

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



## Kew from above

In the age of the Internet, our concept of what constitutes an aerial view is generally influenced by satellite photography. Satellite views can be augmented by 'street views', allowing viewers the area on which to focus; with the option to shift from 'map' to 'satellite' to 'street view'. These options provide unique opportunities to understand the relation of built structures to the environment.

Before satellite photography became ubiquitous, aerial photography was understood to be photography from aeroplanes. Before this, photography 'from above' was limited to a photographer's capacity to take a photograph from an elevated vantage point. In either case, what was achieved was a 'bird's eye view'. Such 'views' were rarely shot at a 90-degree angle, but rather from an acute-angled, sometimes quite close-up view.

A photographer in 19th Century Kew to demonstrate the effectiveness of bird's eye views from elevated positions was J. F. C. Farquhar of Pakington Street. In 1890-91, the Kew real estate agent Cr. Henry Kellett employed Farquhar to take a number of photographs for *Kew Where We Live*. The latter was published in 1891. It included twelve photographs, two of which were possibly taken from the roof of Xavier College.

One of these two 'aerial' photographs is 'Bird's eye view looking west' (above). In this aerial photograph, the view across Gellibrand Street to the Recreation Reserve and Hall also includes the Kew railway station, 'O'Shaughnessy's Paddock' between Denmark and High Street South, and new housing development in Studley Park.

Four photographs from the Kellett album are currently on display in the Kew History Centre. By comparing these photographs with early plans, maps and documents that are also on display, it is possible to develop an appreciation of the patterns of urban development in Kew from European settlement to the end of the 19th Century.

The main exhibition of aerial photographs, in a second room at the Court House, includes fifteen photographs taken from aeroplanes.

## CONTENTS

3

### SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

News about exhibitions, special events, past and future meetings

4

### NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA

What the Signature Books tell us about people and businesses in Kew from 1885 to 1922

6

### COUNCIL FAMILY HOTEL

Was this the worst hotel in Kew, as was asserted by the police in the Kew Court?

8

### IVEAGH

Iveagh, now owned by the Pallottine Community, is one of the last great mansions of Studley Park Road

11

### NEWS FROM THE PAST

Events of note in Kew's history

Front-page  
Bird's eye view looking west, 1891. J. F. C. Farquhar,  
photographer. Kew Historical Society.



Right  
Carmelite Monastery, Charles Pratt, photographer.  
Airsy collection, State Library of Victoria.

## KEW FROM ABOVE (cont.)

In 1972, the Estate of Charles Daniel Pratt donated a large collection of aerial photos to the State Library of Victoria. Pratt (1892-1968) was born in New Zealand. He enlisted in the 2nd Reinforcements in World War I, and fought in North Africa, at Gallipoli, and in Palestine. After the War, Pratt and his brother opened a factory in Geelong, where they built de Havilland aeroplanes. Connected to the business was a flying school with Pratt as the instructor. In 1938, he moved his flying school from Geelong to Essendon Airport.

Charles Pratt photographed numerous urban and rural sites in southeast Australia. The collection donated to the State Library includes over 1,400 photographs, many of which have been digitised. Within Pratt's 'Airsy collection', there are a number of photographs of Kew, East Kew and Studley Park.

A number of Pratt's aerial photographs have been selected for the 'Kew From Above' exhibition. They and other aerial photographs can be viewed from 23 March to 31 October at the Kew History Centre (Level 1, Kew Court House, 188 High Street).

An exhibition such as 'Kew From Above' may reinforce a sense of what has been lost, which is considerable. It also serves to remind us of what remains and what should be preserved.

'Carmelite Monastery' (top right) is a case in point. While the Monastery in Stevenson Street remains, it was at the time it was photographed by Pratt surrounded by great mansions such as 'Finhaven' in Stevenson Street and 'Mooroolbeek' in Madden Grove. These have subsequently been demolished. 'Iveagh' in Studley Park Road (see page 8), which had by then been purchased by the Pallotine Community, can be seen at the top of the photograph. Iveagh, one of the great mansions that once lined Studley Park Road, is one of the very few that remain.

Recently, the Councillors of the City of Boroondara proposed to the Minister for Planning that Studley Park Road might be rezoned for High Density Living. High-rise development in Studley Park Road, from the junction to Raheen would make aerial views of Kew, such as this, a record of the very far distant past.

## EDITOR

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Alex Wilson OAM  
Vice President: Judith Vimpani  
Secretary: Keith Kendall  
Treasurer: Margaret Robinson  
Archivist: Robert Baker  
Curator: Dione McIntyre  
Members: Don Garden | Mary Kelleher | Les Littlechild  
Observer: Tony Michael

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Kew Historical Society holds monthly meetings in the Phyllis Hore Room at the rear of the Kew Library. Meetings are held at 8:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise announced. Refreshments are provided. Meetings are open to members and non-members.

### KEW COURT HOUSE

Members of the Society played a key role in the preservation and restoration of the historic Kew Court House complex. Volunteers staff the Kew History Centre on Level 1 three days a week: alternate Thursdays (11.00am-1.00pm), and every Friday (11.00am-1.00pm) and Saturday (11.00am-1.00pm). Look for our sign. At the Centre, you can ask questions about Kew's history and view displays from the Society's collection. Inquiries about houses and past residents can be made using the Sands and McDougall Directories that are accessible by computer.

### NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed to all members. Some additional copies are made available to the community. If you would like a copy of a particular issue, please contact the Editor at [archivist@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:archivist@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au).

### MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

See page 11 of the newsletter or contact the President, Alex Wilson.  
Phone 9859 6177  
Email [president@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:president@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au).

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## EXHIBITIONS

### KEW FROM ABOVE

Kew Court House  
188 High Street, Kew  
23 May – 31 October

'Kew From Above' is our second exhibition at the Kew Court House for 2014. The exhibition features aerial photos of Kew from the Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria, as well as a number of works from our collection.

In addition to this new display, the main room at the Court House has been redecorated with works from the Society's collection. These works include photographs (landscapes, streetscapes, portraits); maps; historical documents; and ephemera relating to Kew, East Kew and Studley Park.

### MODEL KEW KITCHEN OF THE 1920S

Kew Library  
Civic Drive, Kew  
26 May – 31 October

*Model Kew Kitchen of the 1920s: Labour-saving devices* is the theme of the new display in the window at the Kew Library. The display includes labour-saving devices used to prepare food and to store it safely.

## QUARTERLY BOOK SALE

A large crowd attended a highly successful book sale in the Phyllis Hore Room on Sunday 18 May. People, including regular attendees, found many bargains. We would like to thank members and friends for the enormous effort that they put into setting up, serving customers, and in dismantling the tables at the end of the day.



## NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members in 2014:

David Murphy, Michael Conos & family, Shirley Spielman, Jan Lovelace and Gwen McWilliam.

## MEETINGS

### PAST MEETINGS

#### MCINTYRE LECTURE

Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE  
A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE HISTORY OF MELBOURNE MEDICAL RESEARCH

Sir Gustav Nossal, the distinguished Australian medical research biologist, presented the annual McIntyre Lecture on 19 March. The lecture on the History of Medical Research in Melbourne was a great success. A capacity audience in the Just Theatre included students from local schools.

#### APRIL MEETING

Andrew McIntosh M.L.A.  
Celebrating the centenary of ANZAC in Kew

Andrew McIntosh spoke of his personal interest in World War I, linking the present and the past. He focused on the conflict in northern France, but also spoke of his desire to recreate the unveiling of the Kew War Memorial, as represented in the iconic photograph of 1925. He hopes to achieve this on the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.

#### MAY MEETING

Dr. Brenda Niall AO  
Conversations with the past  
The house in which Brenda Niall lived as a girl was 'Merrion' in Studley Park Road. She attended Genazzano FCJ College from an early age. A large and enthusiastic meeting of members and visitors listened to her speak about Studley Park and Kew. Dr. Niall has been writing a biography of Archbishop Daniel Mannix. A number of questions and responses allowed her to describe his penetrating intellect and vision for a just society.

#### RECOGNITION FOR DOROTHY BENYEI

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (20 May 2014), Dorothy Benyei, former archivist of the Kew Historical Society, was one of seven individuals to receive an Award of Merit for 2013. The award recognises meritorious service to local history. The Kew Historical Society of which she is a life member nominated Dorothy for this award.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

#### JUNE MEETING

Dr. Tanya Warmes  
Gallipoli and Beyond  
Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library  
Wednesday 11 June, 8:00pm

#### JULY MEETING

Albert Isaacs  
Kew's Jewish history  
Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library  
Wednesday 9 July, 8:00pm  
Text

#### AUGUST MEETING

Ron Killeen  
Outer Circle Railway  
Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library  
Wednesday 13 August, 8:00pm

#### TRIBUTE

Millicent Lindsay

Millicent and Graeme Lindsay and their family have contributed in many ways to the life of the Kew Historical Society.

Following Graeme's retirement as Headmaster of the Kew East Primary School he devoted much of his time to the organisation of festival displays and street parades and encouraged members of our society and of his own family to dress up and take part in street parades and historical re-enactments. Millicent and Graeme also devised and ran our traditional end-of-year historical quiz competition.

They had both attended the Teachers' Training College at Geelong and graduated as primary school teachers. Millicent was recognised as an outstanding teacher of infant classes. They were married, and became a close and loving family with the birth of Peter, Stephen, David and Anne, followed in time by eight grandchildren.

In latter years they travelled north together in search of winter sunshine and the fishing, which Millicent loved.

Millicent died in March after a long battle with Mesothelioma. Members of the Society joined with members of her family at her funeral service to pay their respects, and to give thanks for a life well spent.

# NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA - SIGNATURE BOOKS

In 1977, the President of the Kew Historical Society received two historic 'Signature Books' from the Kew branch of the National Bank of Australia. These books were added to a number of other important documents held in the Historical Society's collection.

The National Bank of Australasia was formed in 1857. It began commercial operations in Queen Street, Melbourne in 1858. Twenty-six years later, in 1885, the Bank's first bank at 87 High Street opened. A second bank, on the corner of Walpole and Brougham Streets, designed by Inskip & Robertson, replaced the first bank in 1888. The second bank remains, albeit in a somewhat altered state.

In May 2014, Margaret Robinson made a presentation to students in Grade 2 at Kew Primary School. As part of her presentation, she invited students to identify the difference between 19th Century (lower right) and contemporary photographs of the Bank. Students could detect that the original High Street frontage had been truncated, the final bays replaced and now occupied by a contemporary Commonwealth Bank building.

The Signature Books of the National Bank of Australasia are two large bound volumes covering the years 1885 to 1922. The first entries date from the opening of the first bank in High Street in 1885 and were subsequently used in the second bank after 1888. They record a customer's name, address, occupation if relevant, and signature. The first signatories included Edward Ball, Robert Blake, Helen Cooper, George Dike, Albert Fenton, Thomas Foley, the Kew Omnibus Company, Francis Kellett, Maurice Neligan, Frederick Ratten, Ellen Shirwin, and William Woollard. Over time, additional signatories were added; none seem to have been deleted.

Prominent Kew citizens who opened bank accounts after 1885, included Harry King of 'Madford' in Wellington Street, and James Venn Morgan; the publicans Denis Scanlon, Harry Madden, John Malone, John Dougherty and Patrick O'Shaughnessy the undertaker Alfred Padbury; the draper Edward Quick; the dairyman Charles Ragy; George Rimington; the trustees of the Boroondara General Cemetery; the bootmaker, John Witchell; and Arthur Wills; to name but a few.

The Signature Books also contain instructions from account holders, such as that from Arthur Wills of Barry Street, instructing the Bank to allow his wife Clara to access both his account and also the tin box that he had placed in the Bank's care.

National Bank of Australasia,  
ca.1888.  
Kew Historical Society

In 1893, the National Bank of Australasia and its customers were to experience a major crisis when the acting Governor, Sir John Madden, declared a 'banking holiday' for a week. The National Bank of Australasia suspended trading on 1 May 1893, and following a reorganisation, re-opened eight weeks later on 26 June as the National Bank of Australasia Limited. The first new account holder listed after the crisis appears to be Eliza Quale, the wife of the coachbuilder John Quale, in August 1893.

In a separate section of the first volume (1885-94), there is a list of 159 individuals, organisations and companies with trust accounts. These range from Dr. Walsh of 'Wilton' in Cotham Road to Miss Luisa (sic) Henty of 'Field Place' in Studley Park Road.

In order to make the data more accessible to researchers, the Society is seeking a volunteer or volunteers to transcribe the names, dates, occupations etc. The data would be simultaneously, or at a later date entered into a spreadsheet or database to allow information to be quickly discovered. In the meantime, we will have to be satisfied with a snippet from the 'D' entries:

## 1865

Oct 26 - Dike, George Henry.

## 1886

Feb 2 - Docherty, John David; Greyhound Hotel.

Mar 2 - Dougherty, John David, do do.

May 17 - Dowling, Norman; Princess Street, Kew; Bank Clerk.

Jun 21 - Donnelly, John; Laborer; Peel Street.

Oct 28 - Dougherty, Mary Miller; wife of J. D. Dougherty.

## 1887

Jan 31 - Dowling, Mary; Widow; Princess Street.

Jun 10 - Day, Alfred William; House & Land Agent.

Jul 7 - Dumaresque, Harriet E; wife of A. W. Dumaresque; 'Cambusdoon', Cotham Road, Kew.

## 1888

Mar 15 - Derham & G. Harry; Auctioneers & Estate Agents, Kew.

From May to October, the first Signatory Book can be viewed at the Kew Court House where it is currently displayed in a glass cabinet, together with other documents and ephemera relating to Kew's history.

## ROBERT BAKER



## THE SALVATION ARMY IN KEW

Simon Phipps recently donated three items to the collection. Two are photographs of the Salvation Army Citadel on the corner of High Street and Charles Street. The other is the official program produced when Sir Robert Menzies was conferred with the Honorary Freedom of the City of Kew in 1974.

The photo (right) of the Salvation Army citadel is dated 1919. In that year, the brick Citadel at left and the wooden 'Young Peoples Hall' at right, were opened.

The Salvation Army had been established in Kew in 1892. The Board of Works Detail Plan No. 1888 (MMBW, 1904) shows a barracks in the spot where the brick citadel was later to be built. The last reference to the buildings was in the Sands & McDougall Directory of 1971.



Salvation Army Citadel and Hall, 1919

## UNCOVERING A HIDDEN HOUSE

On the final page of the March Newsletter, we challenged readers to identify a house (right) that was sold in 1919.

A number of the Society's researchers had previously looked at the photograph, focusing on its location and architectural style. While they could find the auction notice in *The Argus*, the location of the house was unclear. The missing clue was identified by one of the volunteers at a Tuesday research session, when the name 'Mount Eri' above the front door was identified. However, this nameplate appeared damaged and it was assumed that it was actually 'Mount Erin'. With renewed interest, but without success, we tried to find Mount Erin in old newspapers. Finally, we at last entered Mount Eri rather than Mount Erin into our search. The search results included a reference in an obscure Victorian Government *Gazette* (No.15, January 31, 1920) to a midwife, Florence Eva Harte, who lived at Mount Eri in Highbury Grove.

Finding the name of the street allowed us to compare the 1919 photograph with the Board of Works Detail Plan No. 1589 (MMBW, 1904). Using our knowledge of the façade, it was possible to confirm with certainty that it was number 70 Highbury Grove on the Plan of 1904. But of course the street numbers have changed since then, and what might be present in 1904, and later 1919 might not be there now. So, using Apple Maps, we examined the façade of every house in Highbury Grove. After detailed analysis of these, we found the house concealed within the façade of number 9. The house had been rendered and painted white. Number 9a had been added to the left of the original property, effectively doubling its width.

When you know the number of a house, you stand a better chance of researching its history. The history tells us that the house began as the Kew Preparatory School in 1888, having relocated from Cotham Road. The principal was Miss Reilly. Advertisements placed in contemporary newspapers suggest that the school catered for the children of prominent and wealthy residents such as Arthur Septimus King, Herbert Henty, and E.A. Atkyns. It was also claimed that it was 'situated in the healthiest part of Kew, and was built with a special view to the health and comfort of boarders'; hence the size of the house.



Sometime before 1910, the house must have passed into the hands of the Cooke family, who had extensive pastoral properties in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria. When John Cooke died in 1910, he was to leave an estate worth £127,569.

In the 1920s, 30s and 40s (and perhaps for longer), number 9 was used as a reception centre. The title used for the centre was '9 Highbury Grove'. Some readers may remember it from this period.

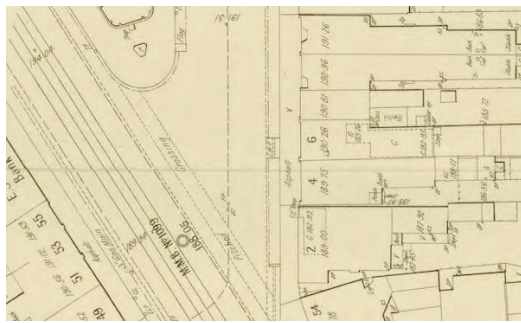


9 Highbury Grove. May 2014

# COUNCIL FAMILY HOTEL

The Council Family Hotel was the fifth of the eight hotels to be licensed in Kew during the 19th Century. They were licensed in the following date order: The Woodman Inn (1854), The Harp of Erin (1854), O'Shaughnessy's Kew Hotel (1855), the Prospect Hill Hotel (1858), the Council Family Hotel (1861), the Princess Hotel (1864), the Clifton Hotel (1868) and the Greyhound Hotel (1873).

Determining the location of the Council Family Hotel can be challenging due to the later widening of High Street and the construction of Fenton Way in the 20th Century. The widening resulted in the demolition of a number of shops and businesses. By a process of elimination, and an comparison of the Board of Works Detail Plan No. 1580 (MMBW, 1903) with current satellite photographs, it is possible to confirm that the Hotel has been demolished; possibly in the late 1950s. The architectural footprint of the Hotel is partially covered by the 'Ear & Hearing Australia' building at 2 Cotham Road.



Detail, MMBW Detail Plan No.1580

Two contrasting events, occurring a year apart, encapsulate the sixty-one year history of the Hotel. The first of these occurred in 1913, when the Kew Oddfellows Lodge celebrated their 50th anniversary in the hotel in which their organisation had been founded. The second was the assertion in the Kew Magistrates Court, during an illegal trading case, that the Hotel was the only one in Kew to give the police any 'trouble'.

The Hotel was not always directly responsible for the 'troubles' with which it was to be associated. In the first year of its operation, John Dynon and John Macadam were charged before the Hawthorn Police Court with creating a disturbance outside the Hotel. Constable Gray had advised them to move on, but refusing to cooperate, they backed their drays against the kerb. For ignoring the instruction, they were fined 5s each, and 4s. 6d costs; or in default twenty-four hours imprisonment.

Altercations with the law were to increase when Patrick Ryan became the licensee in the 1880s. In 1882 there was a brawl at the Hotel involving Donald Morris and Stephen O'Brien, in which five others were to become involved. The lawyer for the defendants challenged the case brought by the police, arguing that the publican had not invited the police into the Hotel. The Bench upheld the appeal.

Ryan's run-ins with the law were to continue. In 1883, he was charged with Sunday trading but successfully maintained that the drinkers were lodgers and a friend of a lodger. Perhaps the publican invited the police into the Hotel on a subsequent occasion in November of the same year, as charges were successfully laid against Owen White and Patrick Hutchinson for fighting and using 'bad language' on the Prince of Wales' Birthday. In 1908, in the final year of the Ryan family's tenure of the Hotel, the licensee and or its patrons were to appear before the Kew Court on four occasions. Charges included Sunday trading, being unlawfully on the premises, and the illegal playing of 'two-up'.

The Council Family Hotel's poor reputation did not alter with the change of licensees, of which there would appear to be three in 1909. When the license was granted to the Edwards family in 1914, things appeared to take a turn for the better. A 'walking match' proposed by William Edwards between the Hotel and Normanby Road and back again was a community-minded idea, and might have presaged better times, however charges of illegal trading and the allowing of unlawful games on the premises continued until the Hotel finally lost its license.



Council Family Hotel, ca.1888

The significant role played by public houses in the civic life of the Municipality of Kew, and by the Council Family Hotel specifically, is more challenging to understand than the civil cases held before the Hawthorn and Kew Courts. The Hotel was to be the venue for a coroner's inquest in 1871; a meeting place for political groups and sporting clubs; and the headquarters of local community groups indicates that hotels in the Nineteenth Century played a key and cohesive role in allowing citizens to exercise their civic rights and responsibilities.

The historian F. G. A. Barnard in his *Jubilee History of Kew* (1910) records the use of the Hotel by two of the major friendly societies in Kew: the Ancient Order of Foresters and the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (MUIOOF).

## COUNCIL FAMILY HOTEL (CONT.)

From a reading of both Barnard, and contemporary newspaper accounts, friendly societies played a significant civic function by providing personal insurance, and paying sickness and funeral benefits to members.

One newspaper article (*The Argus*, April 1913) reported on the jubilee celebrations of the Kew Oddfellows (the MUIOOF). The report provides an indication of the nature of the Lodge's activities as well as the names of the prominent citizens of Kew involved. The names of members identified in the article are too numerous to list, however they included representatives of some of the pioneer families of Kew: William Woollard, W. H. Kellett, Francis and F. G. A. Barnard, and Jesse and Daniel Dannock.

The article records that the Lodge had become one of the wealthiest in Victoria. Over a fifty-year period, its achievements included: paying £6,582 in sick pay, £1,450 in funeral allowances and £6,170 in medical fees. The income of the Kew Oddfellows from 1908-13 averaged £1,100 per annum, of which about £400 was received as interest on invested funds. At the meeting, Brother Woollard recounted how he often walked twenty miles after finishing work seeking new members. He advised the meeting that this was beyond him now.

The building, in which fights and gambling as well as meetings of local groups occurred, was to remain essentially unchanged until its demolition in the 1950s. The two-storey hotel was designed with symmetrically positioned windows and entrances in its rendered façade. When constructed, the name of the hotel, complete with a full stop, was unmistakably emblazoned across the front of the building. In contrast to neighbouring buildings, it was never to have a street awning.

In 1864, when the license was transferred to Patrick Currie, the Hotel was said to contain three sitting rooms and four bedrooms, exclusive of those required for the use of his family. The only record of alterations to the building is from 1892, when the Castlemaine Brewery called for tenders for alterations and extensions. What these were has not been established.

Ownership of the freehold of hotels is more difficult to establish than the names of the licensees. Apart from the Brewery the only known owner has been identified as Francis Jamieson in 1864.

An interesting footnote to the history of the Hotel occurred in 1925, three years after the Council Family Hotel had been delicensed. It has been suggested that an upper-storey window was used by a photographer to shoot the iconic photograph of the 'Unveiling of the Kew War Memorial'.

**ROBERT BAKER**  
ARCHIVIST

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Society has been fortunate in receiving a number of new acquisitions in recent months. These acquisitions include a collection of photographs and postcards from the 1920s that include views of High Street, the Alexandra Gardens, Kew Primary School, the Yarra River and Kew Junction.

The photographs provide new perspectives on familiar places. In one of these photographs, a view of the Kew War Memorial, ca.1927, two of the shops in 'The Block' in Cotham Road are clearly delineated: Henry Cooper's Kew Flyer manufacturing business, and Bradshaw's licensed grocery.



Kew War Memorial, 1927

Another of the photographs provides an early view of Kew East Primary School. The school moved to the Kitchener Street site in 1923. In 1929, a three-storey wing was added. The wing is absent from the photograph, which would appear to confirm ca.1927 for the year in which the photo was taken.

The photo of the school depicts the building rather forlornly sitting in an open landscape with few trees. Four years after its opening, fencing and landscaping were still some way off.

Our thanks go to Sue Barnett of Surrey Hills who passed on these photographs to the Society.



Kew East Primary School, ca.1927

# COONOOR

## 85 STUDLEY PARK ROAD

Located between Berkeley Court and Hyton Crescent is the residence at 85 Studley Park Road which has been home to the Pallottine Community since 1937. Known as the Pallottine Missionary College, the building is one of the few original mansions remaining in Studley Park Road. Its former neighbours, Charles Lister's 'Iona' on the east, and Thomas Nankivell's 'Belmont' on the west, were demolished and subsequently subdivided in 1936. It is fortunate that the elegant house at No 85 escaped the same fate. The presence of the building points to the familiar link between survival of the existing mansions in Studley Park Road and institutional custodianship. However, unlike its more well-known heritage counterparts, this building remains an enigma; a familiar sight for all who pass, but its story untold, there being no published record of its origins as 'Coonoor' nor of its association with the Hutton family for whom it was built.

The name 'Coonoor' has its origins in India where Lieutenant Colonel William Forbes Hutton (1816-1896) spent much of his life.

Coonoor is the second highest hill station in the Nilgiri mountains, noted for its steep slopes, valleys and waterfalls. It is located approximately 18 km from Ootacamund (now Ooty; officially Udhagamandalam), which came under the rule of the East India Company at the end of the 18th Century. Ootacamund was then the summer capital of the Madras Presidency, and was much visited by the British throughout the colonial period. [Ootacamund was also to be the birthplace of W. Forbes Hutton's second son who was born in 1853. Two other children were born in India (eight were born in England).]

At age 19, W. Forbes Hutton had applied for a cadetship in the East India Company Armies in Madras (now Tamil Nadu). His enlistment as a cadet in the infantry was recorded in the Madras Almanac in 1836. Thirteen years after he enlisted, he married Eleanora MacKillop (1830-1900) at Bath in Somerset. Eleanora already had strong connections to Australia where she and her husband were to settle in 1874. She was the daughter of George MacKillop, explorer of the Monaro region in New South Wales and Gippsland in Victoria 1835. Her father had discovered Lake Omeo and crossed the Snowy River. An eponymously named bridge commemorating the crossing is now listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. George MacKillop is also memorialised in the streets of Melbourne and Geelong; cities in which he invested. Eleanora's brothers, Charles and John, studied and worked in India; mainly in Calcutta in Bengal. John MacKillop, a Bengal Civil Servant, was in the country during the Indian rebellion in 1857 and died at the Siege of Cawnpore (now Kanpur) in the north of India.

By 1853, W. Forbes Hutton had become a Captain of the 34th Light Infantry. He was promoted to Major in 1859. The title Lieutenant Colonel was recorded in the *London Gazette* in 1873; likely an honorary title on his retirement.



Other members of W. Forbes Hutton's family were associated with the military, including his uncle Charles Hutton who settled in the Campaspe District in 1838, where he took up several runs. Charles Hutton was often referred to as 'Captain' in contemporary newspapers. W. Forbes Hutton's nephew, Colonel Bruce Hutton, was born in India and married Eleanora's sister, Georgiana MacKillop. Bruce Hutton was to be elected President of the Dandenong Shire Council on five occasions. His uncle W. Forbes Hutton, and dignitaries, including the Hon. Thomas Bent, attended a banquet in his honour.

W. Forbes Hutton's first-born son, George Hutton, arrived in Melbourne aboard the 'Somersetshire' in 1869. Two years later, in May 1871, his father arrived aboard the 'Geelong' via Sri Lanka and King George Sound. By June 1872, W. Forbes Hutton had purchased land in the Parish of Yering (Lilydale) and again in Lilydale in March 1873. In July that year, a newspaper reported his purchase of cattle; a hint of his pastoral interest. After a brief return to England to wind up his affairs, W. Forbes Hutton sailed to Melbourne aboard the 'Bangalore' in February 1874. With him were his son Arthur and eldest daughter Jean. His wife, and their seven children (one child had died in infancy) arrived on the 'Northumberland' three months later in May.



W. Forbes Hutton

In November 1874, W. Forbes Hutton again invested in land. Little known is that he purchased a half-share of Henry Creswick's 'Liewah' station in the southwest Riverina (the records are held in the State Library of Victoria). Creswick had bought the property in 1873. It comprised 35,000 acres and was managed by Creswick's son, Alexander Creswick.

Prior to this purchase, Hutton had already turned his focus on Kew, a popular choice for wealthy pastoralists who viewed Studley Park as an idyllic location for a town house close to Melbourne.



## COONOR (CONT.)

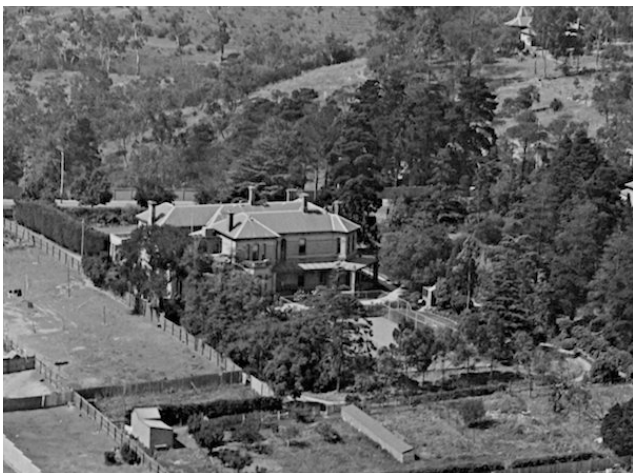
In September 1874, a notice of W. Forbes Hutton's intention to bring a portion of land in Kew under the *Transfer of Land Act* appeared in an advertisement. He had set his sight on a large estate with Yarra River frontage near Barkers Road. This property, which had been owned by John Connell, already contained two substantial houses. After W. Forbes Hutton purchased the property, the family occupied one of these, the mansion 'Blythswood'. 'Rockingham', the other home, was bought as an investment, as Connell's former tenant already occupied it.

The Hutton family resided at Blythswood for seven years. They retained the original name of the house, the latter appearing in a family notice of their first daughter's marriage at Holy Trinity church, Kew.

The sale of Blythswood was reported in *The Argus* of 20 June 1881. The purchaser was David Syme the publisher. The year 1881 was to see the Hutton family move twice. On leaving Blythswood, they shared their property 'Rockingham' with their tenant, Andrew King [to whom it was to be conveyed in 1882]. Later in 1881, the Huttons rented 'Clifton House', the former home of the Stevenson family. Clifton House and its contents had been advertised for sale in *The Argus* in February 1881.

In October 1881, Hutton purchased an allotment on the south side of Studley Park Road; a portion of Lot 76 which was John Bakewell's original land purchase. The land comprised 4 acres, 2 roods and 27 perches (ie. 4½ acres). It was on this site that Hutton was to have constructed a grand Italianate residence. Henderson and Smart, who had called for tenders on 23 December 1881, designed Hutton's house. Construction of Coonor began in 1882. It was completed in the same year. In the rate assessment of January 1883, the Kew Rate Books record the house having a Net Annual Value (NAV) of £250. A comparison to nearby properties in Studley Park Road - Clifton £80, Clutha £250, Iona £250, and Belmont £300 - establishes its size and land holding relative to others.

The rendered building is Italianate, with hipped roofs, bracketed eaves, elongated shallow-arched windows and mouldings on the façade. At the rear are faceted bays, above which a small balcony can be seen in early aerial photographs.



Coonor, Detail of 'Carmelite Monastery'. Charles Pratt, photographer. Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria

A dominant feature of the façade is the impressive arched portico, flanked by double pilasters, which are fluted on the lower portion. They appear as decorative buttresses on the walls that support a plain but impressive classical entablature above the arched entry.



'Portico',  
Coonor

To the right of the entry may have been a veranda, which can be discerned on a footprint of the building on Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works Plan No. 40 (1898).

Decorative lineal circular mouldings appear on the chimneys. A pair of delicate scrolls is positioned on each side of the base of the chimney on the east side of the façade. These features offset the austere classical style.

A sense of the building can be best appreciated by the following advertisement promoting the sale of the house in 1884:

'The Elegant and Commodious residence known as Coonor, the property of W. Forbes Hutton. Most substantially built, no expense spared, containing spacious hall, drawing room 27 x 18, (exclusive of bay window), morning room 20 x 18, dining room 24 x 18 (exclusive of bay window), lavatory and cloakroom, study and gentleman's room. On the first floor, approached by a handsome staircase, lighted by a double window, three large bedrooms, four smaller bedrooms, two dressing rooms, two bathrooms, linen closet. The domestic offices are very complete and comprise kitchen (with excellent range and self-feeding boiler, supplying hot water all over the house), scullery cook's pantry, butler's pantry, storeroom, larder, dairy, laundry, washhouse, three servants' bedrooms, bathroom and man's room. A handsome wide verandah three sides of the house, Gas laid all over the building, Yan Yean throughout the garden, Electric bells, Rainwater tank. The grounds, comprising 4½ acres, are laid out in pleasure grounds, fruit and flower gardens, tennis lawn, and paddock, with frontages to Studley-park and Stevenson-street.'

William Forbes Hutton and his wife Eleanora sold Coonor to the industrialist George Ramsden (1846-1896) in 1885. After the sale, they returned to their property 'Cooring Yering', an imposing residence that was built not long after they placed Coonor on the market. The builder of Cooring Yering was David Mitchell, the father of Nellie Melba.

## COONOR (CONT.)

Coorong Yering had 35 rooms, and has been described by some as grandiose. It was originally red brick but is now rendered. The building is listed on the Shire of Yarra Ranges heritage database. It was named after Samuel Pury's Cooring Yering Vineyard, which Hutton had purchased. Hutton was also founding President of the Lilydale and Yarra Glen Hunt Club, which used to meet on the property. William Forbes Hutton died at Cooring Yering in 1896; his wife Eleanor died there in 1900. Both were buried at Lilydale Cemetery. The name, Coonor, was to live on, a son having adopted the moniker for his own home in Burwood.

As previously stated, W. Forbes Hutton had conveyed 'Coonor' to George Ramsden (1846-1896) in December 1885. George Ramsden was the son of Samuel Ramsden and his first wife, Eliza, nee Hillidge. After the death of Samuel in 1877, George Ramsden inherited his father's Melbourne Paper Mill, and ran the business until he sold it to William Brookes and Archibald Currie in 1882. It was in that year that he was to purchase Joseph Brearley's house, then named 'Clifton House', which would provide temporary accommodation as well as being a superior site on which to build a magnificent house in Studley Park Road. Today, that house, which appeared as 'Byram' on MMBW plans, is more frequently known as Tara Hall (built 1888; demolished 1960).

The identification of Byram as Coonor is due in part to Ramsden's residency at W. Forbes Hutton's former home while the new house was under construction; there is no evidence that that the name Coonor was adopted by Ramsden for Byram; rather an assumption due to the original house named Coonor having been lost to history. George Ramsden died on 14 September 1896 at Byram in Studley Park Road. [The name Byram had ancient roots in Yorkshire, where George Ramsden's father was born in 1822. However, a family reference to an arranged marriage published in *The Australasian* in 1895 does confirm that the name Byram was indeed adopted by the family in the year before the occasion of his death: 'A marriage has been arranged between Mr. George Ramsden, second son of Mr. George Ramsden, Byram, Studley-park road, Kew, and Muriel, second daughter of the Dean of Melbourne and Mrs. Vance.'

George Ramsden sold Coonor to the McGinnis family. They were to be the last occupants in private possession at Coonor. The McGinnis family renamed Coonor as 'Iveagh'; the name is recorded in the rate book as assessed in March 1891. Patrick McGinnis was the son Peter McGinnis, a prominent squatter at Lake Corrong from 1846, and known for his guardianship of 'Jowly', an Aboriginal boy whose parents had died. He was the first grantee in the area and built a homestead that has been identified for its heritage importance in Hoptoun. Ellen Mary (known as Lena), nee Dynon, and Patrick McGinnis married in 1887. She was the third daughter of John Dynon who at the time of the marriage lived in at 'Glenroy' in St Kilda.

An interesting reminder of the McGinnis family's occupation of Coonor-Iveagh is the McGinnis family crest, which was created in stained glass.

The mansion, built for W. Forbes Hutton in 1882, at what is now 85 Studley Park Road, was identified for inclusion in Pru Sanderson's *City of Kew Conservation Study* (1988); however the architectural firm, Henderson and Smart was not identified at the time. Assigned a B-Grade building, the significant elements identified by Sanderson were its joinery and walls, the intact chimneys, and the vegetation.

The B-grading likely reflected the alterations in the original fabric, the most obvious being the in-filled section above the loggia on the east and the terracotta roof-tiles of the hipped roof, which are not original.



Chimneys, Coonor

An outbuilding at the front partly occludes the western view of the facade, but is not attached and although the structure compromises the view, it does not disrupt the fabric of the building. This structure appears in the aerial photograph taken by Daniel Pratt in 1930 (p.9).

The old conifers that remain on the site were thought by Sanderson to date back to when the house was built. Unfortunately, the recent drought has negatively impacted on some of the vegetation, the residence now more visible than when J. T. Collins photographed it in 1964.

**KERRY FAIRBANK**



McGinnis family coat of arms, Iveagh (Coonor).  
Tony Michael, Photographer

# NEWS FROM THE PAST

## 150-YEARS AGO KEW NOTES

### JOHNSTON STREET BRIDGE

We understand that the Johnston-street bridge, erected at a cost of £18,000, is declared dangerous and will therefore be immediately moved. In its place a beautiful iron suspension bridge will be built, at an expense of about £3,000, and the Kew Borough Council will be the contractors. Great credit is due to the activity and enterprise displayed by the councillors in this work and we hope the Hawthorn Council erect a similar structure over the Yarra near the horticultural Gardens, thus opening the traffic to Richmond by way of \*\*\* street. We also commend the subject for the consideration of the newly elected Borough Councillors of Richmond.

*South Burke Standard, Friday 10 June 1864, p.2.*

Little delay was occasioned by the successful tenderer to effect alterations to Barker's road cutting, rendered necessary owing to the electric tram service intended to replace the obsolete horse car. The footway on the Kew side has been closed, and preparatory work is being actively engaged. Trees in Mr. Syme's property [Ed. Rockingham], a small portion of which has been acquired, have been cut down in readiness for the removal of portion of the bank. The fence, which is in alignment with the rest of the borders of land, will be the edge of the cutting, and the footwalk will lie on what was formerly private property.

*Hawthorn, Kew, Camberwell Citizen, Friday 17 July 1914, p.5.*

## 100-YEARS AGO

### VERANDAH FOR KEW STATION

Recently overtures were made to the Railway Department by the Kew Council recalling a promise made some months ago, to erect a verandah at the main entrance to the Kew railway station. The appeal has had the desired effect, and this week men have been engaged in erecting the much-needed shelter.

*Hawthorn, Kew, Camberwell Citizen, Friday 5 June 1914, p.5.*

## 75-YEARS AGO

### BABY HEALTH CENTRE

The Mayor of Kew (Councillor J. T. Gazzard) yesterday laid the foundation stone of the new £1,600 baby health centre, being erected in front of the Kew railway station.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of Infant Welfare (Dr. Vera Scantlebury-Brown) said that there were now 70 baby health centres in the metropolitan area, and 70 additional rooms were used as centres. Since the centres were begun the death rate of one-year-old children had fallen from 74 in each 1,000 to 34.

*The Argus, Thursday 24 August 1939, p.6.*

## SUPPORT KEW'S HISTORY

Kew Historical Society is the keeper of much information and many items pertaining to the history of Kew. To continue the work of the Society your support is needed. This work is ongoing and involves conserving, cataloguing and making the collection available to the public.

You can support the Society by becoming a member and/or making a donation. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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### Annual Membership Fee

Individual	\$20
Family	\$25
Student	\$ 5



Classical figure, ballroom ceiling; South Esk, ca.1960

## ORDSALL - SOUTH ESK

What a magnificent house Ordsall must have been. Built for John Halfey in 1882, on the corner of Charles Street and Cotham Road, it was compulsorily acquired by the City of Kew and demolished to make way for new civic buildings. Before its demolition in 1960, South Esk as it was known in the 20th Century, was to be used by a number of community groups.

The [colour] photograph (left) is of part of the painted decoration of the dome of the ballroom. The murals were created by Mr. Vandenbrandt and Signor Rizzi, who were

employed by the 19th Century decorators, Cullis Hill. Vandenbrandt was responsible for the overall concept and execution; Rizzi specialised in the painting of the flowers. Rizzi also worked at Villa Alba.

Given that many of our readers would remember South Esk, perhaps you have memories or photographs you would like to share with us.

If so you can contact the [archivist@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:archivist@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au).

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 June: Dr. Tanya Warms - Gallipoli & Beyond 2015

9 July: Albert Isaacs - Kew's Jewish history

13 August: Ron Killeen - Outer Circle Railway

17 August: Quarterly Book Sale

**Kew Historical Society Inc.**  
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