

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



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Preserving our heritage

One of the Kew Historical Society's contributions to the Kew Festival in 2014 involves collaboration with local sporting groups to develop two exhibitions on the history of 'Sport in Kew'. Collaboration to date has highlighted the challenges faced by small and large organisations in preserving their assets, whether these assets are the clubhouses, pavilions and sundry buildings out of which they operate, or their collections, in which some items are over one hundred years old. The Kew Historical Society, like these clubs, faces similar issues involving the collection, storage, conservation and exhibition of items.

The Kew Golf Club was formed in 1894. One of the issues the Club has faced since it was founded has been the encroachment of housing and roads, the Club being required to relocate its clubrooms and course on a number of occasions. Walking into the clubhouse of the Club, one is aware of the Club's determination to preserve and display its history. Two huge walls of glass, behind which many of the Club's trophies are displayed, greet both members and visitors. The Club has amassed a wonderful collection of photos, art works, drawings and documents that can be used to illustrate its history.

This was apparently not always the case. Some years ago, when the Club's history was being written, key members realised that the Club had not collected sufficient items to comprehensively illustrate its 'story'. Consequently, appeals to members were made, requesting them to contribute photos, documents, trophies and memorabilia. It was from the response to these requests that their collection was able to grow and thrive.

Another of the exhibitors in the 'Sport in Kew' exhibition is the Kew Croquet Club. The Club operates from a pavilion in Victoria Park, which was built in 1934 with the support of an original grant of £700 from the City of Kew. There has been continual discussions and debate about the architect responsible for the Club's pavilion (p.2), which nestles elegantly into a slope surrounded by huge eucalypts.

Front page

Kew Football Club team, 1905
Kew Historical Society collection.

The Kew Croquet Club Pavilion,
Victoria Park, Kew Historical Society collection.



PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE (cont.)

It has been generally accepted that an architect in the office of Walter Burley Griffin designed the pavilion, although Simon Reeves in the 'Thematic History' of Boroondara suggests that the designer could be Rowland Chipperfield (1886-1956), the Building Surveyor of the City of Kew.

The original design of the Croquet Club's pavilion did not anticipate how the records, trophies and artefacts that are accumulated by a club could be stored and preserved over a number of decades. Because it is a significant building, the architectural integrity of the pavilion does not permit expansion to store what is now valued. Situations like this can inhibit clubs from identifying and collecting items that are significant to their history.

Sometimes objects held by groups are in a fragile state. When the Kew Historical Society was presented with a rare photograph of the Kew Football Club team of 1905 (p.1), it was already badly degraded. As well as the rarity factor of items, many objects in collections are exceptionally fragile. Two items from the Kew Football Club that are being displayed at the Kew Library fit this description: the large linen 1950 Premiership Pennant and a very worn woollen club guernsey. The Historical Society is fortunate in having contacts that enable it to source conservation advice. The exhibition will potentially allow it to share this knowledge with sporting clubs in Kew and Kew East.

The clubs that are actively participating in the exhibition – Green Acres Golf Club, Kew Croquet Club, Kew Football Club, Kew Golf Club, North Kew Tennis Club, and Sacred Heart Tennis Club, as well as the private collectors contributing photos, trophies and equipment to illustrate the history of other sports such as the 'Kew Flyer', are now involved in sorting through assets that they think will interest you.

Sorting and classifying identifies a collection's strengths and weaknesses. It also exposes items requiring conservation. We urge your support by viewing the exhibition, which will open on 14 March.

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.

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, 188 High Street, Kew.

Volunteers staff our History Centre on Level 1 on Fridays (11:00am–1:00pm) and Saturdays (11:00am–1:00pm). At the Centre you can ask questions about Kew's history and heritage and view displays from some of the Society's collection. Inquiries about houses and past residents can be made by reference to 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. Copies of this and previous newsletters can also be accessed and downloaded from our website: www.kewhistoricalsociety.org.au/publications.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

See page 11 of the newsletter or contact the president, Alex Wilson, by phone 9859 6177 or email president@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au.

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EXHIBITIONS

SPORT IN KEW

Kew Court House

March 2014 – May 2014

At the Kew Court House, level 1 188 High Street, an exhibition of photographs and objects relating to the histories of the Green Acres Golf Club, Kew Croquet Club, Kew Football Club, Kew Golf Club, North Kew Tennis Club and Sacred Heart Tennis Club. Additional photographs and objects exhibited will illustrate the history of athletics, lawn bowls, cricket, cycling and shooting in Kew.

SPORT IN KEW

Kew Library

March 2014 – May 2014

In the large window display case at the Kew Library a significant display of items relating to the history of the Kew Football Club is being exhibited. Complementing this is a special display on cycling history as it relates to the historic 'Kew Flyer' Road Race.

2014 MCINTYRE LECTURE

Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE.

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE HISTORY OF MELBOURNE MEDICAL RESEARCH

Just Theatre, Kew Court House
Wednesday 19 March 2014,

Join us at 7:30pm for a glass of wine before a stimulating lecture.

Sir Gustav Nossal, the distinguished Australian medical research biologist will present the annual McIntyre Lecture on 19 March.

The Lecture is usually sold out well before the night, so bookings will be essential, and can be made by ringing 9818-0364 or by emailing Judith Vimpani at:

vice.president@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Tickets are \$25 per person;
Members \$10.

Editor: The Kew Historical Society's new website includes a banner photograph that is taken from a section of the large framed photo of the 'Unveiling of the Kew War Memorial, 1925' which is part of our collection.

MEETINGS

The Society holds monthly meetings in the Phyllis Hore Room at the rear of the Kew Library in Cotham Road. Meetings are held at 8:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise announced. Visitors are always welcome.

PAST MEETINGS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 11 December 2013

The 2013 Christmas Party was held at Fred Young's in High Street. In the first years of the Kew Historical Society, it was traditional to have special dinners, including those celebrating the end of the calendar year, at external venues. Thanks are due to our Vice-President, Judith Vimpani and her assistants, who expertly organised invitations, collected contributions, and negotiated the menu. At the Party, Philip Slobom once again put a great deal of effort into what proved to be a most challenging history quiz.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Dr. Anne Vale

Edna Walling and the Arts & Crafts garden in Melbourne.

Dr. Anne Vale is the immediate past Chair of the Australian Garden History Society (Victorian Branch) and a staff member of the Burnley Campus of the University of Melbourne. Dr. Vale provided a detailed illustrated presentation of the development of the 'Arts and Crafts' garden, initially in England and later in Melbourne. Dr. Vale's presentation, like her new book *Exceptional Australian Garden Makers*, established connections between Australia's early garden-making pioneers, the mid century natural style landscapers.

FUTURE MEETINGS

MCINTYRE LECTURE

Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE
The History of Melbourne Medical Research

Just Theatre, Kew Court House
Wednesday 19 March,
7:30 for 8:00pm.

* Ticketed event. See Column 1 for details.

APRIL MEETING

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

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library
Wednesday 9 April, 8:00pm

Andrew McIntosh was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1999. He has a passionate interest in World War I and will talk about this, as well as his desire to recreate the opening of the Kew War Memorial in 1925.

MAY MEETING

Dr Brenda Niall AO
Conversations with the past

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library
Wednesday 14 May, 8:00pm

Dr Brenda Niall AO is an Australian biographer, literary critic and journalist. In her autobiography 'Life Class', she recounts what life was like growing up as a Catholic in Kew including her encounters with Dr. Daniel Mannix.

NEW WEBSITE

The Kew Historical Society has a new website. You can see the banner and menu of the website in the image below. As well as addressing the needs of members, we want our website to tell the people of Kew and Kew East about their history and the items in our collection that illustrate it. You might like to bookmark this new web address.



EXHIBITION ~ SPORT IN KEW

In late 2013, the Kew Historical Society invited local sporting groups and clubs in Kew and Kew East to participate in an exhibition illustrating the history of sport in Kew. Many sporting clubs have been very generous in loaning items treasured by their clubs. A brief history of each of the major exhibitors follows.

GREEN ACRES GOLF CLUB

The name 'Green Acres' was recommended by Mr. Gordon Oliver the designer of the course, based on his expectation that the bordering Yarra River would enable the course to always be kept green. The Governor of Victoria played the first stroke in December 1950. Since then, apart from winning numerous men's and ladies' pennants in inter-club competition, Green Acres has hosted the annual Boroondara Cup in conjunction with neighbouring Kew Golf Club, the Yarra Courses Open and many VGA and WGV sponsored events. Green Acres Golf Club celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2010.

Reference: Green Acres Golf Club.
www.greenacresgolf.com.au

KEW CROQUET CLUB

Frank Kenworthy Wright, Mayor of Kew (1932-33, 1945-46), called a meeting in 1932 that led to the establishment of the Kew Croquet Club. On 3 March 1934, a new croquet lawn and pavilion were officially opened by Alan Gutteridge, Mayor of Kew (1933-34). Construction costs were £700 and were funded by the City of Kew as part of a £15,000 (stirling) 30-year loan for 'permanent works and undertakings'. The largely unaltered pavilion of the Kew Croquet Club in Victoria Park is significant architecturally as well as for it being a continually used venue for organised recreation by a single club. There has been an interesting ongoing, and as yet unresolved debate about the architect responsible for the design of the pavilion. In 2012, the Kew Croquet Club celebrated its 80th anniversary.

Reference: Kew Croquet Club.
www.croquetvic.asn.au (Menu: Club finder)

KEW FOOTBALL CLUB

Recent research by Ian Job has found that the Kew Football Club dates back to 1876, rather than the more commonly accepted date of 1880. The Club won their first premiership in 1890. They later joined the Victorian Juniors and then the Reporter League. The Club's greatest early successes were in the Sub-District League Competition, being premiers in 1927, 1929, 1931, 1932, and 1934. For these successes they became the outright winners of the La Mascotte Shield. In the Victorian Amateur Football Association, the club was undefeated champion in 1950 in 'C' Grade, and, graduating to 'B' Grade, they were Premiers in 1953. [Editor: The shield and the pennant are displayed at the Kew Library during the exhibition]. Two Brownlow medalists were past players of the Kew Football Club: Col Austen and Robert DiPierdomenico. In 2007, the Kew Football Club and the North Kew Football Club amalgamated. That is another story.

Reference: Vaughan, W.D. (1960), *Kew's Civic Century*.

KEW GOLF CLUB

The Kew Golf Club is Melbourne's third oldest golf club. The first clubhouse was on the south side of Asquith Street, near the corner of Willsmere Road. In 1916, the club lost much of its land to a housing sub-division. A huge step forward was made in 1922 when the first freehold land was purchased. This was 92 acres on the corner of Belford and Kilby Roads, extending to Meldrum Street in the east and all the way to the Yarra in the north. In 1960, the Club learned that it was to lose part of this course to the proposed Eastern Freeway. The next few years saw considerable change. Land fronting Kilby Road was sold and the course was completely redesigned and rebuilt, being extended in the east across Glass Creek. No sooner was this work finished than the Board of Works announced plans for an expanded Freeway, which was to cut right through the club house. Another major redesign was required. Further land was acquired in the east that included the present fourth and sixth greens and in the Yarra River loop where the fifth and sixth tees stand today.

Reference: Kew Golf Club
www.kewgolfclub.com.au

NORTH KEW TENNIS CLUB

The Mayor of Kew, Cr H Coleman, officially opened the North Kew Tennis Club on 22 February 1930. The club had three en-tout-cas courts and a beautiful timber club house located on Peel Street, North Kew. In 1993 the club moved from its Peel Street location to a brand new facility on the corner of Willsmere Road and Kellett Grove less than a kilometre away adjacent to the Jack O'Toole reserve. Four new en-tout-cas courts were built and floodlights were added a few years later to complete of the relocation and enable members to enjoy night tennis that continues to thrive today.

Reference: History of North Kew Tennis Club
www.nktc.org.au

Kew Cricket Club, 1913

Left with bat: George Twycross; standing right: Albert Clements; Seated third on right: Albert Watson. Kew Historical Society collection. Presented by Mrs Ivory (nee Watson).



KEW FESTIVAL 2014 (CONT.)

SACRED HEART TENNIS CLUB

On 10 June 1935 the SHTC officially came into existence under the presidency of Frederick McArdle. By 1938, three club members were selected in the Victoria team to compete in the Australian Catholic Lawn Tennis Association annual carnival. During 1941 the club lost the services of many of its young men who were called to the greater service of their country in the Second World War. Despite the gloom of war, the first pennant flags were won in December of that year. Major redevelopment work was undertaken during the late 1940s. The SHTC became a hub of social activity for Catholic youth in Melbourne during the 1940s and 1950s. In 1987, St Joseph's Tennis Club in Hawthorn was dissolved, and SHTC now includes many parishioners from neighbouring Hawthorn.

[Editor: Edward McArdle, son of the first president of the Club, has supplied historic photos of the Club for the exhibition].

Reference: Sacred Heart Tennis Club
sites.google.com/site/shtckew/



Players at the old clubhouse.

Edward McArdle, collection.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The auction of the contents of Tara Hall

On the back page of the last newsletter, there was a picture of the main hall of Byram [aka Goathland, Tara Hall, Lowan]. Tara Hall, as it was finally known, was demolished in 1960. In response to our query about the auction of its contents, Dione McIntyre wrote:

'In response to your request for information about the sale of furniture which took place at Tara Hall, I can offer a little information.

I guess the auction took place in 1947 when the Royal Women's Hospital acquired it as a residence for its nursing staff. Someone, somewhere must have a catalogue of the goods for sale, or there may be a copy in the State Library, which would be worth pursuing.

My mother loved attending the open days prior to the auctions of 'stately homes' around Hawthorn and Kew, and would take me along with her. We would take a look at everything and then she would speak to the agent, a short man in a grey 3-piece suit and hat, who was always on site at these events and could be found in a nook somewhere, who would place a bid on her behalf for selected pieces at the auction.

Many of the items were part of 'Lots', so we seemed to collect a lot of stuff. From Tara Hall came a beautiful thick oval wool carpet in pinks and browns with a central pattern of roses, a hexagonal inlaid table, and a bronze light fitting with a cut-out pattern, which threw shadows on the walls. These items furnished the front hallway of our house in John Street. There was also a large Japanese vase, and a French bedroom jug and washbowl set in white china. The latter had ropes of deep pink china forming the handle of the water jug and decorated the bowl and soap dish.

These items were donated to the Kew Historical Society in 1999. After the vase was broken by a workman at the Court House, I retrieved the jug and basin, and it now resides on top of the wardrobe in our current bedroom awaiting a suitable space in the present archive so that it can be returned to the Society.

The Japanese vase was mended by Margaret Robinson, and is presently located on the mantelpiece in our History Room at the Kew Court House.'



Sydney Goold's Kew Flyer trophy, 1914.
Goold Family collection.

More about the 'Kew Flyer'

The last newsletter included a two-page article on the history of the 'Kew Flyer' and the cycling road race of that name that was held annually, from the early 1900s until the 1940s. Following publication, Lindsay Goold contacted us.

'We were recently reading about the history of Boroondara (Kew) and noticed an interesting article about the 'Kew Flyer' cycle company and road race. I also noticed that the Kew Historical Society will have a Sport in Kew display this year. Sydney Lawrence Goold (1895-1981) won the Kew Flyer Road race in October 1914. He was presented with a silver trophy after his victory. The Goold Family, who live in Boroondara and have also been prominent in Victorian Amateur Cycling, holds this trophy. (Matt Goold is the great grandson of Sydney Goold).

We are very interested in any photos of the race that you may have in your collection as we have none. We would really appreciate any further information you may have. Thank you for your very interesting work on the history of Kew and Boroondara.'

SCOUTING IN KEW

BRAD MILES

Scouting has long been a part of community life in Kew. Less than 12 months after the first 'patrols' of Scouts were formed in Australia, a Scout Troop had been established in Kew. That Scout Troop, known as the 1st Kew Scouts, is still in existence and celebrated its centenary in 2009.

While the initial surge in numbers subdued during World War I, numbers grew rapidly after the war ended. With the subdivision of farmlands in the north and east of the City of Kew, the population expanded rapidly and a number of new Scout Groups were formed: 2nd Kew (ca.1924), 3rd Kew (1925), 4th Kew (1925), 5th Kew (ca.1927), 6th Kew (1932), 7th Kew (1932) and 8th Kew (1930s).

World War II saw many scout leaders, then known as scoutmasters, undertake war service and some of the Scout Groups went into recess. Others kept operating with mothers running cub packs and the older Scouts running scout troops. The 1950s and early 1960s were perhaps the 'boom' period of Scouting in Kew, as old Scout Groups restarted and new Scout Groups formed: 10th Kew in 1953 and three new groups in 1958: 9th Kew, 11th Kew and 12th Kew. In June 1959 there were 555 Scouts registered in Kew.

By the 1980s interest in Scouting had waned. It became harder to attract volunteers to run the Scouts and fewer young people seemed to want to join. Many of the Kew Scout Groups amalgamated or closed and by 2008 there were only three Scout Groups left: 1st Kew, 4th Kew and 7th Kew (the last Group actually meeting in a Scout Hall in neighbouring Deepdene). Currently there are just over a hundred members in the two Scout Groups based in Kew.

All of the Scout Groups had a 'home'. The most desirable home was of course their own Scout Hall. Other Scout Groups met in church halls or school halls, often with their own 'den' and/or store built on the property. While some of these have been demolished or greatly modified, others remain pretty much as always. All of the Kew Scout Groups, until 1995, operated under the auspices of the Kew District Association, which met for many years in the now demolished South Esk on the corner of Cotham Road and Charles Street. The Kew Scout Groups are now part of the Boroondara Scout District.

Scouting is very much about the outdoors, and the Kew Scouts developed their own campsite at Warrandyte on the Yarra River. This was, and is still is known as 'Cresco Park', the former City of Kew's motto 'to grow' or, in its Latin form, 'cresco'. Back in the 1920s, scout events were held at 'Kilby Farm on the Yarra River at East Kew', and in the 1940s, over the river in Bulleen.

The Scouts have always been an active part of the Kew community and contemporary newspaper articles often refer to Scouts participating in various community events and celebrations, forming guards of honour, entering floats in the Kew Festival Parade, and undertaking community service such as tree planting. Over the years, Scout rallies and displays were held in Victoria Park, as well as at Willsmere Park.

The annual swimming sports held in the old Kew Pool were a highlight of the local Scouting calendar for many years. A Cub 'lightning football premiership' competition was held for many years at Stradbroke Park (well before it was levelled) and various school ovals were called upon for the annual athletics competition. For many years, thanksgiving services were held to commemorate the birthday of Baden Powell, being hosted by a different local church each year.

Scouting is mostly undertaken at a local level, within a 'Scout Group'. Each Scout Group is responsible for recruiting its own volunteer leaders and obtaining a place for meetings. The leaders are supported by a parent committee, which amongst other things, has to raise the necessary funds for the Group's activities. Early fundraising took the form of dances and euchre parties, with the holding of concerts also popular. Bottle drives were a perennial favourite. In more recent years telephone book deliveries, the collecting of newspapers for recycling and selling confectionary were popular, with the selling of Christmas trees and 'Scout Raffle' tickets the current favourites.

Like any community organisation, local Scout Groups come and go. In Kew there has been up to twelve Scout Groups operating at the one time. A brief outline of all of the Kew Scout Groups follows.



1st Kew Scouts, ca.1910

1st Kew Scout Group

The original Troop was formed early in 1909. By 1914, the Troop had 42 Scouts and met in a band hall (long since demolished) in Brougham Street. After meeting in various church halls, in 1925 the Group leased a block of land at the bottom of Disraeli Street from the then Kew Council and by 1927 had raised enough money to build a magnificent purpose-built Scout Hall on it. The Group was particularly strong through the 1930s, and again in the late 1940s and 1950s.

SCOUTING IN KEW (CONT.)



Over the years the maintenance needs of the hall became overwhelming and, following negotiations with the Kew City Council, the Disraeli Street site was sold. The proceeds were used to construct a new Scout Hall on the corner of Kilby Road and Kellett Grove. This new hall opened in 1993 and remains the home of the 1st Kew Scouts as well as being used by a number of other community groups.

2nd Kew Scout Group

This Group was sponsored by Trinity Grammar School and was formed around 1924. It first met in the school hall and by the 1960s was very strong. Following a fundraising drive, a Scout Hall was built as part of a new gymnasium constructed by the school in Stanley Street. The Group closed in 1986. One of its former Scouts, and a Scout Leader in the Group, Norman Johnson, later became the Chief Commissioner of the Victorian Scout Association, then Chief Commissioner of the Australian Scout Association and eventually the Chairman of the World Scout Bureau.

3rd Kew Scout Group

There have been three 3rd Kew Scout Groups. The first was formed around 1925 but only lasted a year or so, when its members joined 4th Kew. A second 3rd Kew operated from around 1946 to 1953, meeting at St Paul's Anglican Church, East Kew, with the third and final 3rd Kew formed in 1954 and based at the then Baptist Church in Woodlands Avenue, East Kew. It was very strong in the late 1950s and early 1960s. It continued operating up to 1985, when it closed due to a lack of leaders and children.

4th Kew Scout Group

This Group commenced in 1925, meeting at St Paul's Anglican Church in East Kew. Kew Council leased the Group land in Harrison Reserve, East Kew, and the Group erected a Scout Hall, which remains their home to this day. Over the years, the hall has been extended and outbuildings constructed. At one stage the Scout Hall was used as a kindergarten (before the Glass Street Kindergarten was built). The Group was very strong in the 1930s and 1940s and again in the 1970s and 1980s when, for a number of years, Scout camps were held every month. The Group currently consists of a Cub Pack, Scout Troop and Venturer Unit.

5th Kew Scout Group

The 5th Kew Scout Group was originally hosted by Holy Trinity Church, Kew, and it continued to meet there from about 1927 until 1982 when the Group merged with 12th Kew. The Cubs and Scouts held their meetings in the parish hall; a special Scout den was formed in the upstairs part of the hall over the parish office.

6th Kew Scout Group

This Group was also hosted by a church - Saint Hilary's Church of England in John Street. The Group met in the parish hall and built its own den (relocated many years ago to a campsite at Taggerty), then a newer den and store (now demolished). The Group ran from 1932 until about 2005. The 1960s and 1970s saw a continuous stream of their older Scouts gaining the coveted Queen's Scout Award.

7th Kew Scout Group

Another school-sponsored Group, 7th Kew, was set up by Carey Grammar in 1932. It first met in an old loft above the school's maintenance department. Finally, after many years of fundraising, a purpose-built hall was constructed, opening in 1967. The Troop was an important part of the school, with a number of teachers as well as older and former students taking on Leader roles. Over the years, the school became less supportive; the Scout Hall was demolished in the 1990s to make way for a new school building. The Scouts had to meet off-site and eventually the Group closed around 2008.

8th Kew Scout Group

This Group met at the then Methodist Church hall in Highbury Grove. Formed in the early 1930s, the Troop lapsed during World War II, but was reformed and continued until the end of 1959, with the remaining youth members transferring to 3rd Kew. It had its own store room and shed at the church. A second 8th Kew formed in 1963, and offered cubbing and scouting to the residents of Kew Cottages. It ran for about six years.

9th Kew Scout Group

This Group was based at St Paul's School for the Blind in Fernhurst Grove. It ran from 1958 to 1969.

10th Kew Scout Group

This Group met at the Kew Congregational Church hall in Peel Street. The Group started in 1953 and lasted nearly ten years, closing at the end of 1961.

11th Kew Scout Group

11th Kew was established in 1958 by the parishioners of St Anne's Catholic Church, East Kew. It grew from a Cub Pack to having Cubs, Scouts and Senior Scouts. By the late 1970s, there was less support from the church, and the Group relocated and then closed in 1983. It held its meetings in the parish's school hall and had its equipment store in the basement.

12th Kew Scout Group

The last Group to be formed was 12th Kew, commencing in 1958. It was sponsored by the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and met in the parish hall. It had its own den and store in an upstairs room. The Group continued until 1982.

17th Kew Scout Group

This Scout Group ran for a few years when the Cub Pack at 5th Kew joined together with the Scout Troop at 12th Kew in 1982. It operated until 1987, when the remaining members joined 1st Kew.

Sources

Kew District Local Association (1959), 'Scouting in Kew Year Book 1958-59', booklet.

Miles, B. (1995), 'A Brief History of Scouting in Kew', Appendix to the Kew District Scout Association Annual Report, 1995.

THE MMBW PLANS OF KEW

From 1891 to 1991, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) was one of the most powerful state authorities in Victoria. For Melbourne residents, the MMBW became synonymous with the supply of water, sewerage and the treatment of the latter.

Local historians and genealogists are now probably more interested in another product produced by the MMBW to support its core business; the creation of plans to facilitate the development of an effective sewerage system.

The plans were produced over a number of decades, beginning in 1891. These plans, particularly the 'detail plans', provide fascinating information about what houses and streets were like when the maps were made.

In the past, if you wanted to view the maps you could make an appointment to see them at specific government offices. I can remember going to Treasury Place many decades ago, to request and view a detail plan of part of South Melbourne. The public servants responsible for customer inquiries such as mine must have been increasingly irritated by such requests, especially as the information provided by the plans became more widely known.

As the Society works to systematically catalogue and conserve its collection, copies of the MMBW plans that were donated to the Society many years ago are being reexamined.

Whereas the copies of the plans on the State Library website are all monochrome lithographs, many of the plans in the Kew Historical Society's collection are hand coloured. Individual buildings and parts thereof are coloured pink, yellow or grey, depending on the type of building represented, and also the building materials used.

The small section of the MMBW Detail Plan No 1577 (below) shows those houses already built in 1903, when the map was made. In this extract from the detail plan, you may just be able to see that some houses are given a street number while other houses, and not necessarily just the mansions, are unnumbered but named. Two of the three large houses on the right hand side of the image, facing Glenferrie Road, are named 'Harrow' and 'Bokara'. From a cursory examination of the configuration of the current buildings, using Google Maps, these three houses remain.

A web search on Bokara returned no useful results but you can find information online about the Serle family of Harrow.



So what does a detail plan look like? The State Library of Victoria describes them thus: 'Each detail plan covers one or two street blocks (roughly six streets) and shows details of every building, including garden layouts and ownership boundaries; and environmental features such as fences, drainage, bridges, parks, municipal boundaries and other prominent landmarks as they existed at the time each plan was produced'.

The number of detail plans for Kew and Kew East number over 100, particularly with the numerous plans that were made of the Kew Asylum and its grounds. Each detail plan measures approximately 79 x 130 cm, so we are talking about a lot of paper.

Until now, researchers in Kew and Kew East seeking to view the plans have had to rely on downloading an individual plan from the State Library of Victoria website. While these are a great resource, they are difficult to manipulate and consequently to interpret.

Another interesting feature of the detail plans is that they identify where streets have been renamed, renumbered, or if indeed a street had not been created by the date the plan was drawn. In Detail Plan 1577, what we now know as College Place was then part of College Parade.

Each Detail Plan requires patient study and careful approaches to conservation. The map librarian of the State Library of Victoria has generously agreed to view the plans, assess their significance and to advise us about appropriate conservation measures.

ROBERT BAKER
ARCHIVIST

THE PRINCESS HOTEL



Entrance Gates, Lunatic Asylum, Kew, ca.1875-ca.1930.
State Library of Victoria

If you stand on the footpath near the roundabout in Princess Street at the intersection of Eglinton Street, Wills Street, Willsmere Road and Main Drive and gaze across the Yarra Valley, you can see a row of contemporary white houses stretching down towards Hutchinson Drive. These are merely the latest development to occur on this stretch of land, once part of the grounds of the Kew Mental Asylum, and later, of the Kew Cottages.

If you can imagine stepping back in time almost 150 years, the view would have been markedly different. Apart from the farmland and bush bordering the Yarra, the stretch of land previously mentioned was a hive of activity. This resulted from the construction of the Kew Mental Asylum.

When large buildings are now constructed, workers use Melbourne's public transport system or cars to reach their place of work. Such movement was impractical in 1860s as no form of mass public transport linked Kew to the city. The answer was for the workers to live on site.

Francis Barnard, in his *Jubilee History* of 1910, records that:

'The reserve became a busy scene for many years. Dozens of families resided round about the works, and a hotel, the 'Princess', sprang up near the entrance gates. The adjacent streets were terribly cut up by the cartage of the building materials, though the stone for the foundation [of the Asylum] was quarried in the Yarra Bend grounds and brought across on the high bridge.'

Barnard assumes that his readers would understand his references to the Yarra Bend grounds, the fragile streets that were damaged by cartage, and the 'high bridge' that was used to cart the quarried stones for the new Asylum's foundations.

The creation of the Mental Asylum in Kew, on what had previously been designated as a 'Village Reserve', resulted from chronic overcrowding in Victoria's first asylum on the other side of the river. In 1854, a mere six years after the creation of the 'Yarra Bend Asylum', the Victorian Government commissioned a report to identify appropriate locations for a new asylum.

The report recommended the land opposite the Yarra Bend Asylum as an appropriate location. Predictably there was outrage at this proposal from the small population of Kew. Residents were to maintain their objections for most of the next 100 years.

The building of the new Asylum on its solid foundations from across the river was to continue from 1864 to 1872; perhaps not surprising given the size and extent of the plans for the new Asylum of G. W. Vivian and Frederick Kawerau.

A number of maps of the Parish of Boroondara (1864, 1884) represent the 'Extension' to the grounds of the Kew Mental Asylum on which residences and businesses were to be built; fronting what was later to become Princess Street. The 1864 map shows the allotments that fronted Princess Street in the 'Extension'. These stretched as far as the Yarra. The writing on these allotments is unfortunately illegible.

Which takes us in a circuitous way back to the Princess Hotel mentioned by Barnard. Prior to the granting of a license for the Princess Hotel, five hotels had already been built in Kew: The Woodman Inn (1854), The Harp of Erin (1855), O'Shaughnessy's Kew Hotel (1855), the Prospect Hill Hotel (1858) and the Council Family Hotel (1860). In 1861, the *Victorian Census* identified that there were 1,439 persons living in Kew. This was a ratio of one hotel to every 288 residents; the latter number including women and children.

An activity such as the building of the Asylum brought new residents to the suburb, and the buildings on the 'Extension' facing Princess Street must have seemed like a small independent town.

On 23 November 1864, George Stevens applied for, and then requested a deferral of his application for a publican's license 'for a house at the corner of the Government Paddock at Kew'. The request for deferral was because building works had not yet been completed. The Court agreed to defer the application for a week. While a record of the granting of the license has not been identified, the Princess Hotel was up and running by February 1865 when an advertisement appeared in *The Argus* for a 'stout active lad, with character' who should apply at the Princess Hotel in Kew. That there were apparently no suitable, stout lads available necessitated a subsequent advertisement in March. This time the advertisement specified 'A stout active LAD, accustomed to a hotel'. Presumably, there may have been many stout lads applying, but without the necessary experience. No subsequent advertisements appeared in *The Argus*, so obviously the licensee found the lad that he wanted, reduced his expectations, or perhaps gave-up on hiring a lad altogether.

That the Princess Hotel was a functioning establishment is evidenced by the holding of 'the annual supper of the Kew Cricket Club' at 'the Princess Hotel, Princess Street', following an afternoon match at the Cotham Road ground where the 'first eleven will take on all newcomers'.

THE PRINCESS HOTEL (CONT.)

On 10 January 1866, George Stevens successfully applied to the Kew Police Court to transfer his license to Charles Henry Kershaw. Kershaw was perhaps unsuited to the trade, or received a better offer, as the period in which he held the license only lasted for six months; 12 January to 10 August 1866. On the latter date, the magistrates of the Police Court approved a transfer of the liquor license to Christopher Carroll.

A few articles in the *South Bourke Standard* and *The Argus* refer to the hotel between 1866 and 1871. These articles describe a robbery from Mr Ogbourn's butcher shop in Bulleen Road, and an inquest into the death of George Bell.

The first case involved the theft of money from the till of a butcher shop in September 1866. That the shop was obviously a butcher's is verified by the description in the report: 'While they [i.e. two employees] were killing sheep [the] prisoner [William Todd] was eating a leg of mutton which he held in his hand'. After visiting the Prospect Hill Hotel, the accused then progressed to the Princess Hotel. The landlady recounted what transpired at the Princess Hotel:

'Mary Carroll, landlady of the Princess Hotel deposed that on the 21st of August the prisoner was taking a drink in her house, when Bryant [Ogbourn's employee] rode up on horseback. Witness [Mary Carroll] asked the latter if he was going to shout, and he replied that he had no money. She then tossed with him for drinks, and he lost. They had drink, including the prisoner, but Bryant did not pay for them then'.

It might be assumed that a hotel that seemed to be associated with criminals might be an unsavoury establishment, but most hotels of the period were only mentioned in the press when there was a license transfer, when they were prosecuted in the Kew Court, or when publicans were called as witnesses to a prosecution.

Five years later, the hotel was in the news again. In an inquest into the death of George Bell after a fight in the garden of his home, the aggressor, Charles Hart was apprehended at the Princess Hotel. Sergeant James McGrath of the Kew Police stated that he finally caught up with Hart 'as he was coming out of the Princess Hotel at Kew. He [Charles Hart] was not drunk at the time, but appeared to be suffering from the effects of drink'.

Apart from a solitary advertisement placed by Whatmough and Winter that 'sought tenders for slating' in *The Argus* on 7 December 1871, where applicants were requested to apply at the Princess Hotel, there were to be no other references to the existence of the hotel in the local or Melbourne newspapers.

Aspects of the newspaper reports in the period are corroborated by the Sands & McDougall postal directories of the period. While the directories date from 1861, the occupation of the hotel by Christopher Carroll between 1869-71 is the sole reference to the hotel.

By 1872, the major construction period of the new Kew Asylum was completed. There was probably no further need for construction workers, so a significant proportion of the hotel's clientele must have moved elsewhere.

It might also not have seemed politic for licensed premises to continue in such close proximity to the new inmates of the Asylum, especially given that inebriates formed a significant proportion of the inmates.

The short, seven-year history of the Princess Hotel was only rivalled by one of its predecessors, the Woodman Inn, which lasted for only two years. Its contemporaries were to last into the next century.

**ROBERT BAKER
ARCHIVIST**

THE NOBLE FAMILY OF KEW



In rearranging, cataloguing and photographing the framed photographs in the archive of the Kew Historical Society, we came across a number of family portraits of the Noble family. But who were they, and where did they live? Luckily, the names attached to the portraits provided vital clues to their story.

Not expecting to find much, we began with a quick web search on the daughter of the family whose name, Winifred (pictured above), was on the back of a frame.

Imagine our astonishment when we discovered that a Jim Pavlidis had a grant from the State Library of Victoria to illustrate her diaries for an exhibition. A quick phone call enabled us to meet Jim and to find out about Winifred's diaries, which are promised to the State Library of Victoria. Jim had never seen Winifred's portrait and we arranged for it to be copied for his exhibition.

Meanwhile, searches of Victoria's Birth, Marriage and Death records, the Sands & MacDougall directories and Electoral Rolls by Judith have uncovered the history of the family and their houses at 102 Walpole Street and 26 and later 42 Molesworth Street.

One of the family's two sons, Frederick, was to work at *The Age* newspaper for 50 years. 'He was regarded as the epitome of accuracy and a fount of knowledge on many subjects, but especially cricket, the Royal Melbourne Show and Gilbert & Sullivan' (*The Age*, 15 November 1978). With Robert Morgan he compiled *Speed the Plough*, a history of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria and its role in developing agriculture in Victoria.

JUDITH VIMPANI & ROBERT BAKER

IT HAPPENED IN THE PAST

150-YEARS AGO

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

MONDAY, March 7, 1864.

Holy Trinity Church, Kew, which has been closed for some time past, in order to extend the nave, according to the original design, was reopened on Saturday.

Divine service was celebrated in the morning and in the afternoon, and collections were made in aid of the building fund. The congregation in the morning included a large number of clergy from the neighbouring parishes. Saturday was the first anniversary of the day on which the church was opened for public worship, and it is satisfactory to learn that the congregation has so steadily increased in numbers that the enlargement of the building was rendered absolutely necessary.

The erection of a tower over the west porch of the church has been commenced, but at present it will not be completed, as a sum of about £500 is still required to defray the cost of it.

A stained-glass window is to be erected at the west end of the edifice, and is already in progress, a special subscription of £200 having been raised for it.

The Argus, Monday 7 March 1864, p.5.

100-YEARS AGO

HORTICULTURE

There was an attractive collection of autumn flowers at the last monthly meeting of the Victorian Horticultural Improvement Society. The best exhibit was staged by Mr D. Warne, head gardener to Miss L. Henty, Kew. Some choice single dahlias were shown by Mr G. Merritt, of the Treasury Gardens. They were grown in the lake enclosure.

The Weekly Times, Saturday 28 March 1914, p.52

50-YEARS AGO

BEATLE SCHOOL

I READ that a girls' school in Australia would not let the girls wear Beatle haircuts or Beatle badges or anything to do with The Beatles. If they did, they were expelled.

Our school lets us put Beatle pictures around the room and even play records at lunchtime. You pay a small admission fee, which goes to social service.

This raises quite a lot of money, and it is also a much better way of handling the situation, as there isn't half as much trouble about The Beatles.

Joane Carmo, North Kew, Vic.

The Australian Women's Weekly, Wednesday 20 May 1964, p.42.

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.

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

I/We wish to make a donation of \$

join the Kew Historical Society. I/We agree to be bound by the Rules of the Society.

Signature of Donor(s)/Applicant(s): _____ Date: _____

Please post your cheque with this form to KHS, PO Box 175, Kew VIC 3101

Annual Membership Fee

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

MYSTERY HOUSE

On the reverse of one of the subdivision plans in the Kew Historical Society's collection is this photograph of a house for sale (right). The 'First-class Brick Residence' of 11 Rooms was described as well situated and close to three trams. The house was advertised for sale for £1,900. Its 'conveniences' included a tennis court.

While our history sleuths have discovered auction notices from 1919, and that the house was three minutes from the junction of Cotham and Glenferrie Roads, they have failed to identify its location. Is the house still standing? In which street might it have been located if it has been demolished?



BOOK SALE

18 May 2014

The next book sale will be held on Sunday 18 May between 1:00 and 4:00pm in the Phyllis Hore Room at the rear of the Kew Library, Civic Drive, Kew. There will be lots of bargains. Please put this date in your diary.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 14 March:** Sport in Kew exhibition opens
- 19 March:** McIntyre Lecture - Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE
- 09 April:** Monthly Meeting - Andrew McIntosh MLA.
- 14 May:** Monthly Meeting - Brenda Niall AO.

Kew Historical Society Inc.

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