail possum is about the size of a cat.

Common Ringtail Possum. Have rounded ears, grey back and rusty sides, curled tail with a white tip. This possum is about 1/2 the size of a cat.

Possoms feed from leaves, flowers and fruits of a wide variety of native and exotic trees and shrubs. The Brushtail possum may also eat insects and meat. Possoms should not be fed by people as this may cause a dietary imbalance.

The Common Brushtail Possum makes its den in a tree hollow, under natural conditions. In urban areas, it adopts the space in house roofs for daytime shelter, since there are few tree hollows remaining. The Common Ringtail Possum usually builds a nest or drey of twigs and leaves, in dense foliage a few metres above the ground. It seldom enters house roofs.

Ways of living with possums include: • blocking access to your roof; • making or buying a nest or box to provide an alternative den site; • blocking all known entrance points to your roof cavity; • placing collars around fruit trees; and placing blood and bone fertilisers around the base of plants or making a solution of hot English mustard which can be sprayed/painted on the affected fruits and foliage.

Trapping and removal of possums is not recommended as it may cause further problems when relocated. If possums are trapped in the roof cavity they may be removed by trapping. You may hire a possum cage from Council for a small fee. Possoms must be released back into their local environment. Possoms are territorial animals and protect their territory from other possums. Thus when a possum lives on your property, you can be sure that no other possums will be attracted as well.

For further information on "Living With Possums", including general nesting box requirements, do not hesitate to telephone Council's Health Section on 860 5244.

YOUR TOBACCO TAXES AT WORK

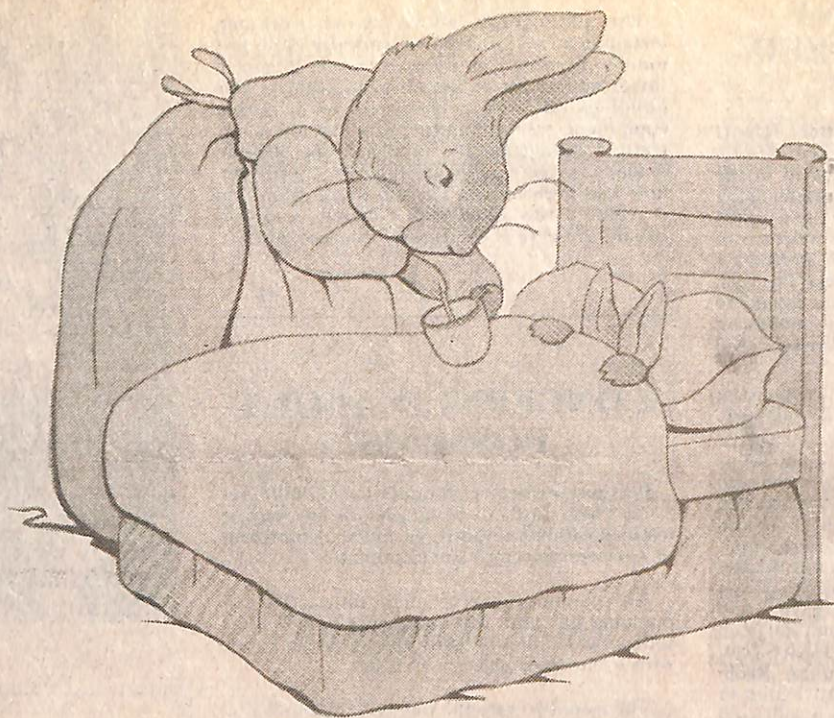
The Quit Office Melbourne has released alarming figures that relate to smoking and the related illnesses.

One in four smokers will die prematurely from a disease caused by smoking. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Australia, killing 18,165 people in 1987. Tobacco kills more people than car accidents, alcohol and all drugs combined. For good health's sake — quit and enjoy the benefits, which are as follows:

- Major and immediate health benefits.
- Former smokers live longer than continuing smokers.
- Among former smokers, the decline in risk of death compared with continuing smokers begins shortly after quitting and continues for at least 10-15 years.
- After 10 to 15 years of no smoking, risk of all caused mortality returns nearly to the level of people who never smoked.
- Quitting decreases the risk of lung cancer, other cancers, heart attack, stroke and chronic obstructive lung diseases.
- Former smokers are healthier than current smokers; for example, they have healthier lifestyles, less days of illness and fewer health complaints.
- The health benefits of quitting far exceed any risks from the average 2-3kg weight gain or any adverse psychological effects that may follow quitting.

Information on smoking related issues, and resources to assist yourself or others to quit, may be obtained from the Council's Health Section (tel: 860 5244).

Available publications include: *The Can Quit Book*; *Working smoke free — How You Can Make It Happen*; *Helping Others Quit*; *Smoke Free Work Place Kits* (Employers only).



TASTE IT . . . YOU'LL LIKE IT

On the 125th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, on 28 July, the prolific children's author is receiving a fresh gaze from a new generation of readers.

The animal characters of Peter Rabbit; his doting mother Mrs Rabbit; alert Farmer McGregor; mousy Munca; feline Ginger and Pickles; and the rather stilted Jane Doll, all live on in the adult imagination of little children exposed to them. Mrs Potter's books were published between 1901 and 1930, but deal with timeless characters in an unchanging natural world.

Yet even with these fictitious temptations and many more besides, there is a danger that many children are distracted by television and video and may never know the delight of books. "Do you remember the joy of curling up in a quiet corner and losing yourself in another century, or another planet — or tasting the intoxication of poetry?" asks the Kew Children's Librarian.

The whole of Kew Library is a quarry for the wondrous adult — and child — reader, according to the Librarian. Many school children do avail themselves of the huge selection of works on offer; many school bags parked outside the Library doors, at about 4pm on school days, are a witness to the interest from young people.

"With such freedom of choice of reading matter", comments the Children's Librarian, "you might wonder about the children's choice, but it's a fact that they choose correctly, according to their age groups, their range of interests and their level of understanding".

Just as Peter Rabbit's mother was eager to feed her young one the medicines he occasionally needed, so she would have been the first to recognise the importance of feeding a child's imagination through infusion of a good book!

LITERACY PROGRAMMES

Kew's Community House, at 6 Derby St, is offering a wide range of literacy programmes. One to one tuition, as well as classes are offered. These classes include basic education; spelling; study skills; writers' workshop; workplace literacy and migrant English. Also available are "Return to study" and "Return to work" programmes.

Literacy co-ordinator, Carole Waldron, says that "many people have been denied the opportunity to learn and/or improve literacy skills".

"Consequently", she adds, "they are often under the misapprehension that they are stupid or too old to learn".

She can be contacted on telephone 862 3126.

ROYAL GUIDE DOGS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Royal Guide Dogs Associations of Australia are looking for people who are prepared to volunteer some of their free time to help visually impaired people in the residential "live-in" centre, at the Guide Dog Centre in Kew.

Volunteers may help blind or visually impaired people with shopping, driving clients to appointments, reading, letter-writing as well as just sharing friendships over a cup of coffee.

Others may like to accompany clients on recreational outings which usually take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and during the day on Sundays.

Janene Morrison, the Co-ordinator, would like to hear from volunteers with driving licenses. Janene's number is 860 4444.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSE

Last school holidays, the Kew and Doncaster & Templestowe "Youth Leadership Course" was held at Amberley Retreat Centre in Lower Plenty.

Kew Rotary, East Kew Rotary and the Lions Club of Kew all generously sponsored the Course and eleven young people from Kew participated.

Nina Ginsberg, a Kew High School student, reflects on her experiences during the week.

"The Youth Leadership week was one of the best things that's ever happened to me. When we arrived at Amberley, everyone seemed to get on from the start. We had all come from a huge range of schools, and it was fantastic talking to such a diverse group of teenagers. On that first day we played games and talked till our mouths ached; by the end of the day, we were all best mates.

"I was amazed at how well planned and structured the week was. All the activities flowed together giving them all certain meaning and relevance. I found it very interesting as a young adult to be treated with such respect and trust. We were also encouraged to express our individuality by being given responsibility for our own actions during the week.

"We were encouraged and helped while we spoke our own mind and discussed in small groups, exploring our thoughts, feelings and emotions.

"This week was very important to me. I made so many great friends that I still keep in contact with and I developed many skills through the course. With my newly acquired skills I'd like to work in the community of Kew with children and teenagers with disabilities. I would like to thank the leaders for their concentration, helpfulness and understanding, and the Kew community who made it possible for me to experience this camp. I am very grateful for it!"



ROCK BOTTOM PRICES

June saw retail prices for many products reach heavily discounted levels, as the economic recession began to hit local businesses. Petrol prices were no exception. A pricing war between oil companies resulted in a bonanza for motorists as petrol dropped to about 56 cents a litre, for several weeks. During the brief Gulf War, only weeks earlier, they had been paying up to 78 cents. But, as the picture of the garage in Barkers Road shows, the only place for prices to go after the discount war ended was — up!

ARTHRITIS AGM

The Kew Arthritis Self Help Group will hold its annual general meeting on 17th July, at 10.30am, in room three of the Library complex, on the corner of Cotham Road and Charles Street Kew. The guest speaker will be Jenny Davidson, Education and Services Manager at the Arthritis Foundation. Morning tea will be served, and further information is available by telephoning 862 1409.

CHEQUE FOR BLIND MISSION

A cheque for \$1,000, raised by Livingstone House students of Carey Grammar School during first term, was presented to the Christian Blind Mission International.

Marinos Angelodemou and Michelle Schulz, both in year five, presented the cheque to CBMI's Mr Peter Sumner and Mr Reinhold Behr. Also pictured are Livingstone House members Mr David Tunley and Mrs Sue Godwin, and some of the year 4 and 5 students.

Carey has been supporting CBMI for a number of years and moneys raised go to buying braille sets for handicapped children in third world countries.





Picture: From "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations", Auntie May (Karen Westcombe) knocks out Kid Saracen (Neville Drake).

LIVE COMEDY IN HEART-WELL

Three one act comedy plays are being performed by the Hartwell Players, in "An Evening of Comedy". Some of the cast members and many of the members of the audience come from Kew, to cross the border for the performances at the Uniting Church Hall, corner of Eddy Street and Halley Avenue, Hartwell. Starting at 8 p.m., the performances will be staged on July 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13. As well, there will be a 2 p.m. matinee on July 13.

The first play, "Out for the Count — or How would you like your stake?", was written by Martin Downing and is being directed on this occasion by Frances Lester. The vampire-spoof involves Count Nolyard, newly arrived from Transylvania, and visiting Dr Sewer's lunatic asylum in Whitby, England. There are no attempts to Captain Cook anything, just a series of chases after "Bridget's Fruit Cup" and "Constance's Bloody Mary".

Audience members who survive the first play can then take heart from the second play, Alan Ayckbourn's "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations". This large cast fantasy is being directed by Steven Gagen. In this plot, Ernie has problems with his "illucinations", which means that what he imagines has a tendency to come true. He is taken to the doctor, with embarrassing results for the other patients.

"Bridesmaids and Undertakers", a new comedy by Australian playwright Graeme Turner, is being directed by Di Gagen. Set in outback Australia in a bygone time, the play centres around the lives of a group of bush nurses in northern Queensland.

Two of the plays will be entered into the Ararat Festival of One Act Plays, next month. Ticket prices of \$9 and \$6, which include a light supper, can be booked by telephoning 752 2161 or 885 2578.

PEEL ST. ANNIVERSARY

Residents of Peel St might be interested to know that Sir Robert Peel — after whom their street was named — became Prime Minister of England exactly one hundred and fifty years ago this month. His political party, which he had reformed and re-named as the Conservative Party, defeated the previous incumbents, the Whig Party, in a general election. The new government enjoyed a hundred seat majority and previous Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, was replaced by Sir Robert Peel. The cabinet contained seven past or future Prime Ministers, including both Gladstone and Disraeli. Advice came from Peel's old school friend, the poet Lord Byron.

The new Prime Minister proved true to his name and repealed a host of antiquated government financial duties. He replaced them with — you guessed it — the first direct Income Tax. In the foreign policy area, Peel's government made a peace treaty with China, following the 1839 war between the two nations over the question of opium smuggling into China. The new peace treaty allowed the ports of China to be opened up to trading vessels again. In India, the British government crushed a challenge to its authority that came from the Sikhs, through the fierce battles of Moodkee, Ferozeshah and Sobraon.

What finally brought the Peel Government down, was the issue of trade protection of local industry versus free trade. In 1846, it repealed the 1815 Corn Laws, which had protected local industry and farmers. At the same time, the harvests in England and the potato crop in Ireland, were failing, and the landowners and farmers soon turned against Peel.

Doesn't it all sound so familiar? Fiddling with the mix of taxes; the enormous influence of illegal drugs; challenge from militants in India; treaties to open up free trade in vital ports abroad, and legislation to knock down the tariffs on imported goods, at home; and finally, an interfering recession.

Residents of Walpole St and Wellington St have long ago missed the 150th anniversary of their English Prime Ministers. It's all ahead of them, in Gladstone St and Disraeli St and soon the occupants of Coleridge St, Byron St and Scott St will be able to wax lyrical about their nominees.

HOLEPROOF FACTORY FUTURE

Just over the border, the redundant Holeproof Hosiery plant, at 106 Whitehorse Road, Surrey Hills, is facing an uncertain future. The National Trust has taken an interest in the future of the unique factory buildings, that were designed by architects Gawlor and Drummond in 1941.

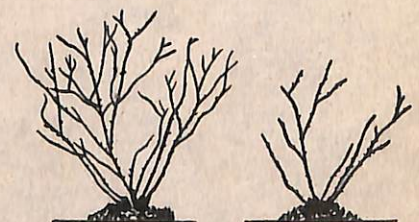
WHAT TOPICS AROSE?

Maybe you should install a good old fashioned ceiling rose in your board room, office or dining room. The once popular Victoriana embellishment to house interiors has an interesting symbolic importance.

When a white rose, the emblem of silence, secrecy and honour, was hung above banqueting tables, it was understood that all guests could speak openly with confidence. All the guests knew that this white rose bound all those present to secrecy. From this custom came the term 'sub-rosa', meaning 'privately', and also the ornamental plaster 'rose' in the centre of ceilings.

Roses adorned tables in a different manner, before 1660. In that year, domestic silver forks appeared in Britain; up until that time, diners used fingers along with their knives. A dish of rose water would be taken around tables, to which diners would dip their fingers.

P.S. gardeners say that the second week of July is the best week for lots of pruning jobs, including rose bushes.



Bush Rose prior to pruning.

The same tree with pruning completed.