

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



Development in Studley Ward

On 1 November 2013, documents were lodged with the City of Boroondara (Ref. No. PP13/00550) for a Planning Permit for 6-14 Studley Park Road in order to build a retirement village. The proposal involves:

'Demolition and partial demolition of existing buildings; Use of the land for a retirement village (81 retirement apartments); Buildings and works to construct a 5-storey building; A reduction of the car parking requirements associated with retirement village visitors; and External painting of a building and fences; On land partially affected by the Heritage Overlay'.

Since 1957, the Villa Maria Society has acquired most of the site bordered by Studley Park Road and Fernhurst Grove. The site at 14 Studley Park Road currently includes the specialist school, St. Paul's College and its Early Childhood Intervention Service which are not part of the current development. The main development proposed for the site would replace a 'Respite House' and largely be constructed over an existing car park.

The developers argue that the proposal for a retirement village on the site is designed to cater for an ever-increasing ageing population. The proposed 5-storey complex would comprise 77 of the 81 apartments as well as communal areas, a library, a cinema/function area, a pool and staffing facilities and basement car parking.

Also included on the site is the Studley Park Road mansion 'Whitty House' at 6 Studley Park Road. Currently used as offices, it was originally known as 'Glencara'. [An article on the history and significance of Glencara was included in our Newsletter (No. 104, September 2013, p.9-10).]

The proposed development involves the reuse of these existing heritage buildings (i.e. Whitty house and its stables) and includes the conversion of the heritage listed House into 4 additional large apartments. Other modifications include the construction of a new north-facing window on the ground floor, two new south-facing windows on the first level and the removal and replacement of two existing stained glass windows with new opaque glass windows. It is also proposed that the level of the existing tiled verandah would be raised to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

The land occupied by the Villa Maria Society was historically the site of a number of mansions in Studley Park Road and Fernhurst Grove. The former 'Ivanhoe', 'Neama' and 'Fernhurst' were integral to the heritage and history of Studley Park.

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Glen Cara. J.T. Collins Collection, La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria



DEVELOPMENT IN STUDLEY WARD (cont.)

The demolition of these important buildings in the Villa Maria period was and is to be regretted. The Kew Historical Society opposed the demolition of Fernhurst, not just because of its architectural value, but also because it had been the home of George Wharton, the first chairman of the Municipality of Kew, and the architect and town planner who was responsible for surveying, laying out and naming the streets in the subdivision of Fenwick's Lot 87 in central Kew. [Fernhurst is described in Rogers, D. 1961, *Lovely Old Homes of Kew*, p.7].

The main retirement building being proposed in the planning application does not conform to existing Council guidelines, due to its excessive 5-storey height; hence, the detailed descriptions in the application of how exceeding the current two-storey height limit would have minimal impact on the view of the building from Studley Park Road. The developers argue that this would be due to the siting and setback, and with the lower part of the site on which the proposed development will be situated.

The proposed development is framed to take account of existing provisions within the Local Planning Policy Framework that covers issues such as 'Heritage, Landscapes and Urban Character', 'Residential Land Use' and 'Neighbourhood Character Policy'.

The City of Boroondara will have to balance the proposed amenities being provided by the development with potentially negative impact on neighbouring homes and the surrounding streetscapes. The developers argue that the proposal responds to the heritage overlay applying to parts of the site by retaining existing heritage buildings and creating a 'polite' relationship to the new development.

One of the issues of concern with this proposal is the precedent it would provide for other large-scale development of substantial land-holdings in Studley Park, a significant number of which are owned by institutions. The sale of Uniting Church properties throughout Victoria is a salutary example of the pressures that may occur that encourage sale and/or development of sites by institutions.

The Management Committee of the Kew Historical Society has considered the proposed development of the Villa Maria site and its impact on the area. While the Committee has not made a formal submission to Council, it encourages individuals and concerned groups to make submissions to the City of Boroondara.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2013–2014

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. Volunteers staff a History Centre at the Court House, 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.

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 info@kewhistory.com.au

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EXHIBITIONS

KEW LIVING: 25 YEARS ON
Kew Court House

November 2013 – February 2014
In 1988, to celebrate the Bicentennial, a publication was produced by the City of Kew celebrating diversity in the city. A number of photographic case studies were commissioned. A selection of these are exhibited that allow one to reflect on the changing nature of our community's values, and to reflect on Kew's diversity, then and now.

The Society's archivist, Robert Baker and our curator, Dione McIntyre, have curated the exhibition with assistance from Les Littlechild.

KEW HIGH SCHOOL

Kew Library

August-December 2013

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Kew High School, an exhibit in the Kew Library includes current and past uniforms, newspaper articles, photographs and memorabilia.

Val Bourke curated the display with the assistance of Dione McIntyre and Les Littlechild.



Figure i: Members at the September Meeting

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

THE RAILWAY COMES TO KEW

Andrew Frost

11 September 2013

The day before Andrew left for a holiday in the United States, he gave an illustrated lecture on the events leading up to the opening of the Kew branch line in 1887. [The line closed in 1957.] Andrew's presentation was part of a much larger piece of research that he completed on this topic. His research has been added to our Collection. In 2014, we will publish an edited version of his presentation in the newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9 OCTOBER 2013

Elections for the Management Committee took place at the AGM. Alex Wilson and Judith Vimpani were elected President and Vice-President. Keith Kendall was elected as the new Secretary. Robert Baker and Dione McIntyre were elected as the Archivist and the Curator. Margaret Robinson was re-elected as Treasurer. Don Garden, Les Littlechild and Mary Kelleher were also elected to the Management Committee of the Society.

HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF

Cr. Judith Voce

The Society was pleased to have Cr. Judith Voce give the keynote address at the AGM in October. In her presentation, she drew parallels between the past and the present. Judith particularly highlighted the importance of 'social responsibility' in Kew's past and present. She noted that the first Women's Refuge was located in Princess Street in 1974, and how the Raoul Wallenberg memorial at the Kew Junction was intimately related to the values and memories of past refugees.

A HISTORY OF EAST KEW

Tony Michael

13 November 2013

Tony had everybody's attention as he shared some of his unique knowledge of East Kew. He took us under bridges that were part of the Outer Circle Railway and still there today. He spoke of the Old Golf Links Estate, which came about after Kodak were persuaded not to build their factory in Kew; however Kodak left its mark with the streets being named after company personnel. And he spoke of much more.

FUTURE MEETINGS 2014

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ARTS AND CRAFTS GARDEN IN MELBOURNE, FROM ARCHITECTS TO EDNA WALLING

Anne Vale

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library

12 February 2014, 8:00PM

Dr. Anne Vale, Chair of the Australian Garden History Society (Victorian Branch) will give a presentation on the development of the 'arts and crafts' garden in Melbourne. Anne is currently on the staff of the Burnley Campus, University of Melbourne, Richmond.

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 has agreed to present the annual McIntyre Lecture in 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 KHS at info@kewhistory.com.au.

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

WILTON

The human memory is often not an accurate tool for an historian. I demonstrated that recently when I claimed to have been born at St George's hospital, but on consulting my birth certificate found that the great event took place at St Omer in Camberwell. But, here I go again – some early recollections at 'Wilton', where I lived until just before my fourth birthday.

These days Wilton is most readily identified as the RSL premises in Cotham Road, and not many people know that it was built as a residence for Dr. William Walsh in 1886, and named Wilton.

After passing through various hands, in 1930 Wilton was divided into four flats and renamed 'Landene'. As a prime site on Cotham Road, the Kew City Council acquired it in 1934 as a future site for its municipal offices. Those plans did not proceed, so the Council continued to rent it as flats.

At the end of World War II there was a housing shortage in Melbourne and somehow my grandfather, Percy Edwards, a former councillor and mayor, was able to reserve two of these flats for family members. They included my mother, Vie, who in 1942 had married Roy Garden, an RAAF Lancaster bomber pilot who was still in Britain until early 1946. Mum was brought up in Derby Street and Dad in Peel Street (having been born at home in New Street).

The other family member was her sister, Gwen, who was married to Mac Dickins, a son of S.E. Dickins, who was later famous for his self-service grocery chain that was absorbed into Coles New World.

According to family story, after my parents' flat was allocated, my grandfather took to spending some nights there to keep out possible squatters until my parents were ready to move in. On Dad's arrival home, he met my three-year-old brother Glen who had been born after Dad's departure. The family then moved into the flats and I came along in 1947.

We occupied the ground floor flat on the south-western corner, looking onto both Cotham Road and Charles Street. We used the main entrance and had the large front room with the rounded tower and window in the corner. There were two bedrooms, one on either side of the corridor, and a kitchen out the back on the western side. Apart from a bathroom, that was it. I think we shared a laundry in one of the outbuildings.

In 1948 the Council decided not to use the site for its offices and Landene/Wilton was sold to the RSL who continued to let it as flats until 1954. In 1951 our family had moved to our new War Service home in Box Hill North.

For its offices and town hall the Kew Council acquired and later demolished the beautiful South Esk mansion that lay diagonally across the Cotham Road intersection from Wilton. Among my hazy memories of when I lived at the flats was going with my mother to drop off and pick up Glen at the kindergarten that operated for a period at South Esk, prior to its demolition. Later, I can remember watching out the window to see Glen coming home from Kew Primary School, along Charles Street.



Landene, 1964. J.T. Collins Collection, La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria.

My mother took driving lessons so that she could drive our family car, a 1926 Morris Cowley. For these she simply had to walk across Cotham Road to the well-known garage that had been established by pioneer woman driver and mechanic Alice Anderson in the 1920s.

There is a photo of the Wilton building that is identified as having been taken in 1945. It shows a large structure attached to the front of the building, possibly a bomb shelter or a storage room. It was not there when I began running around in the front yard.

Wilton was right on the tram stop and I have very early memories of hopping on it with Mum to go to the doctor or on shopping and other excursions. On one occasion as a three year old I inserted a stone in my nose and then would not let it go. I convinced Mum that it was stuck there, and it was only after we were on the tram on the way to the doctor that I released it. Poor Mum – she was not impressed, but greatly relieved.

Glen fondly remembers the peppercorn tree at the back of the house because he used to climb it. He associates it with a Dal Stevens short story about going back to his childhood home where there was a peppercorn tree that was huge in his imagination, but less impressive when he returned as an adult. In contrast, when Glen called in at the RSL a couple of years ago he was delighted to see the peppercorn tree still there, but it was vastly bigger than 60 years ago. He wouldn't be able to climb up into it now without a ladder and certainly would not have been able to as a child if it had been that big.

But, of course, these are the memories from young childhood and cannot be guaranteed.

Reference: For the history of Wilton I referred to John Torpey, *A History of Kew RSL*, Kew RSL Sub Branch, 2011.

DON GARDEN

THE ARCHITECTURE OF WILTON

Wilton was given an A-grade rating by Prue Sanderson in the *Kew Conservation Study* (City of Kew, 1988). She noted that it was designed by 'Guyon Purchas, the son of the noted Melbourne architect Albert Purchas, a designer with a considerable reputation of his own. The contractor for 'Wilton' was James Anderson. ... The contrast of the red brick with render bands and quoining add liveliness to the already picturesque forms of the corner tower, the gothicised front porch and the projecting gabled unit. There are few houses in Melbourne that compare with 'Wilton'. 'Bona Vista' in South Yarra by Reed, Henderson & Smart, and 'Redholm' (demolished) attributed to Albert Purchas, but probably also by his son Guyon, were both built in 1884 and were both very similar in styling and materials.'



**Holy Trinity Church, before 1913.
Kew Historical Society Collection.
Architect : Charles Barrett**

DID YOU KNOW?

Dickens Village

A simple request from John Lorkin, City of Boroondara for clarification of the name Dickens Village, located at the corner of Burke Road and Doncaster Road, was quickly answered and corrected. Joy Stewart, former Secretary of the Society, is Sidney Edmund Dickins' daughter and recently she sent us a copy of her book *Mrs. Dickins' Horrible Children*.

Amongst Joy's stories of growing up on the North Shore of Geelong, and then in Kew, is a short biography of her father. Joy's parents had operated grocery stores in Geelong along traditional lines, but very successfully introduced self-service in 1926. With John Connell, they went on to have 58 stores in Victoria under the name 'S. E. Dickins'.

In 1948, the stores were sold to G. J. Coles, forming the foundation of the Coles supermarket chain. The Sands & McDougall directories reveal that the Coles supermarket on the Burke Road corner was originally an S. E. Dickins supermarket, hence the name of the village.

Editor's note: Coincidentally, the Dickens family is mentioned in the previous article on Wilton.

Jellis' Bakeries

In the September Newsletter we published an article on the Bakeries, founded by T. G. Jellis in High Street, Kew in the 1870s. Following distribution of the newsletter we received a very detailed account of Jellis' Bakeries by Trevor D. Fiander of Wallan, Victoria. Trevor lived for most of his life at either 91 or 75 Earl Street, Kew. He was educated at the Kew State School in Peel Street and later at Trinity Grammar School.

Trevor recounts how that in 1955 or 1956, he was taken on a school excursion to the Bakeries, which were then on the corner of Princess Street and Studley Park Road.

His description of the tour is too detailed to provide here but his very detailed eight-page description of Jellis' Bakeries will be added to our Research Archive.

In his recount, he confirms information provided by Tony Michael, that a Jellis' Bakeries cart was donated to a kindergarten play centre at the rear of the Kew Synagogue in Walpole Street. Is it still there?

At the end of Trevor's description, he provides an account of an accident at the Bakeries which is included below:

'One winter I got off the bus opposite the Bakery on my way to Trinity, when there was suddenly a great deal of yelling and screaming. I stood still and looked for the danger. A baker's cart was crossing the ice-covered road. The driver had lost control as he had his foot full down on the brake and was also hard reining in the horse. The driver was standing with all his weight on the brake and the horse, sitting like a dog, had its front legs stiff and straight out in front, and frantically biting the ice with the heels of its hooves. And all to no avail.

As the cart skated towards (not the junction) but the opposite footpath, I could see inside the blinkers and the horse was waiting in blind terror for the inevitable. It lifted its front feet as it went over the gutter, placed its hind feet on the footpath's edge and stretching back in the shafts and into the cart, discovered that what it managed to achieve was too late, as the shafts had gone through the plate-glass widow of the corner chemists' shop just as had happened the week before. I was the nearest pedestrian to the horse – an eye-to-eye witness. Apparently it happened quite often, and at least once every winter'.

Images of Kew

The Society has received a number of requests for historical photographs of Kew. In response to these requests, we have been digitising and cataloguing a number of our photographs and plans. These have been placed on a temporary website. You may like to view them. To raise funds for the ongoing conservation of our Collection, we are offering copies of a number of them for sale.

Internet: <http://kewhistoricalsociety1.wordpress.com>

PRESIDENT'S 54TH ANNUAL REPORT (2012-13)

It has been said that history never looks like history when you are living through it.

This coming March we will live through yet another chapter of history, for it will be 92 years since the town of Kew was proclaimed 'The City of Kew'.

Below the Crest of the City of Kew, which now also forms part of the logo of the Kew Historical Society, is the Latin word Cresco which when translated means to grow, to increase, to expand.

Over the years many generations have contributed to developing and expanding Kew, and thus it was in 1958, with wisdom and foresight that Kew Councillor Bill Dickinson MBE saw the need to collect, capture and preserve that passing history. Hence the Kew Historical Society came into being.

As the late Sir Robert Menzies said at the time, 'A quiet corner we may be, but the quietness is one which has nourished thoughtful people, good citizens and great schools. There is a charm about Kew which nothing can take away from it' [1]

I can say to you with great pride that it was an honour and a privilege to be given the opportunity twelve months ago to become the President of the Kew Historical Society. Foremost in my mind when I took on the Presidency was that Latin word Cresco.

It now gives me pleasure to reflect over the past twelve months and review the achievements that we have made over that time; achievements both big and small that we all have helped bring about as a team; achievements that have contributed to growing and expanding the services of the Society.

The key to the success of an organisation like KHS, is having an energetic and enthusiastic team of people all working towards achieving goals. My very warm thanks goes out to your Management Committee for their support in achieving these goals during 2013.

In particular I wish to acknowledge the tremendous standout contributions that Judith Vimpani, Margaret Robinson, Robert Baker, Dione McIntyre and Dorothy Benyei have made to the Society over the past twelve months.

During the year under review, your Society adopted a five-year Strategic Plan. The strategy provides a mosaic of what it wants to achieve by 2018. It is predicated on two very important goals: 'Looking after our members', and 'Looking after the Society'.

These goals are achieved by volunteers like you and me, working in small groups each known as an Activity Group. There are currently four of these groups and their activities range from having working bees, such as the quarterly book sales, promoting and publicising social events such as the annual prestigious McIntyre Lecture, through to the Collections Management Group, the Research Group and the Finance, Secretarial & Governance Group. Each Activity Group is lead by a member of the Management Committee.

It is planned that during the forthcoming 12 months these Activity Groups will take on further expanded roles of responsibility, shared amongst many more members. Each Activity Group is lead by a member of the Management Committee.

The McIntyre Lecture is the highlight of the year for the Society. It therefore was not surprising that the Just Theatre at the Kew Court House was again booked out well in advance for this year's speaker. Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison's lecture surveyed the emergence of Australia's first suburbs in the 1830s and 1840s.

During the course of the year a number of excellent speakers also spoke at our monthly general meetings on a wide variety of topics including 'Planning & Heritage in Boroondara'; 'Fifty Years of Kew High School'; 'One Hundred Years of St George's Hospital'; the 'Toscano family of Kew'; 'Architecture of Boroondara'; 'From Blackboard to White Board', a look at Trinity Grammar School today; and 'The Railway comes to Kew'.

Taking history out to the community is one of the aims of the Society. During the year there were a number of visits to schools in Kew. Margaret Robinson and Judith Vimpani both spoke to pupils at several of the Primary Schools. Also during the year, the Society took two hundred year 8 Kew High School students on an escorted tour of Kew's own version of Paris' Pere-Lachaise cemetery. It is truly Kew's triangle of history; which is also rich in Victoria's history. The tour of the Boroondara General Cemetery by the High School students was best summed up by one of the teachers, who reported that 'the Kew High School is over the moon. The students haven't stopped talking about it'.

I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Karen Lynch (Deputy Principal, Kew High School); Margaret Robinson, Tony Michael, Mel Lawrence, Judith Vimpani (KHS members); and Jenni Kennedy (Secretary of the Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery Trust), for their assistance in making this event such an outstanding success.

Members of the Society have been active in taking Kew and its history to the community. During the year under review, Valerie Bourke was part of the Kew High School History Book Writing Group, which published its book this year. The book commemorates 50 years of the school's history. The Society provided the auspicing arrangements that enabled the book to be printed.

The Kew Community Festival is a well-supported family community festival that captures the diversity of Kew. It has a rich history dating back to 1974 and this coming year it will be chaired by a KHS member Debbie McColl-Davis.

KHS wishes to extend its thanks to Sartori Freeman, Chartered Accountants, who have independently audited the Society's end-of-year financial reports for the past thirty-three years. Since 1980, Max Sartori FCA has audited the Society's financial records, which have been maintained by nine different treasurers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)

Over the past 54 years, the Kew Historical Society has built up in its archives a large body of materials that enables us to encounter Kew's history and heritage. Archives are the sources from whence history is produced and as such they become the doors to the future.

To ensure that its archives never become a place of mourning where history is stored away and forgotten, Robert Baker as Acting Archivist produced during the year the Society's Collection Policy, which has been adopted by the Society. It articulates the Society's overarching policy that guides or frames its collection. As such it includes a key set of statements relating to acquisition, accessioning, de-accessioning, storage, cataloguing, access and loans.

As editor of the quarterly Newsletter, Robert Baker also oversees a multi-faceted production involving research, the development of informative articles, printing and the distribution and stocking of outlets at both the Kew Library and the Kew Court House. Under his editorship the Newsletter has enhanced the community's interest in the history and heritage of Kew.

KHS extends its thanks to Andrew McIntosh, MLA for Kew for his support in providing the facilities for KHS to print the Newsletter.

Having laid the foundations for the future growth of the Society, the year ahead will be about building on these foundations. The Society's viability depends on its capacity to build community engagement which impacts on all aspects of the Society's role. To this end developing volunteer programs to ensure that all the Activity Groups run smoothly and that all volunteers know what they are doing, and that they feel valued and are making a contribution to the Society, will be a high priority in 2014.

The Society is the custodian of Kew history and its future depends on building community interest in the history of Kew.

ALEX WILSON OAM
PRESIDENT

[1] Vaughan, W.D. 1960, *Kew's Civic Century*, p.5.

VALE

Ray Boothroyd

Ray Boothroyd, died in September aged 90. He joined the Society in 1994 and was a regular attendee at our meetings, always trying to move the first motion of the meeting. Ray's engineering background and hobbies came into the fore when he retired. He was a regular volunteer at Scienceworks and at the Kew Children's Traffic School where he was responsible for the maintenance of the children's bikes, etc. You can see an example of Ray's woodturning work in the striker that is used on the Rotary bell at our meetings. To his daughters and sister-in-law Joan Simms we send our sympathy.

Beth Brodribb OBE

Beth joined the Kew Historical Society in 2004 and later in life enjoyed her daughter reading our newsletter to her. A gentle lady of great humanity, humility and compassion, her life's work was her family and her community. She was the first co-ordinator of the Polio Network, supporting many in those difficult years of the epidemic.

Robert (Bob) Johnson

Bob and Brenda Johnson joined the society in 2011 wishing to share their knowledge of Kew, in particular that of the pharmacy (Barnard's Pharmacy) at 167 High Street, Kew, where Brenda was the last Pharmacist. When they renovated the building to a modern shop and upstairs flat they uncovered many historic items and have donated them to the Society. Bob's passions included renovating historic homes and photography. We send our support to Brenda.

JUDITH VIMPANI
VICE PRESIDENT

MCINTYRE LECTURE 2014

SIR GUSTAV NOSSAL AC CBE

'A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE HISTORY OF MELBOURNE MEDICAL RESEARCH'

WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH AT 8.00PM

**JUST THEATRE, KEW COURT HOUSE,
188 HIGH STREET, KEW**

**Join us at 7.30pm for a glass of wine
before a stimulating lecture.**

Tickets \$25 per person, Members \$10

**Book early as this lecture will be very
popular.**

**Phone 9818 0364 or email
info@kewhistory.com.au**

SUBDIVISION PLANS

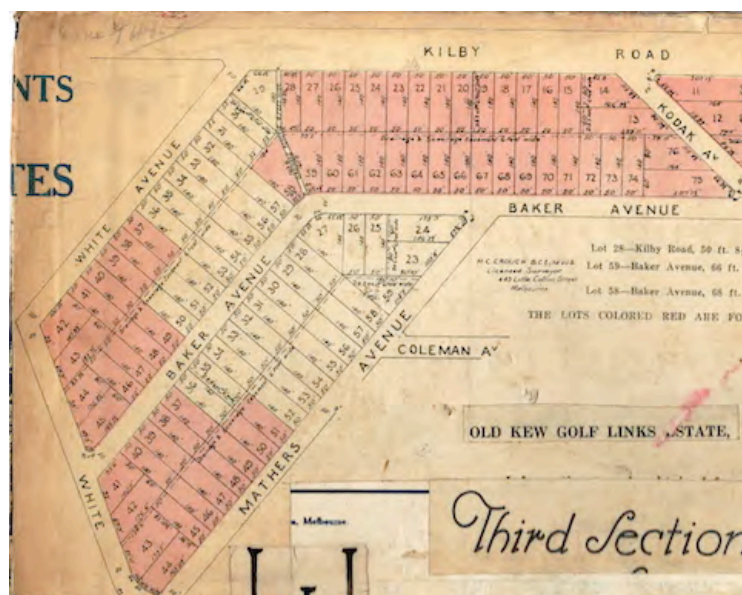
A number of years ago, the Kew Historical Society's Collection was augmented by the donation of a number of old real estate plans and photographs. These plans are now of historic importance for understanding the development of Kew and surrounding suburbs within the City of Boroondara.

Until now, the plans have been securely held in the Society's Collection. For the first time, in 2013, a number of these plans have been digitised, catalogued, described and published. At present we are constrained by resources, both physical and human as to what we can digitise. A number of the plans require special scanning due to their size and shape. From scanning to publication of an image may take up to an hour, so we are moving slowly and deliberately.

The plans that have been published to date include subdivisions within Kew, Kew East, Camberwell, Balwyn and North Balwyn. The plans were often pasted on cardboard that had previously been used to advertise products; others are double-sided, including different subdivisions and sometimes photographs of houses.

Versions of some of the subdivisions are held by the City of Boroondara Library Service and by the State Library of Victoria. They are published on their websites. The Historical Society's plans are however in many cases unique, thus increasing their historic value.

To give you an idea of what is in the Collection, two plans are included and described here.



The first of these plans is the **'Old Golf Links Estate - Third Section'**. [Colour lithograph, 32 x 23 cm.].

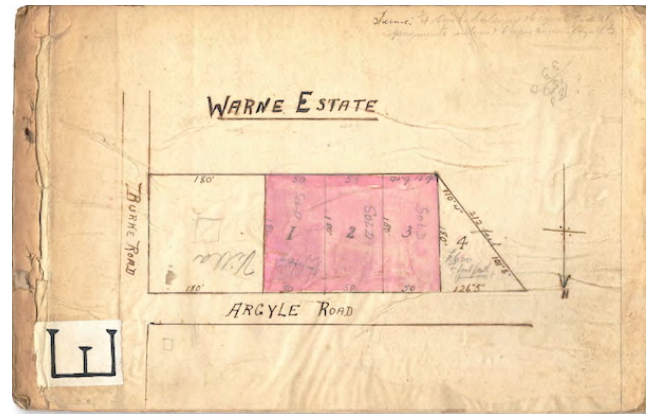
When the old Kew Golf Links was subdivided in the mid 1920s, the developers were able to break the sale into sections. At the first auction in September 1926, 80 lots were sold for a total of £25,300.

The third section included 80 lots. The lots coloured in the plan were those advertised for sale. The lots faced Kilby Road, Kodak Avenue, Belford Road, Baker Avenue, Mathers Avenue, and White Avenue.

[Kodak Avenue was renamed Page Avenue at a later date]. On the reverse is part of an advertisement for 'Dandy Starch'. The reuse of packaging from other products is typical of real estate advertisements during this period.

The subdivision of the Estate was based on the survey undertaken by H. C. Crouch of 443 Little Collins Street. Otherwise, and this is typical, the name of the agent selling the lots in the subdivision is unnamed.

The second example is of a much smaller subdivision.



The **'Warne Estate'** [Pen & ink on card, 33 x 21 cm.] was a subdivision of four lots.

This subdivision, in East Kew, represents a typical, small-scale subdivision. The plan is undated. The four lots for sale in Argyle Road must have been further subdivided at a later date, as there are now more houses in the street than there were blocks advertised in this subdivision.

The Outer Circle Railway line (1888-93) would originally have run along the triangular shaped lot 4. By the time of the subdivision, remnants of the railway probably still remained before it was converted into a reserve in 1946. Lot 4 was offered for the sum of £600 plus the costs of footpath construction.

The size of the subdivision clearly influenced the cost of promotional materials created to support the land sales.

The plan promoting the 'Warne Estate', in contrast to that for the 'Old Golf Links Estate', is hand-drawn, with the streets, lots and their measurements identified with pen and ink.

Many of the plans in the Collection are annotated with pencil, often indicating the value of a lot, or the lots that had been sold.

These are just two plans from the Collection. In later newsletters, we may be able to describe more of them. The plans published to date can be viewed at: <http://kewhistoricalsociety1.wordpress.com>.

ROBERT BAKER
ARCHIVIST

THE KEW FLYER



A 'Kew Flyer' bicycle. Photograph: Tony Michael, 2013

The City of Boroondara's inventory of infrastructure to support the art of cycling includes several popular bike routes including Yarra Boulevard, Main Yarra Trail and Capital City Trail. It also advises that there are many informal cycling routes that lead into Kew Junction, and that there are secure bike parking hoops along High Street and Cotham Road. The response of the City to the needs of cyclists takes into account the need for sustainable transport options, and potentially that 43 per cent of Australia's, and perhaps the City's population, own bikes.

Cycling in the past

When the safety bicycle, the prototype of the modern bike was invented in England in 1885, millions of people, men and women, took to the roads. In Melbourne, even with the depression of the 1890s, the bicycle became a form of mass transport, and cycle races attracted crowds comparable to those at football matches. Strange as it may seem, Kew was the location of one of Melbourne's most notable manufacturers of bicycles. This however, is a forgotten history, as is that of the Kew Social and Cycling Club, which was established in 1909.

Cycling in Kew

F. G. A. Barnard's *Jubilee History of Kew* (1910) provides two clues. Under the heading 'Sports and Pastimes', Barnard notes that 'Several cycling clubs have been born and died, suffering chiefly from the migration of the leading spirits in the organisations, but since 1900 the Kew Flyer Road Race, instituted by Mr. H. F. Cooper, has been the cycling event of the year among local riders'. If we were to believe the historian, cycling had a promising but interrupted history at the turn of the century, yet in 1941, *The Argus* was able to report that the Kew Flyer Road Race was the '... oldest established of the traders' cycle races in Victoria'.

The other reference within the *Jubilee History* includes two photographs (p.10), the first of H. F. Cooper's shop at 8 Cotham Road, and the other of 'officials and competitors' in a Kew Flyer Road Race. The group is photographed in front of Meagher's Travellers Rest Hotel.

Which takes us, temporarily back to the present day. Tony Michael, a member of the Kew Historical Society, and an inveterate collector of 'all things Kew', recently saw an advertisement for a 'Kew Flyer' on an online trading website. Tony recounts how he '... was determined to win it at auction but not at any price, which is a bit of a gamble if there is another bidder'.

'At the end of the auction there were no bidders so the vendor re-listed the bicycle at a lower price which I won and was ecstatic to own a piece of genuine Kew. The next step was to collect my prize, which was in Leongatha. Walking up the vendor's driveway, I was keen to learn the provenance of the Kew Flyer but the gent was less than approachable, and regretfully I handed my money over, wheeled the bike down the driveway and with it safely in the back of the car headed home.'

The bike bought by Tony would not have been ridden in a Kew Flyer Road Race. He describes it as having '... a steel frame, most likely from a kit whereby the tubes and connection were slip-fit into place and brazen to fix them. It is a girl's bike for a younger person, as the wheels are 24". Most likely produced in the 1930s or 1940s, the logo 'Kew Flyer' clearly appears on both sides of the frame, painted in a pale blue colour (p.12). The tyres are Dunlop Atlantic, made in Australia. As the tyres are perishing, they will be replaced with modern ones with new tubes so the bicycle can be moved around, although it will never be ridden.'

So, where was the Kew Flyer made, what were its origins and what role did it have in Victoria's cycling history? The National Library of Australia's website includes a repository of many newspapers from 1800 to 1960. Included in these are *The Argus* (1848-1957) and *The Box Hill Reporter* (1889-1918), which between them are rich source of information about this significant Kew manufacturing business.

A Cotham Road Institution

When it finally closed in 1949, the 'Kew Flyer' had been an established business at 8 Cotham Road, opposite the Kew War Memorial, since the turn of the century. Established as a cycle manufacturing business by H. F. Cooper in 1893, it moved to Brougham Street in 1900 and then to Cotham Road in 1901. The Society has a postcard in its Collection, 'Tramway Terminus, Kew', which depicts, in addition to a tram, the buildings known as 'The Block'. Cooper's business at 8 Cotham Road was part of The Block. [The shop, now number 14, is currently



'Tramway Terminus, Kew'. Kew Historical Society Collection.

THE KEW FLYER (CONT.)

Occupied by the Kew Junction Optical Clinic.]

Later newspaper advertisements were to claim that Cooper had established a cycle manufacturing business 'in the district' in the 1890s, however a search of the Sands and McDougall postal directories could only find a listing of a cycle business run by a Harry Cooper in Fitzroy in the mid 1890s. The Directories, which were purchased by the Society, with the assistance of a grant from the Bendigo Bank's Kew East Branch, do however confirm that H. F. Cooper had opened for business in Cotham Road in 1901. He was to retain ownership of the business until 1936.

The Kew Flyer Road Race

As previously noted, Barnard claims that Cooper had begun the Kew Flyer Road Race in 1900. While this may be so, the first record of the race occurring was in *The Argus* (11 July, 1904) which recorded that '... a good crowd witnessed the race, which started and finished in East Kew. The distance was 10 miles, from the six-mile post to the 10-mile post, on the Bulleen Road, and return'.

By 1906, the location of the race had changed to White Horse Road (Box Hill *Reporter*, 21 September, 1906). In October 1907, the journalist of the *Reporter* recounted that: 'Two hundred drags and a number of private vehicles, accompanied by some hundreds of cyclists, left the Kew Post Office shortly before three for Blackburn, and a large crowd had assembled at the starting point, viz, the Travellers' Rest Hotel, Blackburn. Prior to the start the competitors and officials were photographed, as were also the ladies, quite a number of whom had travelled up in drags and on cycles' (25 October, 1907). The course was reported to be from the Travellers' Rest Hotel to a point near the Ringwood Post Office, out and return twice! First prize was a 'silver hot water kettle and a chocolate jug'. Other winners were awarded prizes that included tyres, a sweater, and a pair of claret jugs. For the fastest time, W. McLean and C. Witchell were given a 'silver egg cruets and toast rack combined'. One wonders whether they had to split the prize. The trophies were presented at a 'smoke night' in the Kew Town Hall.

The Race had significant benefits for Harry Cooper's business. In 1908 he was able to advertise that 'Coopers Kew Flyer Cycle & Sporting Depot opposite the Kew Post Office' has an enlarged shop, new workshops, and the latest lathes and cycle-building tools. It was, the advertisement continued, 'now one of the most up-to-date cycle works in Victoria' (*Reporter*, 29 May 1908).

The annual smoke night in 1908, at which the trophies for the Race were awarded, was held in the Federal Hall in Denmark Street. 'The tables were beautifully decorated, pink being the chosen colour, and roses the predominating blooms. Mrs. Cooper and her assistants (Misses Cowcher and Donaldson) had transformed the room into a veritable fairy bower' (*Reporter*, 13 November, 1908). Gracing the night was Cr. Henningson, Mayor of Hawthorn, who was also the president of the East Suburban cycling club. The seating was apparently 'taxed to its utmost capacity'. Addressing those in attendance, the chairman, Mr. F. Pitcher, noted that the Race '... had grown in importance, and he trusted Mr. Cooper's business would prosper, as a result of his enterprise'.

Perhaps, due to the importance of the Race, cycling flourished in Kew. In 1909, the Kew Social and Cycling Club was formed. Its colours were green and gold. It was to hold its first 10-mile race from the Harp of Erin Hotel in May. Many of the participants in the race were also competitors in the Kew Flyer Road Race. Harry Cooper's association with the Club was evident in his being elected delegate to the ICCA (Inter-club Cycling Association) and his appointment as press correspondent.

World War I brought about changes to the fortunes of cyclists, employees and employers. In May 1915, *The Argus* reported the death of Private Robert Richardson of Gladstone Street, who had previously worked as a motor mechanic in Harry Cooper's business. In January 1917, the *Hawthorn, Kew and Camberwell Citizen* reported the death of Private H. Herbert who was killed in action in France. He had been the winner of the Kew Flyer Cycle Road Race in 1913. Meanwhile, with changing technologies, Harry Cooper was to begin retailing Precision Engines motorcycles from his Cotham Road shop.

Bicycles were however to remain central to the business that Harry Cooper began in 1893 and was to sell in 1936. The new purchaser was to N. A. Freaan who was to own the business until 1945. The Kew Flyer Road Race was still being run during the Freaan period. In 1941, it was recognised as the '... oldest established of the traders' cycle races in Victoria' (*The Argus*, 27 October 1941). From 1945 to 1949, F. Langland operated the business but the end came with a notice in *The Argus* that Langland had sold the business. 'Men's, Ladies', Boys', Girls' models. Brand new. Famous Kew Flyers. Owner sold out. Stock must be cleared within seven days to make way for a new business'. The new business was to be the Jolly Wash Laundry!

Perhaps Tony's purchase of a part of this forgotten piece of Kew's history came from the sale. Regardless, it is a valuable and rare item that has returned to Kew. Tony meanwhile has caught the research bug and is inquiring far and wide to find out more about the Kew Flyer. He also intends a faithful restoration of the bicycle.

ROBERT BAKER & TONY MICHAEL

A historian's account

The Kew Flyer '... is run on the White Horse Road at Blackburn; the upper illustration shows the party about to leave Kew, while the lower one is a group of officials, competitors, &c. The names of the winners are: W. Mansfield, J. Scott, C. Witchell, D. McEwing, H. Witchell, S. Pyle, J. Scott, jun., and R. Smith (1910).

Barnard, FGA 1910, *The Jubilee History of Kew*.



IT HAPPENED IN THE PAST

50-YEARS AGO

DOCTOR MANNIX DEAD

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Daniel Mannix, died early this afternoon at his residence, Raheen, in Studley Park Road, Kew. Dr. Mannix, one of the most outstanding figures of the Catholic Church in Australia, suffered a collapse at Raheen yesterday afternoon. After lingering in a semi-conscious state overnight, the 99-year-old Archbishop lapsed into unconsciousness just before midday and died about an hour later. Dr. Mannix, who celebrated his fiftieth year as a bishop last year, would have turned 100 on March 4 next year.

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Calwell, were among the political and church leaders to pay tribute to Dr. Mannix. Mr. Calwell visited Dr. Mannix's bedside less than an hour before he died. Last night, the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Woods, paid a 15-minute visit to Dr. Mannix. Nuns from the nearby Caritas Christi Hospital had kept a constant vigil at the Archbishop's bedside since his collapse. The coadjutor Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Simonds, is in Rome attending the Ecumenical Council. He was cabled immediately after the death this afternoon and is expected to return to Melbourne at the earliest opportunity. A report from Vatican City said more than 2,000 bishops recited prayers for Archbishop Mannix when his death was announced today in the Ecumenical Council.

The Canberra Times, Thursday 7 November 1963, p.1.

100-YEARS AGO

KEW TRAMWAYS BILL

Mr. Watt moved the second reading of the *Kew Tramways Bill*, which, he explained, had been introduced for the purpose of enabling the municipality of Kew to purchase the Kew horse tramway from the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company with the view to converting it into an electric service.

The present horse system was inadequate for the present traffic, apart from the question of providing for the future development of the district.

The line would commence at Victoria Street at the terminus of the present cable system, and thence proceed over the Kew Bridge along Barker's Road, High Street, and Bulleen Road, to the intersection of the last mentioned street with Burke Road.

The total length would be three miles, but the present intention was to extend the line only half of that distance.

The total cost was estimated at £70,000.

The second reading was agreed to, and the bill passed through committee. Mr. McPherson again thanked the Ministry on behalf of the residents of Kew, Hawthorn, and Camberwell, for the speedy passage of the measure.

The Argus, Friday 28 November 1913, p.13.

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

TARA HALL

On the back page of the September issue of the newsletter, we showed the exterior of a church in Kew. A number of readers successfully identified it as the Congregational Church in Walpole Street, and sent additional information about the neon cross, installed on the spire, 'which could be seen as far away as Church Street in Hawthorn'.

This new photo of Tara Hall in Studley Park Road (right) has recently been donated to our Collection. Before it was demolished in 1959/60 there was an auction of the contents of the house. Can any of our readers describe the auction or tell us what happened to the items that were sold?

Perhaps you have memories of the house itself. If so we would like to hear about it.



Read about the Kew Flyer (pp.9-10)

BOOK SALE

16 February 2014

The next book sale will be held on Sunday 16 February between 1:00PM 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.

Kew Historical Society Inc.
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Kew VIC 3101