

# KEWRIOSITY

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

MAY 1991



## FLYING DOCTORS DESCEND ON KEW

The former hospital at Willmere was the scene of hectic activity on 12 April when actors and crew from Crawford productions used it for a filming set. The ingenious script writers turned the hilltop towered hospital, with its sweeping views across Melbourne, into the Cooper's Crossing Hospital, in outback Australia, for episodes of the "Flying Doctors" television series.

An exterior scene featured an "open day" at the fictitious hospital, ironic since the real backdrop is now firmly closed, fenced and guarded!

## COMPUTERISED COURT OPENS

Parking infringements from most Victorian municipalities, along with speeding tickets, other traffic offences and prosecutions under the Dog Act, will be processed through a new court in East Hawthorn. Opened in March, the Penalty Enforcement by Registration of an Infringement (PERIN) court is located at 683 Burke Road.

The computerised system deals with non-payment of a wide range of infringements. The court had previously operated at Elsternwick, where last year 234,000 cases worth \$16.7 million were dealt with.

## STOP OR GIVE-WAY?

Vic Roads is sponsoring an assessment of all intersections in Kew, to develop new "control guidelines". It wants to improve the safety of the Melbourne wide road system by providing a more consistent set of "give-way" and "stop" signs.

The Council has been asked to examine all of Kew's 460 intersections, except roundabouts, traffic signal controlled intersections and crossings at "state highways".

An agent has been commissioned at a cost of \$6.50 per site, of which Vic Roads is providing a \$5 subsidy. A further \$5 subsidy will be provided towards the cost of each control sign which is changed.

It will be up to the Council to decide whether "give-way" signs should be altered to "stop" signs, or visa versa, in each case. But Vic Roads is insisting that all of Kew's 101 T-intersections carry a "stop" sign; this will require all vehicles on the terminating leg of an intersection to give-way to all vehicles on the approaching road. In locations where a stop sign is not required, a "give-way" sign may only be installed, with Vic Roads approval, where: the major road is classified as an arterial road; site conditions lead to significant numbers of turning drivers failing to give-way; or the traffic volume on the major road exceeds 5,000 vehicles per day.



## COUNCIL SEEKS KINDER REVIEW

The City of Kew has asked the Kew kindergarten community to assist with its considerations regarding the future of kindergarten services in the municipality. The Council has indicated that it is unlikely that Kew will require nine sessions of kindergartens in 1992.

In recent years, the Council run kindergartens have struggled to maintain enrolment levels sufficient to attract the ninth subsidy from the Government. The present number of children attending these sessions is 201, of whom 27 live in other municipalities. Because of these declining enrolments, it is likely that there will be a need for only four kindergartens run by the Council in 1992, down from the existing five.

The Council has asked the community, through the Kew Pre School Association, to help to identify the appropriate locations for the eight sessions in 1992, such being in four kindergartens.

This follows the decision by the Uniting Church not to renew the lease for the kindergarten located in the church's premises in Pakington St beyond the end of this year, therefore reducing the number of kindergarten buildings available in Kew to four.

This consultation process has to be completed by the end of May, so that the Council can make a decision about the allocation of places in 1992.

Parents currently enrolling their children for Council run kindergartens in 1992 will be contacted soon by the Council. Further information can be obtained from local kindergarten teachers.



# DIARY DATES FOR MAY

4

Until 19 — Ian Napier Art Exhibition, Raya Gallery, Cotham Road.  
8.15 — 'Rainmaker' Play, Malvern Theatre. Ph: 889 7417.

5

9 am — Michael Cassidy speaks, St. Hilary's Church. Ph: (02) 906 1252.  
Until 28 — "Our Botanical Heritage" Exhibition, National Herbarium,  
South Yarra. Ph: 650 9424.

7

10 am — Nursing Mothers Coffee. Ph: 853 7821.

8

10.30 am — Baby Changing Room opened, Walpole Street.  
8 pm — Garden Club, Senior Citizens Centre. Ph: 853 7057.

9

Roman Lemuralia Festival.  
Street Stall, High Street, for "Friends of Bodalla".  
Deadline, Kewriosity articles.

11

1.30 pm — Indoor Bowls, East Kew B.C. Ph: 859 8476.

12

350th Anniversary of Execution of Earl of Stafford.

14

10.30-2 pm — Plant Fibre Demonstrations, Plant Cottage, Botanical Gardens.  
11 am — Storytime, Children's Library.  
6.30-7.30 pm — Immunisation, Hall 3, Civic Centre. Ph: 860 5244.  
Kamaz Day, Malawi; Flag Day, Paraguay.

15

9.00-10.30 am — Immunisation, 21 Strathalbyn Street.  
10.30 am — Arthritis Self Help Group, Library Hall. Ph: 862 1409.

18

Edward Berry Art Exhibition begins, Kew Gallery, Cotham Road.  
10 am-3 pm — Trash and Treasure, Glass Street, Kindergarten. Ph: 859 8346.

19

2-5 pm — Friends of Library Book Sale, Library. Ph: 859 6415.  
130th Anniversary of Birth of Dame Nellie Melba.  
11 am-4 pm — Plant Cottage Displays, Botanical Gardens.

20

1.30 pm — Kew Daytime Garden Club, City Hall. Ph: 859 2977.

21

7.30 — General Purposes Committee, Kew Council Chambers.

23

Nursing Mothers' Meeting. Ph: 853 7821.

24

Empire Day (Q.V. Birthday).

26

Red Shield Appeal Doorknock.

27

8 pm — Missions meeting, Baptist Hall, Highbury Gve. Ph: 853 0546.  
60th Anniversary of first person to ascend to stratosphere (Auguste Picard in Balloon).

28

11 am — Pre School Storytime, Children's Library.

29

Noon, Friends of Bodalla Lunch, Uniting Church Hall, Highbury Gve. RSVP  
by 9 May. Ph: 862 1355. Guest speaker, Donald Cameron.  
And 30, 31. 7.30 pm — Trinity School Revue.

## YOUR MARCHING CHAMPIONS

The Kew Band will play in a "community concert" at the old Library building, on 2 June, from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. Tea and biscuits will be provided after this free event, and Kew residents have been invited to enjoy this annual concert.

The Band won the marching championship at the Australian Band Championships in Adelaide over Easter. Ten bands competed in the "A" grade section, and once again friendly rivals Hawthorn and Kew fought it out to take first and second places respectively in the overall points.

Drum Major Michael Mathers had the Band performing spectacular marching evolutions which excited the crowd in the marching championship; obviously the adjudication panel was impressed as well. A second place in the hymn section and third place in the test music were other highlights of the Band's performance. Soloist Jack Kelly achieved second place in the solo section.

The Youth Band is planning to compete in the State Youth Bands Competition later this year. Over 30 Band members rehearse regularly at the Kew Music Centre each Thursday evening.

## WORD OF MOUTH

Imagine a group of small children, sitting in rapt attention, listening to a story or chattering as they make shapes from playdough or paper cut-outs, and you have pre-school storytime, held fortnightly — on Tuesdays — in the Kew Library.

The Library introduced pre-school storytime in September 1986, to provide a free activity for pre-school children. It has proved to be successful, and the good news has carried by word of mouth.

The story time is held in the children's book section, under the supervision of Library staff and the Library Bear. Mothers stay with their children to assist with craft work, and all creations are taken home.

The three and four year olds love listening to stories and doing craft activities related to the narrative. The children are also involved in singing and action rhymes. Parents are asked to bring a smock, to protect children's clothes.

The pre school storytime is 11 to 11.30 am on May 14 and 28, as well as June 11 and 25. A similar storytime for primary school aged children is held every Wednesday from 3.45 to 4.30 pm.

## SOMETHING AIREY

The directors of Kew Gallery, at 46 Cotham Road, are pleased to announce an exhibition of oils and pastels by Edward J. Berry. Mr Berry studied at the National Gallery School of Victoria under Sir William Dargie. He delights in painting trips to the Yarra River valley, and firmly believes in the 'plein air' technique. The exhibition commences on 18 May, at 9.30am, although paintings will also be on view on 17 May, from 10am to 5pm. Further details are available from telephone 853 5181.

## SOMETHING PRE-LOVED

The Glass St kindergarten is conducting a trash 'n treasure sale, on 18 May, between 10am and 3pm. To whet the appetites there are homemade cakes, sizzled sausages, Devonshire tea, and popcorn. Stalls offer pre-loved goods such as books, children's clothes, bric a brac, garden materials, electrical and household items, furniture and plants. Further details are available from telephone 859 8346.



# Commentary

Last month the Council granted approval for the redevelopment of the Willsmere historic building and surrounds. The proposals submitted by Jennings were substantially the same as those in the winning tender selected by the State Government last year. They include a hotel, conference centre, banquet hall, restaurant, lounge bars, gym and sports facilities, together with residential apartments and town houses.

There is no doubt these components will be a major asset to this City, but it should be remembered first as a State Government project. Throughout the process of preparing the site, rezoning and selecting tenderers, Council was only one of several voices making submissions. Over the period since the Kew Mental Hospital was decommissioned, the planning process has been different to normal. It is therefore worth putting Council's role in perspective.

Normally, when a site in an established area is proposed for major redevelopment, there is a developer with a specific proposal. If the site has to be rezoned, there is public scrutiny and independent assessment of the proposal, at least at a concept level. In the Willsmere case, the Government's Major Projects Unit had a range of options in mind when the rezoning was exhibited.

Interested people were therefore not quite sure of the potential impacts which development might bring. At that rezoning stage, it was held by the independent panel that 'the matter of direct road access from the Boulevard should not be a matter for this amendment, but it could be a matter for review in any detailed development proposal of the Historic Zone'.

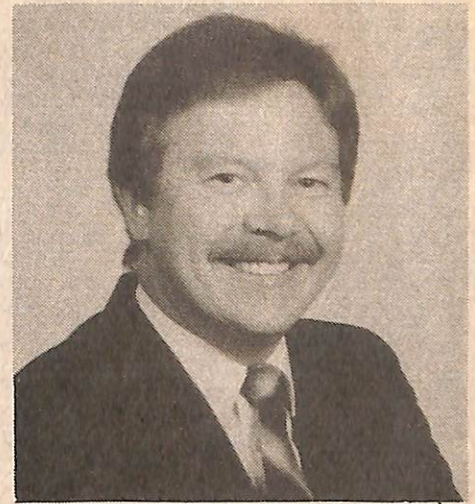
This was exactly what happened when the Jennings proposal was accepted by the State Government. At the time the winning tender was announced, Council had control in its planning scheme over road access from the Boulevard. That is, it could say yes or no to access from that road.

There was also a prohibition in the planning scheme for development within the forecourt area and historic embankment of trees. That prohibition was removed by the Minister for Planning to enable detailed consideration by Council of the conference centre part of the proposal, but Council could still say no if it was not satisfied.

Early this year the Minister intervened again to change the Kew Planning Scheme, so that access to the Boulevard was permitted. Council protested strongly that it should have the right to say no but was overruled by the Minister.

After all those extraordinary procedures, Council was left to its role as a planning authority responsible for approving or refusing the development. From this point normality returned with the advertising of the detailed applications. Plans were displayed in the library and municipal offices, relevant authorities contacted such as VicRoads, and expert advice sought, particularly for traffic and landscaping.

The Council, through its Willsmere Liaison Committee, encouraged the sharing of information and ideas between Jennings and representatives of key groups. It held a public meeting to ensure that all aspects of the proposals were clear to anyone interested.



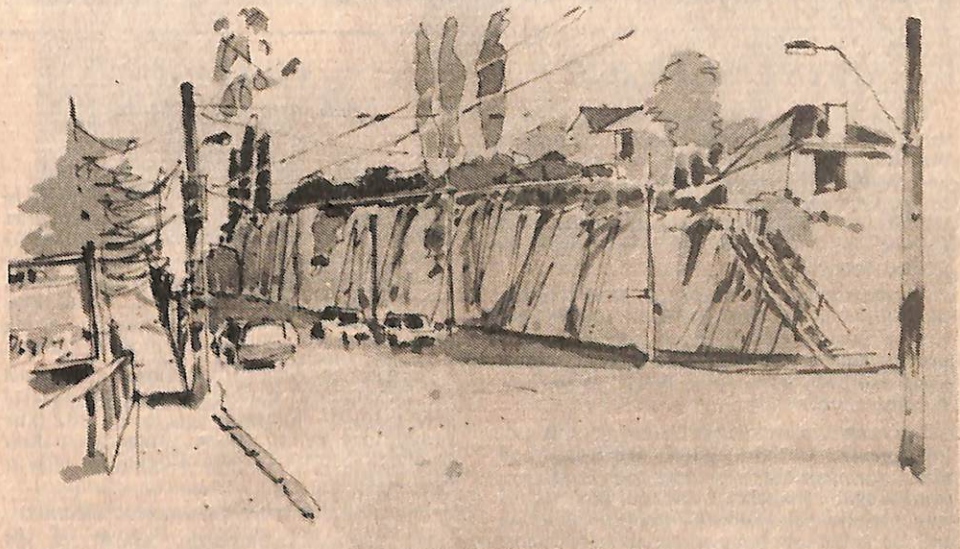
Enormous amounts of time were invested in the last several months by both Councillors and officers in walking the site, explaining, checking and discussing every facet of the proposals. Finally, the Council considered an extensive report and many submissions before coming to its decision.

I am confident the development will be unique to Melbourne and become the pride of Kew as our community takes advantage of the facilities offered. It will result in a substantial boost to Council's rate revenue where none was previously received and for that we can all be thankful.

## TRAFFIC HEADACHES FOR BARKERS ROAD

Major disruption to traffic in Barkers Road, and some of the surrounding streets, is expected this month. The stormwater drain that runs from just west of Edgevale Road to Park Street, Hawthorn, is being upgraded. Recent floods have highlighted its present narrowness, and replacement by the MMBW will last from this month until September. Hawthorn roads that enter Barkers Road, in the area around York Street, will be closed during the rebuilding work. The duration of works in the Barkers Road area are expected to last for four weeks, with a daily working period being from 7am to 4pm. During the working period, two lanes on the south side of Barkers Road will be closed; outside these hours, only the kerbside lane will remain closed, with all the other lanes open to traffic. However, when the drain crosses Barkers Road, two lanes will be closed permanently for a period of a week. Various options for the best ways to maintain traffic flows are being considered.

Kew Council favours an option to shorten the working day, with work starting at 9am instead of 7am; this would reduce the disruption to the morning peak traffic heading towards Melbourne. However, this would extend the works in that area from four weeks to six weeks. The report to the Council from the Engineering Department suggests: "A reduced level of traffic disruption over an extended period (e.g. six weeks) is preferable to significant disruption over a shorter period (e.g. four weeks)". Alternatively, the Council suggests to the MMBW a second option, of maintaining the longer working schedule, and providing one travelling lane in each direction, in Barkers Road. If this option is adopted, Vic Roads will be requested to close



Lofts Ave, Rossfield Ave and Edgevale Rd, at their Barkers Road intersections, periodically, in order to improve safety and traffic flow.

The "drain" was formerly a creek that ran behind properties in Edgevale Road, before crossing Barkers Road, and running behind properties in Hawthorn's York St and Hull St. Only in the 1930's was Hawthorn's northerly section of the creek put underground; market

gardens ran down to both banks of the creek until 1890's subdivisions. Properties in Edgevale Road still experience seepage and other water problems.

Meanwhile, a daily commuter along Barkers Road received a high honour on 23 April.

State member of Parliament for Hawthorn, Phil Gude, was elected Deputy leader of the Liberal Party.





## LOYAL SERVICE

When Tom Gascoyne started employment at the City of Kew's Works section, on 17th September 1956, television had not quite started, and Melbourne was sprucing itself for the start of the Olympic Games. The MMTB had just built its last "W" class trams, and Australia was still not linked to the outside world with a jet airliner service!

Mr Gascoyne, who retired on 22 March, has seen all the changes in Melbourne, and in Kew. During most of his 34½ years at Kew, he was a garbage collector. He has lived in Studley Park Road and been a champion bowler at the Kew Bowling Club.

His workmates noted Mr Gascoyne's soft spot for animals. On his regular Wednesday and Friday runs past Hay's Paddock, he would carry some bread in his truck's side tool box; this he would feed to the paddock's resident horse! As well, he would take bones along, to feed to some of the dogs he regularly encountered.

At a farewell ceremony, the Mayor, Cr D. Oldaker, commented: "Tom typifies the old time Council worker. He has approached his job in a manner for which he could only be congratulated, and he has certainly been a valued and loyal employee to the City of Kew. He is one of life's gentlemen and we at Kew are the richer for having known him".

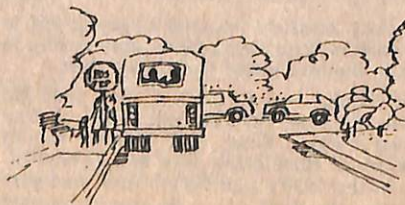
Tom, and his wife Dorothy, are finally severing their connections with Kew, and moving in their retirement to Rye. Behind them they will leave a lifetime of memories of many early mornings in a wakening Kew.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT UPDATE

**Area 7:** Road humps have been constructed in Findon Cres and Carson St. A temporary splitter island is to be installed in Findon Cres, at the Barkers Road intersection. Line marking changes are proposed at the Stevenson St-High St South intersection. It is also proposed to install three T-intersection deviation treatments along Stevenson St for a trial period of three months.

**Area 10:** The Area 10 Committee has finalised its report on a Recommended Traffic Management Scheme for Area 10. The committee's report will be presented to Kew Council's General Purposes Committee at its 21 May meeting.

Interested residents are welcome to address the Council at this meeting. Copies of the committee's report are available for perusal at the municipal Library on the weekend prior to the meeting. Any enquiries can be directed to the Council's Special Projects Engineer, Mr Russell Fairlie, on telephone 860 5232.



## TREES VERSUS POWER LINES

Keeping large street trees away from power lines seems a big job. Indeed, Kew's team of five tree pruners are busy trimming back the branches which are growing too close to the lines.

## CLEANER SHOPPING CENTRES

Kew Council has purchased a new motorised suction footpath sweeper, to clean footpaths in shopping centres.

The sweeper completes its tasks along the footpaths by 7am and is also being used to increase the frequency of sweeping around traffic islands, Council car parks and laneways.

## HARD RUBBISH COLLECTION

Kew's next hard rubbish collection service will be carried out in the middle of June. Residents will be notified, by a letterbox delivery, of the collection date for their street, and of what rubbish may be left out for collection.

This year, the collection will be carried out by a contractor and involve a separate pick up and mulching of garden waste from other rubbish; there will also be a separation of recyclable materials. The whole city will be completed within two weeks of the start of the collection. Further details are available by telephoning 860 5272.

## WILLSMERE DRAIN

Replacement of the old "Willsmere" brick drain has led the Council to use an unusual construction method. In order to avoid disturbing four properties near the corner of Peel St and Willsmere Road, boring equipment is being used. Normally, a simpler open-cut method is used.

A contract of \$70,000 was awarded to contractors, who have begun their work near the kindergarten in Peel St. The extra cost of using boring equipment was more than outweighed by the expense that would have arisen from the reinstatement of gardens and buildings in the affected properties.

## SURVEY OF DUAL OCCUPANCY

Footscray Institute of Technology students are conducting a survey of all dual occupancy developments in Kew. Their aim is to find out who has taken up residence in these developments and how neighbours have adjusted to the changes.

The Council will be able to use the information gained by the survey to help it review residential planning controls.



## HEALTH STALL

The Health Department's stall at the Kew Festival was well patronised. The stall provided information on a broad range of health topics, including diet and dental health, through printed material and audio visual displays. Free sunscreen lotions, fruit and balloons were given out.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH WORKSHOPS

As a result of the success of Kew Council's recent free women's health promotion workshops, more are planned. The principal objective of these workshops was to make available information on health issues of particular concern to women, in an accessible venue.

Topics covered in the April workshops included: nutrition; breast self examination and pap smear tests; and 'Are you the E(verything) type woman?'. Participants made comments such as: "It's great that the Council is able to make available to its residents, free of charge, these much needed women's health information nights".

To assist in planning future workshops, the Council welcomes any suggestions that relate to appropriate workshop content on subjects on which residents would like information. Residents wanting to attend future workshops and having suggestions or queries about them, can contact the Council's Chief Health Surveyor, Mr Mauro Bolin, or Ms Kate Laing, on telephone 862 2466.

## BABY CHANGE ROOM

A baby changing room in Walpole St, opposite Safeway supermarket, will be opened by the Lady Mayoress, Patricia Oldaker, on 8 May, at 10.30am. The room offers changing tables, facilities for baby changing and baby feeding.

The room was built as part of the development on that site in Walpole St and was made possible through a combination of sponsorship from local organisations and the City of Kew. It is located between the Chinese restaurant and the shoe repair shop.

## NURSING MOTHERS' MEETINGS

The Kew group of the Nursing Mothers' Association of Australia is conducting two meetings this month. On 7 May, from 10 am to noon, a morning coffee has been planned, and on 23 May an "introducing solids" meeting will take place. Further information can be obtained from telephone 853 7821.

## STATUS QUO FOR FAMILY DAY CARE

A ruling by the Industrial Relations Commission on 5 April rejected an appeal for Family Day Care workers to be paid and treated as municipal employees. Had the decision gone the other way, the cost of running the scheme in Victoria would have jumped to \$35 million, according to the Municipal Association of Victoria.

Locally, a large jump in costs may have jeopardised the scheme, which is run jointly by the Hawthorn and Kew Councils. Around the State family day care workers look after 11,000 children.



## IMMUNISATION — IMPORTANT

Immunisation is one of the most effective, safe and low cost methods of primary health care available in the world. Over the last two centuries it has been responsible for saving millions of lives and generally preventing the suffering associated with many infectious diseases. Immunisation has a key role in reducing the amount of disease, disability and premature death in the community.

In Australia, immunisation has been so effective that some people have become complacent or sceptical about the need for continuing programmes of immunisation.

It is important to note that the frequency of outbreaks of childhood diseases throughout the community is likely to increase, if immunisation is neglected. *The Bacteria and Viruses which cause these diseases are still around.* In order to remove the threat of childhood diseases, it is essential that the community aims for the highest possible immunisation rates.

*Adult Immunisation* — is of concern as some adults may have missed out on immunisation altogether when they were children. Even if you were fully immunised as a child, you should have

tetanus and diphtheria boosters every ten years. Some people should have regular hepatitis B boosters. If you had salk injections against polio, your protection will have worn off by now. A course of sabin oral vaccine will make protection certain. Mumps can be a painful disease, and it carries a small risk of sterility.

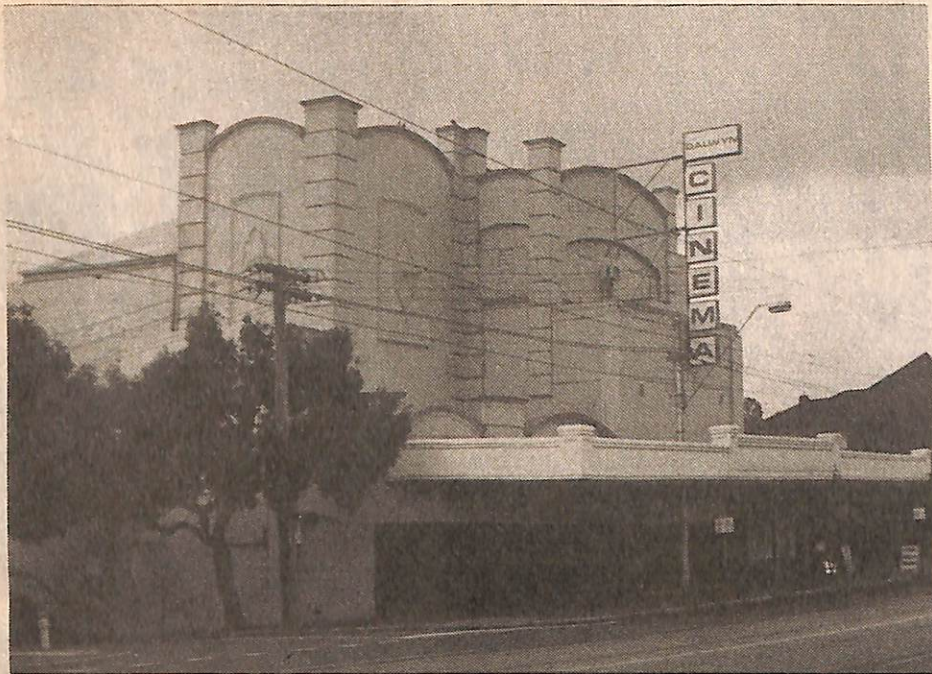
All women of child bearing age should be vaccinated against Rubella, a disease that can have devastating effects on the unborn child. It is important that women are not pregnant or intending to become pregnant when they have this vaccine.

In conclusion, immunisation is not a subject you can afford to overlook. It can be a matter of life and death, or at least one of health or illness.

Immunisation is an individual responsibility, and as thinking adults, you must take this responsibility on board for both yourself and your children.

The immunization sessions will be on May 14, from 6.30 to 7.30pm, at Hall number three at the Kew Civic Centre, and on May 15, from 9am to 10.30am, at the East Kew Maternal and Child Health Centre, 21 Strathalbyn St. Enquiries about these free appointments for immunizations can be arranged by telephoning 860 5244.





## DAYTIME GARDEN

The next meeting of the Kew Daytime Garden Club will be on 20 May, at the rear of the City Hall, Cotham Road, starting at 1.30pm. Residents can telephone 859 2977 for further information.

## LIBRARY FRIENDS' SALE

The "Friends of Kew Library" organisation has resumed the regular book sales, after a summer break. A sale of used books is held in the lobby of the Library, every third Sunday in the month, from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Some of the books on sale have been recycled from "retired" Library stock and others, in significant quantity, are books that have been donated by citizens. All are sorted and priced, so that good quality items can be purchased at bargain prices.

All proceeds from these sales find their way into gifts of materials or equipment for our City Library. With these as the principal revenue source the Friends have, over the past four years, given goods worth about \$12,000 to the Library. Included were \$3600 to start a collection of compact audio discs, \$1300 for a comprehensive Australian map collection, the glass display cabinet in the lobby and several microfiche units in the genealogy section.

The Friends conduct meetings with speakers of interest about eight times per year and have an occasional outing to places of interest in Melbourne. It is a pleasant way to help the Library and at the same time enjoy interesting fresh topics. Membership costs only \$8 per year, with concessions for families, pensioners and students. Enquire at the Library desk, or telephone the Secretary on 859 6415.

## INDOOR BOWLS

Indoor bowls commences on 11 May, at 1.30pm, at the East Kew Bowling Club, 22 Windella Avenue. Beginners are welcome, and fun is assured. Further information is available from telephone 859 8476.

## CHRYSANTHEMUMS, M'AM?

The subject of attention at the next meeting of the Kew Garden Club is 'chrysanthemums'. The date is 8 May, at 8pm, in the Senior Citizens' Centre, in High St. Supper will be served and new members are most welcome. Enquiries can be made to telephone 853 7057.

## HANDY VETERANS SERVICE

The Kew sub-branch of the RSL is again playing host to an interviewing team from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Department, as part of its Outreach Programme, is making visits to RSLs so that local residents can talk to its representatives about problems and queries concerning its area of activity.

The aim of the programme is to provide more easily accessible services to clients who, because of age, illness or distance from transport, are finding it increasingly difficult to make contact with a central administration area.

The next visit to the Kew RSL will be on 11 July, between 1.30 and 4.30pm. Further details are available from the RSL, on telephone 853 7405.

## CRIME WAVE

**In Kew's G64 Neighbourhood Watch area, thefts from cars jumped by 41% from 1989 to 1990. During the same time, residential burglaries rose 17% and the stealing of cars increased 9%.**

In the G97 area, a forthcoming meeting will feature two interesting speakers. To be conducted on 3 June, at 7.30 pm, in St Paul's Anglican church, Windella Avenue, the meeting will enjoy a talk from two well known local identities, about the history of the area. The speakers will be Tony De Clifford, journalist, author and raconteur, and Eric Silby, a relieving station master with the railways.

Meanwhile, spare a thought for a fruit wholesaler in Lincoln, Great Britain. A slippery character stole almost 5,000 bananas from outside his premises. Police appeal (sic) for eyewitnesses to step forward — slowly.

## ALL THIS FOR SIXPENCE

Cinema building enthusiast, John Poulidakis, is looking for any local residents who attended the first screening at the Balwyn cinema, and who were patrons in the early days of the venue. He is searching the history of the local cinema, along with several others around Melbourne.

Says Mr Poulidakis, "This fine art deco cinema was built around 1930".

"The 'Balwyn' was built in the depression years under extreme conditions when money was tight. Mr Edmonds, who already had a circuit of fine cinema houses, was the initial owner. His other cinemas were: the 'Gowerville'; 'Star Preston'; 'Newport Theatre'; and the 'Williamstown Theatre'.

"The builder was a Mr W. McDonald from Burnley, who was also responsible for the design of the structure. The supervisors of this project were Mr G. Apted and Mr Edmonds. The 'New Balwyn' was the first Melbourne suburban theatre to make provision for wide-film in its own proscenium construction. Seating capacity was for 1800 patrons", he says.

Harrington Cinephone talkie gear was installed, and the results on opening night were nothing short of magnificent, according to Mr. Poulidakis. The main movie was called "Innocents of Paris", plus shorts. Talking pictures and all the technologies required for it, had only been introduced in the US two years earlier!

The New Balwyn boasted lovely marble stairs, partitions and paintings, with beautiful carpets. Perhaps residents who saw the first release of such films as "Casablanca", "Gone With the Wind" and "Shane" at the 'New Balwyn' could provide some more information.

Mr Poulidakis can be contacted on telephone 534 1635 (AH).

## POSITIVE FEEDBACK

A telephone survey of 250 Kew residents, run in conjunction with a written survey in the March 'Kewriosity', has revealed that over three quarters of them enjoy a good read of their community magazine. 29% said that they read every article, and almost another 50% read all the "relevant" articles.

Of greatest interest to the telephone respondents were, in order of importance: planning issues; community groups; letter to the editor and achievements of Kew residents.

91% found the magazine easy to read and 88% believed that it should remain a monthly publication. 70% favoured the placing of advertisements in 'Kewriosity' to help defray costs, improve the publicity and provide information about local business.

The only major problem seems to have been the delivery. 25% of the respondents said that they did not receive a regular copy in their letter boxes each month. Residents who have suffered problems of delivery are asked to please telephone the municipal offices, on phone 862 2466.

## ARTHRITIS MEETING

Guest speaker at the next Kew Arthritis Self Help group meeting will be Sally Matthews, from the Royal District Nursing Service. The group will meet on 15 May, at 10.30 am, at the Kew Library Hall. Morning tea will be served, and visitors are welcome. Enquiries can be made to telephone 862 1409.





## SOMETHING FISHY

Local Kew identity, Ian Napier, is having his fifth one person show, at Raya Gallery, 42 Cotham Rd, until 19 May. Most of the oil paintings in this exhibition were painted at Ian's Portsea studio over the summer and autumn months, so they reflect Ian's love of the sea. The paintings are tranquil and softly coloured seascapes, restful to the eye.

Illustrated in the picture, next to Ian, is a small painting which recently was included in a group show with Michael Leunig. The painting's title is Les Poissons.

## COMMUNITY HOUSE COURSES

A variety of interesting courses are being offered this term at the Community House. Topics include: 'Learning how to learn'; 'Second Bite of the Apple' (16 weeks); 'Return to work' (10 week typing course); outdoor sketching (four sessions); astrology and energy management. There will also be the opportunity to learn basic Russian and Japanese.

Many first term classes and social activities are continuing, and newcomers can join existing groups. These include fitness walks; craft and language groups; migrant English and literacy; as well as the popular Wednesday lunches. Occasional childcare is also now available at the House on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Bookings are required.

House Co-ordinator, Cardle Waldron, is pleased that the House is likely to remain at 6 Derby Street, at least in the near future. She says: "After a year of uncertainty we believe that we will not be moved for a few years at least".

She adds that volunteers and residents are always welcome, "as our house could not keep going without them".

## COMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

On 8 May, Trinity Grammar School will be celebrating Japan's 'Boy's Day'. The school will fly Japanese Carps, which "signify strength and determination, and encourage manliness". One of the Carps to be flown was a gift to Sir John Gorton by the Emperor of Japan during the 1960's. Sir John's four grandchildren have all attended Trinity Grammar School and there will be a special ceremony to hoist this Carp. The junior school will be organising other special Japanese activities on the day.

On 25 May, there will be the annual round robin sporting tournament, held at the school ovals at Bulleen. The four schools which compete in soccer, football and hockey, will be Camberwell, Mentone, Yarra Valley and Trinity. Over 90 matches are scheduled for the morning's competition.

On 29, 30 and 31 May, and 1st June, Trinity Grammar's annual school revue will be held. Starting each night at 7.30pm in the school's parents' and friends' hall, the revue is a series of sketches and skits poking fun at many aspects of school life and current events. Songs and scripts have all been written by students at the school. Performed by students from Year 8 to Year 12, and with many hours of rehearsal under the direction of Mr Ken Barrett, the school looks forward to good audiences each night. Some tickets are held at the door for each performance, and local residents would be most welcome to attend.

"Being a volunteer also means the chance to gain some new skills, such as office work, typing, dealing with people, and helping to manage the House as a member of the Management Committee".

The contact phone number is 862 3126.



## CARMALITE MONASTERY RESTORATION

The Church at the Carmelite Monastery, in Stevenson St, has just enjoyed restoration and repairs. The 62 year old building, set into a hillside, has been suffering from the effects of moisture and cracking.

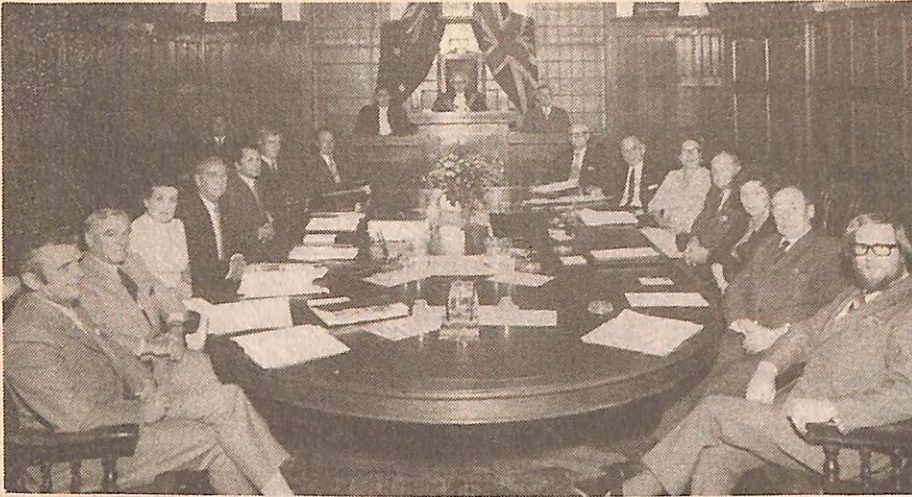
Craftsmen re-set the scagliona, a marble look-alike plaster, all around the walls; as well, cracks were repaired at the same time. In the picture, Sister Mary of Jesus shows the last touches to this repair work — the separation of scagliona from the exterior brick walls, to protect it from movement and cracking.

Newly installed lighting is showing off the previously dimmed altar mosaics, and the freshly painted roof. Also highlighted by the new spot lighting are the life size statues of St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross.

The Carmelite nuns came to Melbourne in 1922 from their first Australian monastery, in Sydney. They spent some years in Hawthorn while their Stevenson St site was being developed into a monastery. The architect was Mr W.P. Connolly, and the builders were Massey Bros. The Church's opening high mass was celebrated by Archbishop Mannix in November 1931.

As it has done for the past 13 years, the Monastery hosted an ecumenical gathering on 24 March, in conjunction with the Kew Community Festival.





## DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

Allan Hutchinson, JP, Councillor 1968-1979, Mayor 1975-6. An independent view.

Stop press. Our Devil's Advocate sadly passed away on 27 April at St Vincent's Hospital. The Mayor, Councillors, staff and many readers of Kewiosity express their deepest sympathy to Elaine and family.

## COUNCIL CHAMBER OR COUNCIL VOID?

The above photo is of the very last meeting held in the old Council Chambers in Walpole Street on the Safeway site. In the cubic void that is known as the Council Chamber today, it is just not possible to get all participants in the one photo.

The original council chamber contained the Mayor's throne flanked by Australian and British Flags. A portrait of the Queen occupied pride of place above the Mayor. The Mayor had the Town Clerk on one side, the City Engineer on the other and the Deputy on a lower level for minute taking. The original Podium with the Mayor's Throne, Town Clerk's and City Engineer's Chairs, plus a Councillor's chair are displayed in the foyer at the lower level entrance to the current Council Chamber. So little was our heritage valued at that time (1973) that their retention was only achieved by a casting vote.

The Council Table was long and large, curved in luxuriant old solid timber, capable of taking fourteen Councillors in comfort, but close proximity. Councillors each had a magnificent leather chair dating from the 1920s in a capstan design that was comfortable, you could snooze in it, you could discuss matters with neighbours between items. Messages were easily passed around the table, and generally it was an area of redolent familiarity and oneness. The vast spaces filled with piles of Council papers and reference books brought a tremendous sense of authority. The design, as in the Westminster system, had the Mayor facing the gallery and in turn, the Councillors facing the Mayor. But with the opportunity to do a spot of "Grandstanding to the Gallery" when required.

The current Council Chamber was an absolute unmitigated disaster from the first. The first time I walked through the door. I saw this incredible array of marble, an enormous forty foot long bench, and a hexagonal table which had no cohesion. The very first time I sat in the most uncomfortable chair that I had or have ever sat in, I was unable to hear my fellow Councillors speak. Some of our Lady Councillors felt the need for footstools and cushions. The members of the gallery were similarly unable to hear the conversation and debate from the council. The whole thing has now been a disaster which has gone on for almost 20 years. Thousands of dollars have been spent on sound systems. We now have a situation where the five ward system has been reduced to four, there are three blank spaces around the Council table, and often others as well. The Council Chamber occupies an inordinate amount of space within the Council building, and is a gratuitous waste of space.

If the marble was removed from the side wall and placed floor to ceiling along the furthest wall from the gallery, it would provide a necessary and imposing backdrop together with the enamel Council seal and flags. If the bench was reconstructed in various sections, rather than the old style grocers counter it is at the moment, some degree of grace and elegance could be restored. Maybe it could even be that the original furniture from downstairs could be reinstated with matching tables at a lower level on either side to support those Officers that need to be in attendance for part of the meeting. I would strongly urge a return to an oval Council table, facing the Mayor, where all Councillors would have sufficient space to stand and address the Gallery if necessary, to address the Mayor and for all of those in the Gallery to see and hear what their representatives are discussing.

I would prefer that the current podium level have a floor to ceiling wall which extends from the far end, one door through which the Mayor and Councillors could access the Chamber, apart from the normal public entry, and that that wall should extend right back and up to the divide in front of the visitors gallery. The area thus enclosed and properly lit, could provide an excellent Council Museum, come library, come archive. From a safety point of view I believe it would be as secure as any other part of the building. From a public information point of view, it would be a way of conveying school groups through the Council's functions. There are dictaphones from the twenties, rate books dating back to the eighteen-sixties, there must be examples of one or two of the old Council photos. It was convenient collective-amnesia when the old horse tram shed used in past years as part of the Council Depot, was pulled down to make space for the Kew Recreation Centre. There must be some memorabilia around from that side of things too.

The bits and pieces that are just hung willy nilly haphazardly around the Councillors' lounge could perhaps be better reorganised, particularly the photos of past council meetings. I believe that with a degree of sensitivity and display, this could be a vital living part of the City of Kew.

## EVANGELIST MEETING

Renowned evangelist, Michael Cassidy, will talk at St Hilary's church, Kew, on 5 May, at 9am. He will also attend a reception organised by "African Enterprise" on 7 May, at 6.30pm, at Leonda; this will be chaired by Archbishop Keith Rayner. Enquiries can be made to Sue Clothier, on telephone 02 906 1252.



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

— by Kate Laing

Something is afoot in the City of Kew. Young people are talking and adults are listening. It's exciting, there's a groundswell of new ideas, high energy and a sense of empowerment amongst young people at Council's Youth Resource Centre.

Many may say "so what?" However, in a world that young people find confusing, Council is providing opportunities for young people to explore their needs and give them responsibility to resolve issues that are important to them.

We talk about young people being our future. They are more than that; they are also part of our present. Council, by way of the Youth Resource Centre Advisory Committee, which is made up of mainly young people, only 3 of 15 are over 25, is giving young people a say now! The Committee carries a mandate to advise Council in regard to the direction of the Youth Resource Centre's programs and operation.

Young people of the City of Kew, through the Youth Resource Centre Advisory Committee, have a strong advocate working for and with them and Council is listening.

If you would like to know more about the Advisory Committee, please contact Kate Laing, the Youth Services Development Officer at Council on 860 5221.

## MISSIONS MEETING

Speaker at a special meeting at the Kew Baptist Church Hall, in Highbury Grove, on 27 May at 8pm will be Mr Clem Clack. Mr Clack is well known for his guided tours of Israel and the Middle East. He has been introducing people to Israel for 30 years and should have a fascinating first hand story to tell according to organisers. The Ladies Evening Group will warmly welcome all residents who come to the meeting. Further details are available from telephone 853 0546.