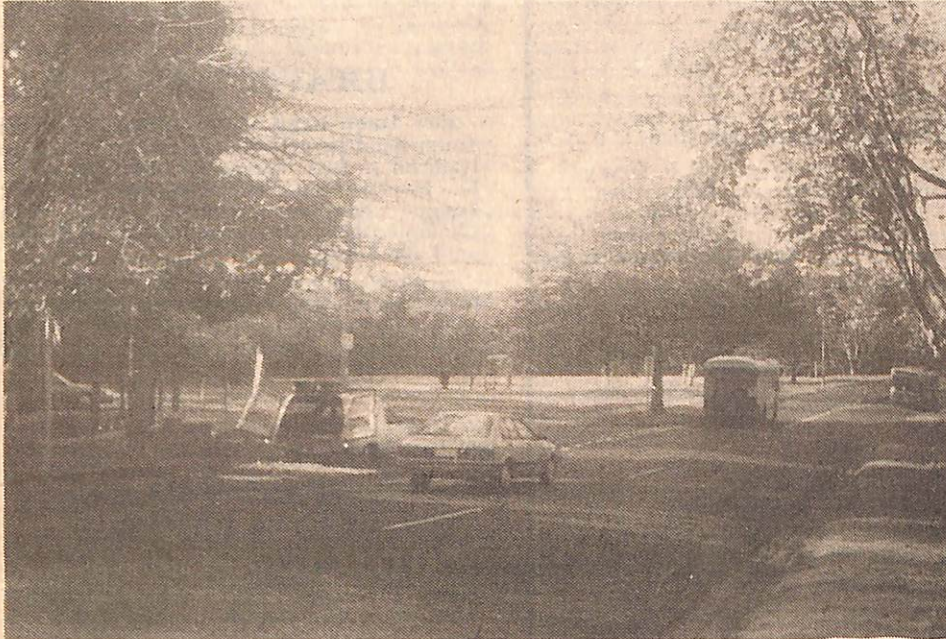


KEW RIOSITY

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

JUNE 1991



RE LOCATIONS

The City of Kew is discussing with the North Kew Tennis Club and the Disraeli Street scout group the possible re-development of their facilities. The two groups have agreed in principle to move to a new site on Council owned land on the Willsmere Road — Kellett Grove corner.

The re-development is possible because the City of Kew bought a small parcel of private land on that site last year. The purchase enables the Council to provide a new site for improved facilities for the Scouts in the form of a Scout hall, as well as a tennis pavilion for the re-located tennis club.

The next stage is the development of concept plans for consideration by the groups involved. These plans will be used as a basis for community comment prior to the Council proceeding further with the project. If the development proceeds, the Council would regain control of its existing scout and tennis facilities in Grandview Terrace and Disraeli Street, and would then sell those pieces of land for residential use in order to pay for the new development.

Kew's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Malcolm Hutchinson, points to "better facilities for the tennis club and scout group, at no extra cost, through selling these sites and building on the new one". In addition, the current maintenance problems of the now rundown scout and tennis facilities would be solved.

Cr Tom Indovino, who has long been associated with the North Kew Tennis Club, supports the proposal because: "it will provide, at no cost to the community, better facilities for the Scouts and Tennis club, together with benefits to local residents."

NORTH'S REPLACEMENT KINDER

— from Kew Pre-school Association.

The decision by the Uniting Church not to renew the lease for the North Kew kindergarten located in the Pakington Street Church premises, has brought an urgency to the matter of planning for pre-school facilities in Kew. The Kew Pre-School Association, which is an affiliation of all the kindergarten and playgroup committees, unanimously agreed that five kindergartens should be maintained in Kew.

The reasons for this are: Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for persons aged 0 to 4 in the City of Kew show that since 1988, Kew is experiencing an increase of 5% in numbers of children in this age group; the growing demand by parents for three year old kindergartens, and subsequently four year old kindergartens; a determination to maintain high quality pre-school education in Kew; and the strong demand by parents for a kindergarten to be located strategically, forming as it does a major community focus.

Kew Pre-School Association has established a special task force to identify a suitable site for the North Kew kindergarten replacement facility and all kindergarten committees are looking at ways that they can assist in the speedy resolution of the matter.

The closing dates for enrolments are: four year old extended hours, 20 June; four year old sessional, 22 July; and three year old sessional, 2 August.

KINDERS — WHAT TO DO?

The decision by the City of Kew about the number and location of future kindergartens in Kew will be taken in mid-June. The problem facing the Council is the cost of purchasing a fifth kindergarten building, at a time of decreasing enrolments. At present, the Council run kindergartens in Kew have 201 enrolments, shared by nine sessions in five separate kindergartens, one of which is in a leased building; the Council will lose the right to use this site, because it is to be sold by its owners, the Uniting Church.

The 201 enrolments is barely enough to attract the nine sessions of State Government subsidies. The potential added cost burden which has come with the announcement by the Uniting Church that it will be selling its Pakington Street premises at the end of the year is requiring the Council to make a decision on how — or if — a kindergarten can be provided to serve the north Kew area.

The Council either has to find the money to buy or build a new kindergarten, or sell one of its own kindergartens in order to pay for the purchase of the Pakington Street site — or alternatively it would need to build a new kindergarten. The other alternative is to accept that it will lose Pakington Street kindergarten and have no kindergarten at all to serve north Kew.

When asked why Council would have to sell one of its existing kindergartens in order to provide a kindergarten in north Kew, Kew's Chief Executive, Malcolm Hutchinson said that "with the loan borrowing limitations put on Councils by the Loan Grants Council, to purchase Pakington Street or build a new kindergarten could have drastic effects on Council's budget".

JUNCTION TRAFFIC STUDY

Kew Council will be engaging consultants to undertake a traffic and parking study in the Kew Junction, to assist in the development of the Kew Junction Strategy.

The purpose of the study is to understand how the area currently operates with regard to traffic flow, circulation, parking capacities and parking restrictions. Opportunities for improvements and changes will be identified and considered by the Council in conjunction with completion of the Strategy.

Meanwhile, the Board of Works is poised to begin works on a drain re-building which may disrupt traffic in Barkers Road.

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE

- 8** 8.15 pm — Trio Nova Concert, 552 Burke Rd. Ph: 807 0184
- 9** pm — "Fantasia" film, Trak Cinema, to aid 3 MBS. Ph: 816 9355.
- 10** 70th Birthday of Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.
Queen's Birthday Holiday
- 11** 7.30 pm — G 64 Neighbourhood Watch meeting, Kew Civic Centre.
(Room 3)
7.30 pm — Kew Council Committee meeting.
- 12** 8 pm — Kew Historical Society, members' night, Civic Centre (Room 3).
8 pm — M.S.O. Concert "It's Delovely", Melb. Town Hall.
- 13** 8 pm — Kew Garden Club meeting, Senior Cits. Centre. Guest Speaker
Brian Johnstone: "Miniature Roses".
9.30-11 am — Pakington St Kindergarten Open Day.
- 14** 150th Anniversary of First Canadian Parliament.
Until June 29, "I ought to be in pictures," play, Malvern Theatre.
- 15** St. Anthony's family service, Footscray Reunion, Ph: 689 4799.
7.30 pm — Trivia at Holy Trinity Church. Ph: 817 4889
- 18** Noon — Nursing Mothers' Lunch, Ph: 853 7821.
7.30 pm — Kew Council Committee Meeting.
- 19** 10.30 am — Kew Arthritis Self Help Group, Civic Centre, with topic
"School Memories" and Morning Tea. Ph: 862 2021.
11.30 am — Community House Lunch, plus speaker. ph: 862 3126.
- 20** 9.30 am-noon — Davis St., Kindergarten open day. Ph: 817 4619.
- 21** Winter Solstice.
- 23** Kew Youth Band competes in championships, Box Hill T.H.
- 24** Birth of St. John the Baptist.
- 25** 7.30 pm — Kew Council Committee Meeting.
- 28** 500th Anniversary of birth of King Henry VIII
2-6 pm — Heritage Advisory Service, ph: 860 5271.
- 30** End of Financial Year (Thank goodness!)
2.30 pm — Concert (Music Soc. of Vic) Melbourne Grammar School.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

- June 11 Special Committees. 7.30pm
June 18 General Purpose Committee
7.30pm
June 25 General Purposes Committee
7.30pm

Nominations for residents interested in standing for Council close on 10th July, at 4pm. Further information is available by telephoning 862 2466.

BRAVO, BAND!

Kew Youth Band will be competing at the Youth Band championships, at Box Hill Town Hall, on 23 June. Meanwhile, members of the Kew Band performed well at the Victorian Bands' League Diamond Jubilee State Solo Championships, held at the Kew Music Centre, on 4 and 5 May.

In the championships, Ian Cooper and Jack Kelly won in open sections, Malcolm Callinan and Laszlo Szety gained places in junior sections, while Tania and Donovan Cornelius won awards in the juvenile section.

WORLD'S BEST ANIMATION

To help in the financing of the 3 MBS record library, at the studio's Kew headquarters, a special screening of Walt Disney's "Fantasia" film has been organised. The location for the Sunday afternoon screening, on 9 June, is the Trak cinema, in Toorak Village. The price of \$15 for adults and \$12 for children includes a chicken and champagne supper. Meanwhile, Kew's own radio station is keen to attract new subscribers. For \$50, residents receive the detailed programme notes within the monthly 'Libretto' magazine, along with eligibility for numerous discounts at various retail outlets, and other interesting benefits. The phone number for enquiries is 816 9355 during office hours.

Finally, the 1990 3 MBS FM performer of the year, cellist Liwei Qin, will be part of a concert hosted by the Music Society of Victoria. Other players at the concert, on 30 June, at 2.30 pm, will be Catriona Gilsenen, piano; Mark Shiell, flute; Phillipa Grummet, soprano; and Liane Keegan, mezzo-soprano. The location for the concert is the Memorial Hall, at Melbourne Grammar School, in Domain Road, South Yarra, and the cost is \$2 for members, and \$5 for non-members.

TRAVELLING FRIENDS

St Anthony's Family Service, Footscray, will be holding a special Reunion Celebration on 15th June 1991, and it wants to reach out to as many friends as possible, including benefactors, past residents, donors, suppliers, staff and families.

If residents have had any association with St Anthony's Children's Home in Kew (1922-1976), or with St Anthony's in Footscray (1976 to the present), they could contact the organisers, on telephone 689 4799.

Commentary

Although to most of the community it would appear that Council only starts to think about its next year's budget in September or October, because that is the time when the local media commences to report on the subject, in fact the process really starts in February each year. The City of Kew, like some other Councils, now takes the further step of attempting to set out a 3 year financial program or plan. That doesn't mean that everything is locked in for those 3 years and that aspects like price rises or unexpected losses of government grants do not have an effect on the final result. There is always the inevitable urgent works or unexpected turns in the economy or unanticipated needs which have to have an input.

What it does mean is that Council seeks to determine its priorities and strategies for meeting those priorities in advance over a three year period.

The allocation of funds for those priorities are generally, although not always, approached through nominating bulk amounts and then determining the actual breakdown of those amounts to specific works closer to determining the actual relevant year's budget.

Why a 3 year time frame? Each Councillor is elected for a 3 year term and thus consistency with the strategy is provided with some basis.

The Council's budget is largely separated into two major categories, being operational and capital works. In broad terms, the operational component of the budget seeks to maintain the assets we have in place, together with the services provided. The capital works component seeks to improve or add to the community's assets.

The City of Kew undertakes all of its construction works through contracting out those works. The staff that the City employs maintain the City's infrastructure and provide the services required by our community. Therefore, the area of greatest flexibility in Council's budget is the capital works area, which to a large extent, is funded by loans. The reason that Councils take out loans to undertake capital works is that the cost of those works is spread over several generations of rate payers. The alternative would be to increase rates each time something new is provided, which would penalise the current rate payers rather than sharing the cost with future users of the assets.

Flexibility in Council's operational budget is only achieved by reducing or adding to service levels and by operating more efficiently.

The level of efficiency for Council has been continually improved over the past few years and service areas altered, with a resultant reduction in the number of staff employed by the City over that time.

Council this year, faces a new set of factors brought about by the current state of the economy. All Councils are limited by the Loans Council, as to the amount that they can borrow, being \$1 million dollars in 1990/91. It is anticipated that this amount will be reduced again this year, having been reduced from 2 million dollars in 1989/90.

Because Council does contract out all its construction works, currently it is possible to obtain low prices for the provision of those works due to the state of the economy. Additionally because interest rates are low it is possible to



obtain loans at a reasonable rate. What Council must consider this year in forming its budget and determining its level of borrowings, is whether to take advantage of that situation and additionally, in effect, act as a local economic stimulator. The alternative is that Council should seek to restrict its spending as much as possible in order to reflect the general approach of the community at this time.

These are the types of considerations which can amend a forward financial plan.

What is important from all of this, is that now is the time to be talking to your Councillors on this subject, because by the time that the local media starts to publicise the setting of Council's budget, the process is largely concluded.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COLUMN

This is the first of what will be a regular column from me in each edition of Kewriosity. The reason for this column is to provide Kewriosity readers, and in particular our younger and student readers, with information about local government and the management issues confronted by the City of Kew, as the organisation providing services for this community.

Because this is the first column, it is appropriate that an understanding of local government's role and the approach taken by Kew is provided.

The Council is very similar to any other public company in the private sector. That is the ratepayers are the shareholders who elect as their representatives, a board of directors, which in local government terminology are known as councillors. From within the Council, the representatives elect their Chairman of the Board being the Mayor.

The Council employs a Chief Executive to provide advice and to manage its day to day operations and in turn, the Chief Executive employs the required staff within the constraints provided by Council.

The Council as an organisation, is a component of a larger industry, which is the local government industry. As such, it contributes to determining industry policy in exactly the same manner as any other company contributes to its industry. That is, through lobbying governments (both federal and state), and belonging to industry representative groups which set industry standards and participate in determining awards and other industrial type matters, it helps determine the basis of the industry's operation.

For those reasons, effectively employees of councils are not public servants in the normal context, although their duty is to serve the public. In general, the employee's security of tenure is reliant upon the strength or otherwise of their industrial awards and in some cases, such as exists with the City of Kew for the Chief Executive and Directors of Departments, by the terms and conditions of their contracts of employment with the organisation.

The Council, as the board of the directors, has the power to change the organisation's emphasis and strategies at any time, with the effects of those changes being the same as would apply to any private sector organisation.

The profit motivation of the private sector is different in emphasis. However, a profit motivation does exist for local government being to provide the most effective services for the least cost. That is, to provide those services at a level and at a cost which meets with the expectations of its shareholders, being the ratepayers.

The City of Kew has yet another similarity with private sector organisations, being its organisational structure.

Traditionally, local government operated with two main "heads" of its organisation, being the Town Clerk and City Engineer. Approximately twelve years ago, the City of Kew changed to a

corporate structure and in doing so, was one of the first Councils in Australia to do so. Now the "corporate structure" in local government is the most common structure in place. Under this structure there is only one "head" of the organisation, being the Chief Executive. Reporting to the Chief Executive are four major departments, each headed by a department director, being the Director of Community Services, Corporate Services, Engineering Services and Planning and Development.

The departments are responsible for the following:

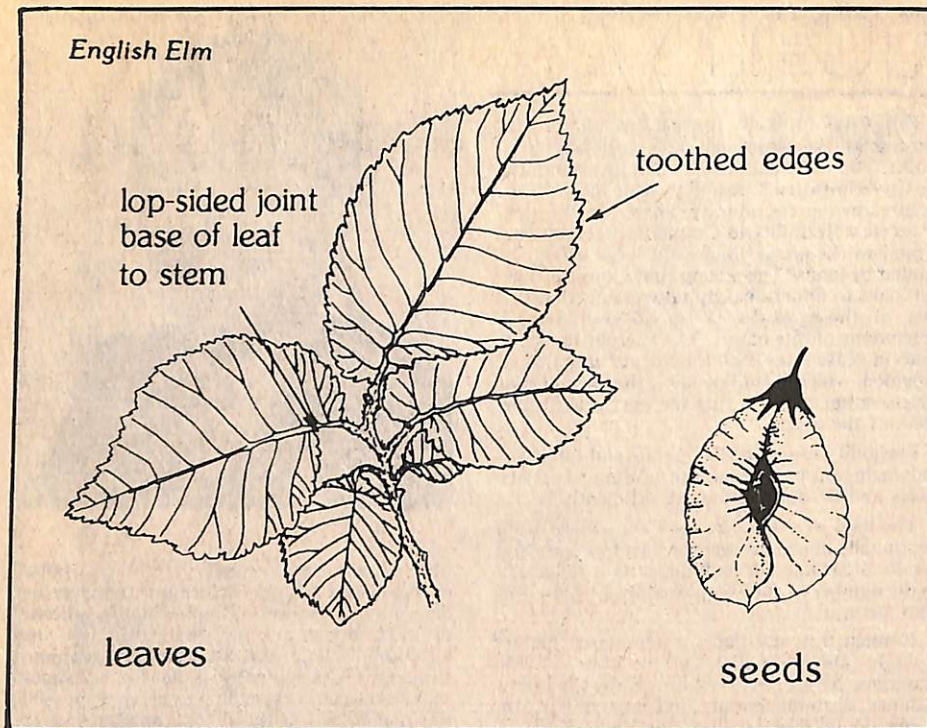
Community Services: Home Help, Meals on Wheels, Kindergartens, Aged Persons Hostel, Maternal and Child Health Centres, Community Bus, Library, Recreation Centre, Sports Grounds and many other children's, youth and aged persons' community services.

Corporate Services: All areas of Finance (including rates and valuations), Payroll, Administration, Personnel and Records.

Engineering Services: All maintenance works on roads, streets, footpaths and drainage, Parks and Gardens, Rubbish Collection and Disposal and Traffic Management.

Planning and Development: Health Services, including inspection and immunisation, Town Planning, Strategic Planning, Building Control, regulation of Local Laws and regulation of parking arrangements.

For these reasons therefore, local government is an industry which really falls somewhere between the private and public sector. A limitation for local government however, is the restriction of local government units from engaging in "take-overs" of other units or expanding their customer base. That however is another topic, which I will attempt to cover in the next edition of Kewriosity.



BEAT THE BEETLE

With the emergence of Spring soon, residents are advised by the Victorian Department of Agriculture to watch for signs of elm leaf beetle. This most immediate threat to Kew's numerous elm trees can be spotted soon after the tree's leaves emerge in Spring; at this time, the beetles come out of hibernation.

Residents are advised by the Department not to take any part of the tree out of the immediate area, if the beetle seems present. A small sample of possibly affected material should be taken in a sealed plastic bag to the Kew Council's Parks and Gardens section for examination. A free kit is available, to assist the beginning of a control programme, once the presence of the beetle has been established.

The most common variety of elm tree in Melbourne is the English Elm. This has been producing magical displays of autumn along Alexandra Avenue, Batman Avenue, Royal Parade and St Kilda Road over the previous month. Also common locally is the Golden Elm, and Chinese Elm. All the 20 different types of elm trees are being threatened by the elm leaf beetle, elm bark beetle, and, most dangerous of all, the Dutch elm disease. Much of the charm of leafy Melbourne would be lost if the elms disappeared, as they have in Britain and most of the northern hemisphere.

So, residents are being urged to keep their trees healthy, as a first line of defence. They should water the tree during summer, adding mulch over the roots. Dead or dying wood should be pruned, and destroyed on the spot. To be avoided is damage to the roots, and the compaction of the soil over the root areas; they need high soil aeration.

Other authorities are pointing to wider problems, like the possible vulnerability of other wide leaf trees to disease such as Dutch elm disease, and the general weakening of the air environment of elm trees by a potent mixture of pollutants in the atmosphere. Some people are even gazing far ahead, to select possible replacement of elms by such alternatives as Jacaranda and Peppercorns.

ONE ELECTORATE: SIX WINNERS!

While the City of Kew joins the other 209 municipalities in Victoria in preparing for its annual elections of Councillors in August, the radically different Hare Clark electoral system is being adopted by local government in Tasmania.

The Hare Clark system, which originated in Tasmania, is used in choosing the House of Assembly of the Tasmanian State Parliament. Instead of one candidate being chosen for each electorate, five are chosen by a system of pre-arranged quotas, and re-counting of votes. So, the thirty-five members of Parliament come from only seven large electorates, each contributing five successful candidates.

Wynyard was the first local government area in the world to use the system to choose its Councillors. And now, on the other side of Tasmania, the municipality of Kingborough has taken the plunge. The old system of three "wards", each contributing three Councillors, was replaced in March by a collective election within a single electorate.

Explains Kingborough's Municipal Manager, Mr David Lovell: "A total of thirteen nominations were received for the six vacant positions. Four of the vacancies were for three year terms, one for two years and one for one year. The first four candidates to be elected obtained a quota following the count of the primary votes. A further 130 counts were necessary to elect the two remaining Councillors and to decide who would fill the two and one year terms".

Mr Lovell described the count as a "very time consuming exercise". But he added: "All persons participating in the count however found it to be an interesting experience. It was also recognised that it was a very fair method of counting for an election where multiple vacancies were to be filled".

He admitted that he considered the Hare Clark system was "almost impossible to understand fully and come to grips with without first being involved in an actual count".

HERITAGE PLANNING

Work has been undertaken to finalise the proposed Heritage Residential Zone which will place controls over six designated areas in the Municipality, and 21 individual buildings of significance which are located outside the areas.

The Council decided to adopt the Heritage Residential Zone and individual building controls in April 1991, after many years of work to develop an innovative approach to conservation controls which was acceptable to the community.

The amendment has now been forwarded to the Minister for Planning and Housing for approval.

VALE — ALLAN HUTCHINSON J.P. 1938-1991

The many friends and acquaintances throughout the City of Kew were greatly saddened to learn of Allan Hutchinson's recent death. Allan was a tireless worker for many Kew based organisations, in particular the Kew Cottages and the Council. He was Mayor of the City of Kew from 1975 to 1976 and a Councillor from 1968 to 1979. As Mayor and Councillor, he provided outstanding service and dedication to this community, often at great personal sacrifice. After leaving the Council, he continued his interest in Council and was a regular correspondent.

Over the last few months, he wrote a column for Kewriosity, in which he sought to stimulate community debate and input to ideas about the way this community operates. His first column was about the Willsmere Development and his second, published posthumously, about the use of the Council Chamber.

Allan had proposed that over the next six months he would write columns about "the Yarra Bend Trust, Tradition, Triennial Elections for Council, Transfer Stations for Rubbish, Traffic Management — Calming and Maintenance versus Disintegration". From this list it can be seen that Allan had views on a range of subjects.

A memorial service for Allan was held at the Holy Trinity Church in Kew on Wednesday, 1st May. An estimated 400 people attended that service, representing his family, friends, work colleagues and many organisations with which he was associated. For many years, Allan operated a wholesale jewellery outlet in the Willsmere Shopping Centre.

He was a man who never did things by halves. If he believed in a cause he would do everything in his power to see that cause come to fruition. If even it is for that reason and no other reason, he will always be remembered as a man who made a great contribution to this community and an identity of Kew who will be sadly missed.

KEWRIOSITY LIVES ON

As a result of the positive response to "Kewriosity" received from the written and phone surveys, the publication will continue on a monthly basis. The Council has employed a full-time public relations officer, to replace Olwyn Eaton; the duties of the re-designed position have been expanded. So, the next edition of your community magazine will see a bright new face at the helm!



NAPPIES IN WALPOLE STREET

The latest community facility in Kew has opened. A baby change room was opened in Walpole Street, opposite Safeway supermarket, on 8 May by the Lady Mayoress, Patricia Oldaker. Re-opened also last month was the Cotham Road children's traffic school.

ST. GEORGE'S NOT DRAGG'N ITS FEET

Kew's local hospital, St. George's in Cotham Road, received a visit from the State Minister for Health, the Hon. Maureen Lyster, on 20 May. The occasion was the presentation of the Three Year Accreditation Certificate to the hospital. Also witnessing the important event in the life of the hospital were the hospital board; staff of the hospital and various dignitaries.

The Accreditation Certificate was awarded to St. George's by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards, as a result of a survey conducted by the Council late last year. The survey considered all aspects of the hospital's operations and service to its patients; accreditation is only possible when a hospital measures up to the highest level of performance in every category of the survey. Such organisation as the handling of documents; safety of drugs; use of fire escapes; provision of food, and even the identification badges worn by the staff was considered.

The accreditation of the hospital, which is a voluntary process, contributes much to its reputation, as well as its own self esteem.

GET A DOG . . .

A study of heart disease at the Baker Medical Institute, Alfred Hospital, released findings on 15 May that showed that pets had a beneficial effect on people — even to the point of reducing their risk of heart failure. It is one of the most interesting of several new studies to point towards ways of preventing heart disease.

The National Heart Foundation points to the importance of daily exercise, even if only half an hour's walking; of a diet featuring more fresh fruit and vegetables, legumes and cereals; and of avoiding tobacco products. Now, as you walk along munching an apple, you can add a dog on the end of a leash to the scenario.

The Council's Chief Health Surveyor, Mr Mauro Bolin, has urged residents to adopt a healthy lifestyle — and a pet — to enjoy life to the fullest. "This does not mean that you have to follow rigidly a strict set of guidelines", he comments. "Just be aware of the main healthy lifestyle points!"

. . . BUT REGISTER IT

Officers of the City of Kew will be looking around the municipality in an attempt to locate unregistered dogs. The Council's Superintendent of Traffic and By Laws Mr Paul White, is concerned that many dog owners are not registering their pets. Under new State Government legislation, residents who keep unregistered dogs may be fined a heart-stopping \$200 fine per dog, or they may be prosecuted. Queries can be made to Mr White, on telephone 862 2466.

SISTERS KICK UP HEELS

One of the major highlights of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the work of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in Kew will be a bush dance. The dance will be held at St Bede's Hall, Severn St, North Balwyn, on 26th July, starting at 8pm. 'Bushwahzee' band will be featured, and cost will be \$5 per head and \$20 per family.

A range of other activities are also planned, including special thanksgiving masses at St Joachim's and St Anne's on 21 July, and St Bede's on 28 July. A programme of interesting talks has been organised, most to be presented at St Anne's Convent, 51 Strathalbyn St., East Kew. Fr Geoffrey James S.J. will speak on the topic of "God Questions for Today"; Sr Madeline Barlow will talk about "Our Missionary Vocation"; Fr Frank Moloney SDB has chosen the topic of "Mission in the Gospel of St John"; Fr Frank Anderson will host "An Evening of Music for Prayer and Reflection", while at St Bede's Parish Hall Fr Peter Malone MSC will be delving into "Choosing the Right Video". All the talks will be held in July, and information about booking tickets is available from St Anne's Convent, on telephone 859 2440.

In 1941, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions were invited by the parish priest, Fr Considine, to come to East Kew, to open a secondary school. The sisters took up residence in Windella Ave., and commenced a period of service teaching at primary level, 41 years at St Anne's East Kew, and 35 years at St Bede's, North Balwyn. Their work in the East Kew parish still continues.

The missionary order dates back to 1861, when it began in France. The present sisters are especially keen to invite all past and present parishioners of St Anne's East Kew, and St Bede's North Balwyn; and past and present pupils and parents of the parish schools, to the celebrations.





DAVIS STREET'S OPEN DAY

Kew local community kindergartens, provide children and their parents, the ideal way to form their local friendships and support networks. From the kindergarten's friendly environment, the transition to local schools is made much easier when children have a number of familiar faces surrounding them.

Davis Street Kindergarten, besides having excellent teachers and facilities, offers this continuity from kindergarten to school to the community. It has an extended hours programme; two 4 year old sessions and one 3 year old session.

The kindergarten will have an Open Day on Thursday June 20, from 9.30 a.m. — 12 noon at the kindergarten, 40 Davis Street, Kew.

For further information about this day, residents can contact Helen Kostos, on 817 4619.

BABY, LOOK AT US NOW!

Kew's "3s and 4s" kindergarten has become something of a family institution. On many occasions in the 13 year history of the pre-school and child care centre, up to three to four members of the same family have enjoyed the homely High Street facilities.

Pictured is the O'Sullivan family Jamie and Sarah (twins), Emily and Eliza. Each child, in turn, has graduated from 3s and 4s.

Mrs Holly Fletcher and her staff are often pleased to welcome as pre-schoolers, children they have known as babies. At this time of the year, when enrolments are being accepted for 1992, many familiar names can once again be seen. No doubt these children will follow their brothers and sisters in enjoying the same activities and atmosphere. Enquiries about the centre can be made on telephone number 853 5806.

SCOUTS HOST CHERNOBYL CHILDREN

One of the local scout groups, Fourth Kew, played host to six young Soviet children, and their interpreter, for four weeks in April.

All of the visiting children had been affected by radiation from the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor Disaster, and came from orphanages in Kiev. Their visit was part of a joint venture between the Scout Association, UNESCO, and the Soviet Children's Fund.

The children stayed with scouting families in East Kew and had a month of fun, friendship, and fresh uncontaminated air and food.

They had an active time with their itinerary covering everything from going to the opera to the football, from visiting school to spending a week at scout camp, and from gold panning to playing computer games. Canoeing, bike riding, and eating bananas were their favourite activities!

Many local schools, businesses, and service clubs helped the scouts with the programme, which brought some joy into these children's lives and provided an unforgettable opportunity for a number of young Kew scouts.



NEW THREESOME

The third Saturday Evening Concert of 1991 for the Camberwell Music Society will be given by Trio Nova — Clare Clements, Piano, Susan Pierotti, Violin, and Sarah Cuming, Cello.

Formed in 1986, this young Group has quickly established a reputation for its performance of standard and lesser-known works.

In their programme on June 8th, 8.15 p.m. at St. John's Hall, 552 Burke Road, Camberwell Junction, Trio Nova will play the Eight Pieces for Piano Trio by Max Bruch, Trio in D Major, Op.70 No. 1 by Beethoven, known as "The Ghost" Trio and the much loved "Dumky" Trio by Dvorak.

In 1989 Trio Nova participated in the International Musicians Seminar in the United Kingdom, working with Andras Schiff, Ralph Kirshbaum and Steven Isserlis.

Trio Nova recently performed at Music in the Round, Melbourne's leading Chamber Music Festival and the Society looks forward with pleasure to their forthcoming concert.

Tickets are \$14.00 at the door, with Concessions at \$8.00.

A GOOD GET-TOGETHER

Every Wednesday, a "drop-in and community lunch" at Kew's Community House provides an opportunity for residents to get together and share their skills. Some of the members of the group have such creative talents as singing, song writing, guitar playing, crafts and cooking. Responsibilities for the organising of the lunch are shared between members of the group, and residents can "drop-in" anytime between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The donation is \$2.

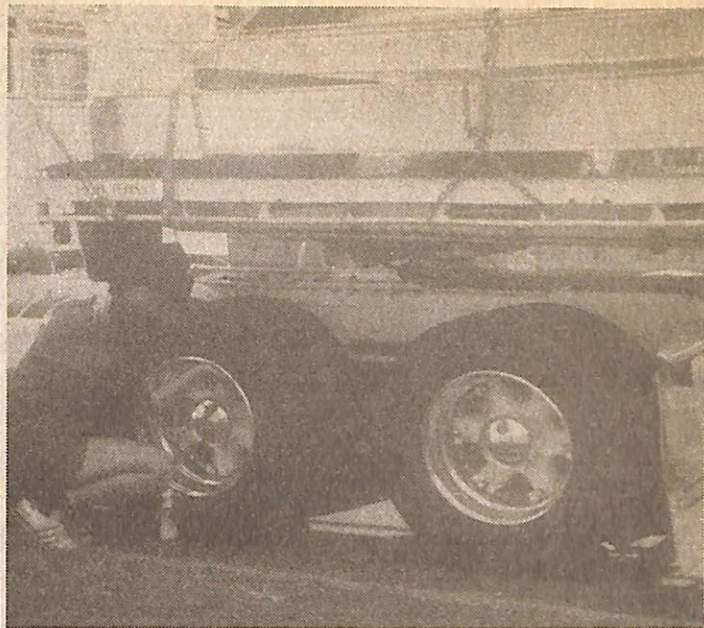
Once a month, the meeting is devoted to a "Know Your Community" session. Speakers this year so far have come from Amnesty International; Kew Penguin Club; Community Police and the Kew Municipal Library. The next monthly session, on 19 June, at 11.30 a.m., will feature the subject of homelessness in Melbourne. The phone number is 862 3126.

A CERTAIN TIMBRE

Five old trees toppled at Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens, in Kew's namesake, have been shaped into new life. The trees fell down in the big wind storm which hit Britain in 1987.

Devon furniture designer, David Applegate, turned them into ten commemorative benches, which were all sold by Southey's to provide money for work in the Gardens. The different trees provided a variety of varying grains for Mr Applegate to work with. The 75 foot tall tulip tree that grew near the Palm House yielded light, fine grained timber. Its colour contrasts with the red grained benches made from a toppled Roble beech tree. The other trees were a 60 foot high acer platanoides, formerly located in front of Kew's Temperate House, and two white ash trees.

Meanwhile, collectors are already hoarding a set of 20 pence, 34 pence, and 37 pence stamps that were released by the Britain Post Office to mark the 150th anniversary of Kew Gardens, last year.



PRIDE ON WHEELS

The truck driver pulling his load through Kew had good reason to be proud. As he shined the rig's wheels, the large load glittered even more. The already shaped toughened steel stairway was on its way to a neat fitting at the Melbourne Central shopping complex. The large department store, in La Trobe St, is due to open in several months time.

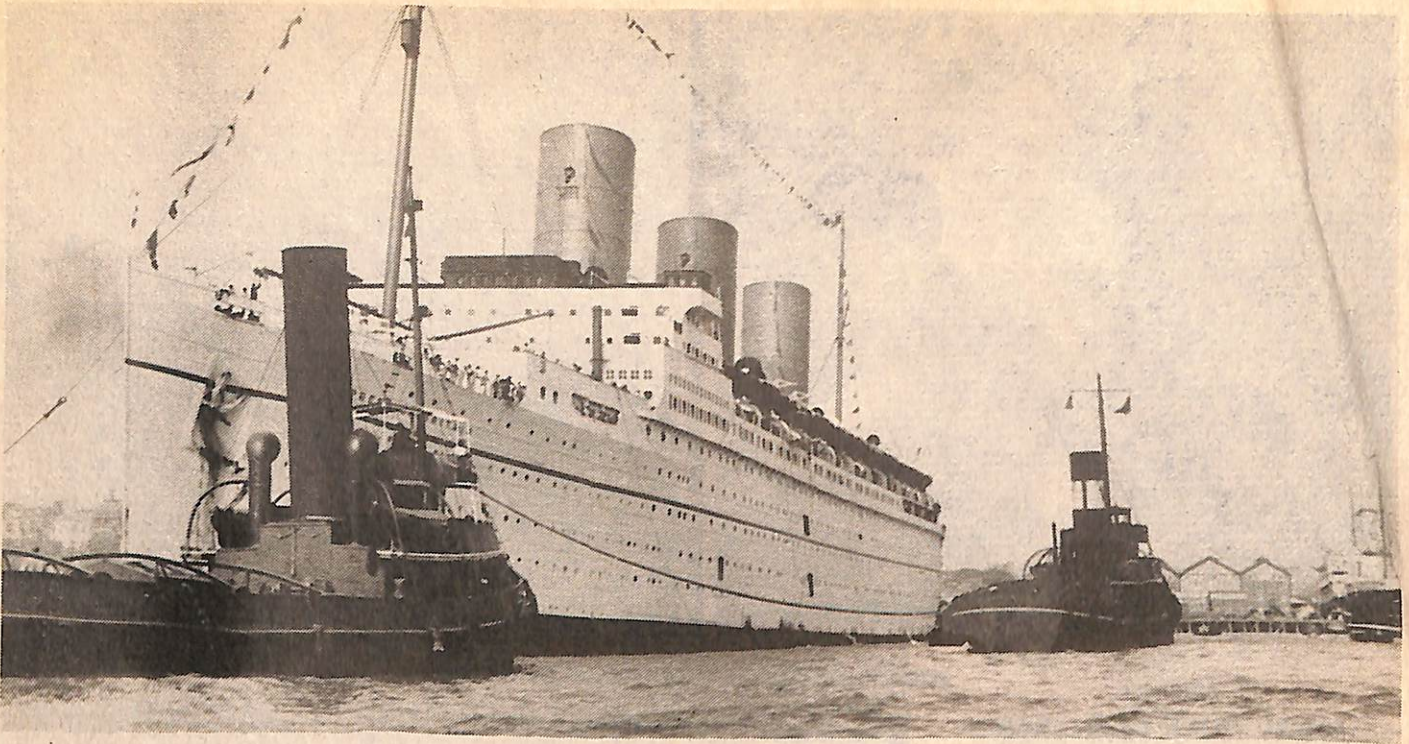
KEEPING HOME FIRES BURNING

A local landmark has just passed its fiftieth birthday. Dunning's wood yard, with its giant pile of split wood dominating the horizon at Harp Junction, has been operated by the same family — at the same site — since November 1940.

At a time when every open fire place was actually used for its purpose of warming a house in winter-time Melbourne, the father and son combination ran a chain of local wood yards. The other operations were located on the Edgevale Road-Wellington Street corner, and on a site between Bowen Street and Bell Street, just over the border into Hawthorn.

The junction wood yard is a poignant reminder of Kew's past. It straddles the remains of an iron bridge over the former Outer Circle railway line; the steam trains began operating a passenger service on a line that ran under the Harp junction exactly one hundred years ago, but the 1890's depression halted the Heidelberg to Oakleigh service only two years later, in 1893. In a quaint former S.E.C. sub-station, the trend to electricity has been reversed as the Dunning family uses it to store wood and woodyard equipment. And the machine which relentlessly chops the wood into smaller pieces runs off an elderly petrol motor. Even the "office" harks back to the 1940's with its vinyl floors and spartan fittings.

However, it seems that half of Melbourne throngs to this piece of Kew's smokier, more industrial past, as cars queue up each weekend to load mallee roots by the hundred-weight into their boots. What more powerful image conjures up images of winters in Melbourne in the 1940's and 1950's?



Were you one of the lucky ones who witnessed the berthing of "Empress of Britain"?

1938 DIARISTS

The editor of this month's *Kewriosity*, Nicholas Cree, is seeking out residents who might be able to quote snippets from their 1938 personal diaries. What were they doing on 7th April of that year? He is compiling a book about Melbourne on that day, when an excited city welcomed its largest visitor to date, the 43,000 ton luxury liner "Empress of Britain". Whether the diarist was a visitor to the ship at Station Pier, or merely getting on with the daily routine, the information might be valuable to the project. Mr Cree can be contacted on telephone 819 3380 . . . Oh, and by the way, he wishes to thank all the contributors to *Kewriosity* during 1991. They have made the task of compilation of the magazine a true pleasure!

CAREY PICNIC

On March 15th, the Carey year 12 Committee, gathered in bright sunshine, wearing casual clothes, on the Junior School Oval. A lambada-dancing Easter Bunny handed out chocolate eggs, while the students listened to the melodic sounds of the debut performance of the "Electric Autochthons".

The Picnic Bonanza was a success, with everyone having a particularly enjoyable time. Money raised by the event, was used to start an account for the Committee and \$160 was donated to the Salvation Army.



HENRY VIII BIRTHDAY

What if there had been no King Henry VIII? That's the question being debated by historians as the important 500th anniversary of his birth is marked, this month.

The baby Henry, born in Greenwich, on 28th June 1491, took over the throne of England when he was eighteen years of age. Immediately he placed his vigorous stamp on Britain. It was his dispute with the Pope about his right to divorce that led to a major split between the Roman Catholic Church and Church of England. Henry VIII asserted his leadership of his local church, and an English "Reformation" followed.

Henry asserted his wish over much else in his kingdom. Historian J.R. Green suggested that he was the last true despotic King of England. He says "All the constitutional safeguards of English freedom were swept away. Arbitrary taxation; arbitrary legislation and arbitrary imprisonment were powers claimed without dispute, and unsparingly exercised, by the Crown".

He is well remembered for having his own way with the ladies, too. It was his six wives, and the novel ways of disposing of each in turn, that landed him in the most trouble.

His legacies were enormous: a range of children to different wives, and people still claiming in the 1990's their connection to the royal family through his liaisons; a redesigned Church of England with a new liturgy, Bible and prayer book from the pen of Archbishop Cranmer; a dispersal of land and assets of the dissolved monasteries, amounting to "the biggest land upheaval since the Conquest", according to historian Ivan Roots; the creation of a powerful Oxford University, Royal Navy Warships such as the "Mary Rose", and a tough coastal defense tradition from Hull to Land's End. But often forgotten is his cleverest legacy, his daughter Elizabeth. She became Queen Elizabeth I in 1558, and presided over the golden Shakespearian age.

Australian actor Keith Michell will play the role of Henry VIII in Shakespeare's play of the same name, at a special production at the Chichester Festival Theatre. He acted in the same part, in the BBC Television series about Henry VIII twenty years ago.

WALK THE OUTER CIRCLE

The Victorian division of the Australian Railway Historical Society has produced a booklet describing walks along the disused Outer Circle Railway line, which runs through Kew. The publication, *The Outer Circle Railway — Walking Melbourne's Closed Railways*, looks at interesting features along the 7.2 kilometres of railway alignment between East Camberwell railway station and Fairfield.

The author, Arthur Hill, claims that the walk takes 2½ hours, of which about 1½ hours is spent tramping along high elevations in the northern section of Kew. The book is timely, as the railway opened exactly one hundred years ago! Passenger traffic was carried from March 1891 by a steam engine pulling one or two carriages. In October 1892, this was replaced by a Rowan Steam Motor Car and carriage, which ran until the line's closure in 1893. When the line re-opened in May 1900, it ran only from Riversdale station to Deepdene — near the corner of Burke Road and Whitehorse Road. However, the line was re-built between Deepdene and a goods siding at Normandy Road, East Kew, for goods trains only, in 1925. This last section of railway track closed finally in September 1943.

Much of the old railway line survives, according to the author. He says that the cricket pitch near Maitland Avenue is on the actual alignment of the railway. As well, "It is usually possible to pick out the actual position where the rails were laid. This is shown by the darker green and lusher growth of the grass. The filling placed where the sleepers and ballast were removed has promoted better growth". Part of the High Street bridge over the line can still be seen. The site of Willsmere station is marked by several trees near the centre of the grassed area, adjacent to Earl Street and just before Willsmere Road. Willsmere Road at the top of the rise used to cross the railway by an iron overbridge, according to the author, Mr Hill. He says that the bridge was removed after the second world war, and the railway cutting filled in. One notable bridge on the line that did survive is now used by the Chandler Highway, as it crosses the Yarra River.