

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



## Five Ways

In the last newsletter (No.103 June 2013), we featured an article on the Kew War Memorial at Kew Junction. Most people when asked, would insist that Kew Junction is further down the hill at the intersection of Studley Park Road, Princess Street, High Street, High Street South and Denmark Street, whereas the latter was traditionally called 'Five Ways'.

This nomenclature is used in the *Kew Junction Commercial Heritage Study* (Lovell Chen, 2011). The latter provides a brief history of Kew Junction and provides heritage assessments of the commercial (and some residential) buildings in High Street, Cotham Road and Princess Street, as well as some of the streets running off these. In the area surrounding Five Ways, only four buildings were adjudged to be historically or architecturally 'significant'. In High Street on the northern side, this included the two-storey shop at 115, while on the southern side it was a group of shops at 154-160. Three houses abutting Five Ways were also deemed significant: 14-16 Princess Street (c1889-90), and 164 High Street South. (The latter received press coverage and the questioning of its heritage status as the new multi-storey building on the corner of Denmark and High Street South was being erected).

Five Ways is one of the most notable areas of Kew. It was one of the first areas in Kew to be developed, and its importance can be gauged by the three hotels that were constructed there in the nineteenth century: The Woodman Inn (1854), O'Shaughnessy's Kew Hotel (1855), and the Clifton Hotel (1868). Hotels knew where the action was. The Greyhound Hotel and the Council Family Hotel faced each other further up High Street at Kew Junction. (An ongoing project by members of the Society's Research Group is to research the history of the hotels of Kew. An abridged article on the Clifton Hotel is included on page 5.)

Five Ways remained largely unchanged until the 1970s, apart from the demolition of buildings that occurred during the widening of High Street in 1934 and 1958. This affected the buildings on the south side of High Street between Kew Junction and Five Ways.

An original aerial photograph (p.2) of Five Ways, taken in the 1960s, is in the Society's photograph collection. It shows that most buildings were only two-storeys high. Dominating Five Ways, were three commercial buildings: the Clifton Hotel, which at the time still retained its 1930s art deco façade; the service station<sup>1</sup> on the corner of Denmark Street and High Street South; and Jellis' Bakeries (pp.7-8) on the corner of Princess Street and Studley Park Road.

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**Detail: Aerial photograph of Kew. Donated by LM Chinner to the KHS photograph collection.**

## **FIVE WAYS (cont.)**

Of these buildings, only the Clifton Hotel, renamed the Hotel Kew, remains. That Lovell Chen did not provide a heritage assessment of the Clifton Hotel may be due to the 'renovated' façade, even though it is the earliest remaining building at Five Ways. The assessments may also have been due to City of Boroondara policies that provided a different vision for the area.

The multi-storey buildings that now dominate Five Ways partly result from an era before 'heritage overlay precincts' were conceived. They also owe much to government decisions about where high-rise commercial and residential buildings should be located.

With its multi-storey buildings and unsightly advertising, Five Ways is now a mess. Gaudy advertising and huge screens cater for, and usually distract drivers of cars that hurtle through the intersection on their way to somewhere else. The same might be said of the advertising and hoardings on the commercial buildings in High Street leading up to the War Memorial.

Many years ago, I attended a meeting where a Town Clerk spoke on the importance of preserving streetscapes, and ensuring that advertising and street signs did not dominate, obscure or cheapen the built environment.

It is not fashionable now to suggest that commercial enterprises should be restricted as to how they advertise their businesses, and/or renovate and present their buildings. This is why many of the shops in High Street lack their original facades.

Perhaps it is too late anyway, with the licence given to developers to build massive, multi-storey buildings like that being constructed on the site of O'Shaughnessy's Kew Hotel.

As you walk or drive down Princess Street, this new building dominates the horizon, blocking the views to the other side of the valley.

Hills, churches, schools and hotels once dominated the Kew skyline. Now commerce seems to reign supreme.

**ROBERT BAKER**

1. The service station had been built on the site of O'Shaughnessy's Kew Hotel, which had previously been destroyed in a fire.

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

2012–2013

**President** Alex Wilson OAM

**Vice President/s** Dione McIntyre / Philip Slobom

**Secretary** Judith Vimpani

**Treasurer** Margaret Robinson

**Acting Archivist** Robert Baker

**Assistant Secretary (Newsletter)** Robert Baker

**Ordinary members** Don Garden / Rosemary Smart OAM

## **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 POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE**

Members of the Society played a key role in the preservation and restoration of the Police Station and Court House.

Members staff a History Centre at the old Police Station, 188 High Street on Thursdays 12:00PM–2:00PM and Saturdays 10:00AM–1:00PM. At the Centre you can ask questions about Kew's history and heritage and view displays of 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 Assistant Secretary at

info@kewhistory.com.au

**Kew Historical Society Inc.**  
Inc. No. A0010789W  
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## KHS MEMBERS

### DOROTHY BENYEI

Dorothy Benyei has given up her role as Archivist to the Society.

In her quiet and caring way, Dorothy played an ever-present, supporting role in all of our activities, and being blessed with an excellent memory, was able to guide and inform those who sought information about Kew's past.

We all miss Dorothy, and are grateful for her 30+ years of devoted service to the Society.

### DON GARDEN

Don Garden has been appointed President of the Royal Historical Society for 2013-14. Don was previously President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS), and is a Fellow of both the FAHS and the RHSV.

Don is a member of the KHS Management Committee and also of the KHS Collections Group.

We all wish Don well in his new appointment.

## EXHIBITIONS

### TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL Kew Police Station [and Court House]

June-September 2013

An exhibition, curated by Jane Carolan, the School's Archivist, covers key periods of the history of Trinity Grammar School.

The exhibition includes photographs, memorabilia and film footage of the school, its teachers and students. The school celebrated its centenary in 2002.

### KEW HIGH SCHOOL Kew Library

August-November 2013

Val Bourke, who spoke to the Society last year about the history of Kew High School, has developed a display on the school's history. It celebrates the 50th anniversary of the school.

The exhibition includes current and past uniforms, photographs and memorabilia. Dione McIntyre and Les Littlechild assisted Val to mount the display.

## KHS 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 welcomed.

## PAST MEETINGS

### ARCHITECTURE OF BOROONDARA

Peter McIntyre

12 June 2013

Peter enthusiastically spoke about his design for the Richard and Elizabeth Tudor Centre for Contemporary Learning at Trinity Grammar School. He described 'learning for use', the importance of aesthetics and a building's relationship to its environment. Ten days later a small group of members joined Peter in a tour of the building.

### FROM CHALKBOARD TO WHITEBOARD

Dr Dan Vine

10 July 2013

Dan is the Director of Contemporary Learning at Trinity Grammar School. His presentation contrasted teaching and learning at Trinity in the past to that which is now possible in the new Tudor Centre.

### ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL

Chris Harrison

14 August 2013

Chris presented a history of St George's Hospital, from its foundation by the Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name in 1912 to the present day. Chris also showed a film that he had made from archival footage about the hospital, which included footage sourced from the NFSA.



## FUTURE MEETINGS

### THE RAILWAY COMES TO KEW

Speaker: Andrew Frost

11 September 2013, 8:00PM

Andrew is a member of the KHS Research Group. His presentation will focus on Kew's fight to gain a railway line in the second half of the C19th.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Cr. Judith Voce

9 October 2013, 8:00PM

Elections for the Management Committee will also take place at the meeting (see p.11 and the insert)

### THE HISTORY OF EAST KEW

Speaker: Tony Michael

13 November 2013, 8:00PM

Tony has a wealth of information about East Kew's history and has collected many resources to illustrate his talk.

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

11 December 2013, 7:00PM

## THEN AND NOW



In August, Margaret Robinson and Judith Vimpani spent the morning at Kew Primary School talking to the grades 1 about how times have changed – the clothes we wear, the transport we use, and the way we cook. For the grades 2, Margaret and Judith spoke about changes to the landscape, using aerial and contemporary photos of Kew Junction and Walpole Street.

Kew High School, Exhibition, Kew Library



# GALLIPOLI AND BEYOND

## 100TH COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS

The 'Gallipoli and Beyond: April 2015 Committee' is comprised of all historical societies in the City of Boroondara (Balwyn, Camberwell, Canterbury, Hawthorn, Kew, Surrey Hills and the Friends of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery). It also includes the Kew RSL, representing the local RSLs, and City of Boroondara staff. The Committee was formed in 2012 to plan local commemorations that will pay tribute to the spirit and courage of a past generation, who evoke pride and passion in a new generation of Australians.

On 25 April 2015, Australia and New Zealand will commemorate the centenary of the ANZAC landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. For the families of those men and women who served at Gallipoli, and in the many other battles and campaigns of WW1, the 2015 commemorations are particularly poignant.

Chaired by Kew Historical Society member Dr Tanya Warms, the Committee is in the process of gathering material that will become the core of the 'Gallipoli and Beyond: April 2015' Exhibition, and which might also be incorporated into a publication, to honour the legacy and record the stories of Anzacs from the Boroondara area.

The Committee has identified the kinds of records that will help people understand Australia's part in the War.

- Written records (letters, diaries and official documents) that may have been handed down from past generations.
- Visual records (photographs, paintings, sketches).
- Objects or relics collected from the battlefield.

The Committee believes that by viewing these records, members of the community will gain a better understanding of what happened at Gallipoli. As the British historian Robert Rhode James observed, "No single military campaign of modern times has been the subject of such intense and prolonged attention and controversy as the Gallipoli campaign of 1915".

If you, or someone you know, have items that could be included as part of either the exhibition or publication, please contact Jennifer Gazeas, Arts and Cultural Services, City of Boroondara.

Tel. (03) 9278-4770

Email: [Jennifer.Gazeas@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Gazeas@boroondara.vic.gov.au).

ALEX WILSON OAM

## CHURCHES OF KEW - THE FIRST ST. HILARY'S

The first St. Hilary's, a timber building designed by Albert Purchas, was demolished in the 1940s to make way for a new church and tennis courts.

Captain Edward Dumaesq (pronounced Dumarick) purchased Portion 82, an area of 11 acres, in the Government Land Sale of 16 October 1851. The boundaries of Portion 82 were Cotham Road, Burke Road, Sackville Street and Thomas Street. All the streets within this Portion were duly named after his sons: Edward, John, Alfred and Rowland.

St Hellier's was a large home, which he designed and built on the south side of Alfred Street for the family of his younger son Alfred, his wife and seven children. (In 1889, he retained two rooms for himself, and for his manservant.)

Following a life of travel as a captain in the East India Company, and many years spent on his property at Longford, Tasmania, he decided to profit from his earlier land speculation on the mainland, subdividing and selling much of the Kew land. He remained however at St Hellier's and died there in 1906, at the age of 104 years.

Captain Dumaesq had previously set aside a large block of land, on the corner of John and Rowland Streets, for the erection of a Church of England, to serve the future needs of the area's growing population. The land lay idle for some time, but by 1888, with Edward Dumaesq as one of the committee, a deposit of £50 was paid of an agreed purchase price of £600.

Mr and Mrs John Wilkinson, and Mr and Mrs Albert Purchas, convened the first meeting of the committee at the Wilkinson's home in Cotham Road.

Albert Purchas' plans were approved, and a tender of £784 accepted. Building began at once, and the first church service was held four months later.

In 1905, with the building entirely paid for, the Archbishop was asked to consecrate it but refused to do so on the grounds that it was a wooden building. It was not until 8 May 1943 that a new brick building was completed, free of debt and consecrated by another Archbishop.

The original timber church, facing Rowland Street, was demolished to make way for two tennis courts.

Rogers, Dorothy, *A History of Kew*, 1973.

McCullough, C. Behan & Rodd, N. Gwen; *St Hilary's Anglican Church, Kew 1888-1998*.

DIONE MCINTYRE





# THE CLIFTON HOTEL

(HOTEL KEW)

Of the eight hotels established in Kew since 1851, the Hotel Kew, known for most of its existence as the Clifton Hotel, was the seventh to be built in 1868.

Its location on the corner of Studley Park Road and High Street South makes it a prominent landmark. Yet its current name is confusing for local historians as its main rival for the first 52 years was O'Shaughnessy's 'Kew Hotel' (1855), on the corner of High Street and Denmark Street.

Looking at the Hotel Kew now, it is hard to imagine its mid-nineteenth appearance. Since 1868, there have been at least two major alterations to the façade. The documented renovations occurred in the 1930s when the late Victorian façade was given an Art Deco update, and in about 1970 its façade was again 'improved'.

A number of the publicans who held the licenses of the Clifton Hotel have been identified in the 'Coles-Tetlow Index' in the State Library of Victoria, and on the 'Boroondara Local History Wiki'. The most significant of these are Henry Madden (1880-87), Michael O'Donnell (1902-1920), and the Cronin-Ryan family (1935-).

When compiling the list of licensees, it became apparent that a significant number were women. Sometimes this was due to the death of a male license-holder, but more typically a woman bought the license in her own right. Many licensees of this hotel, like others in Kew, were also Catholic.

During the nineteenth century, it was not uncommon for inquests to be held at the Clifton Hotel (1876, 1879, 1882 x 3). These inquests ended with the opening of the new Police Station and Court House in 1888.

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, local police launched a number of proceedings against the publicans of hotels in Kew for illegal trading outside hotel hours. Few 'successful' prosecutions against the licensees of the Clifton Hotel were reported in the press of the day.

The Clifton Hotel is also interesting for its associations with brewers. On one side of the hotel, in Bulleen Road (now High Street South), Alfred Fuller's 'Kew Brewery', operated from 1873-79, perhaps supplying the Clifton and other local hotels in Kew. In 1880, the brewery was abruptly converted into an organ building business, Fuller's other craft.

In 1904, the freehold of the Clifton Hotel, as well as many other hotels in Melbourne, was put up for sale. The sale resulted from the death of Thomas Aitken, founder of the Victoria Brewery. Included in the sale of the Clifton Hotel were the three double-fronted brick villas at numbers 5, 7 and 9 Studley Park Road. (Only number 5 remains).

In 1908, a number of newspapers reported a 'painful accident' that befell an American sailor when the American fleet was visiting Melbourne. Apparently, he was cycling down High Street at high speed, and in attempting to avoid a car, sped through Five Ways, crashing his bike.

## A JACKY'S MISHAP

*"I was ridin' downhill on a bike, and I met a buzz-cart," explained a 'Jacky' yesterday to Dr. J. Murphy, of High Street South, at whose surgery the sailor called to have a long scalp wound stitched up. "Yes, sir," continued the American; "I tried to dodge the buzz cart, and I rode through an hotel window". The mishap occurred in High street, Kew, and the window was a big plate-glass bar window in the Clifton Hill Hotel. The sailor, who was riding down-hill, in avoiding the motor-car, ran violently against the kerbstone, and was shot head foremost through the window. He fell at the foot of the bar counter, and lay there for a moment, with blood streaming from a long cut at the top of his head. He soon picked himself up, however, and inquired where he could "locate the nearest doctor in this mountainous country." Jacky would not give the doctor his name. "There are 12,000 men in the great American fleet," he said. "Am I going to give them my name? No sir. They get no chance to brand me as the guy that tried to loop the loop. I am very much obliged to you doctor. God afternoon."*

*Border Watch, 9 September 1908.*

The alterations to the façade in the 1930s by the local architect Robert McIntyre, and again later in the 1970s, clearly diminished the heritage value of the Clifton Hotel. The façade is now adorned with unnecessary pseudo-architectural accretions and a variety of overpowering advertising signs.

However, the Clifton Hotel has survived, albeit with a changed name, and is the last remaining public house at Five Ways.

If you have additional information about the hotel, photographs or memorabilia, you can contact me at the Kew Historical Society.

**ROBERT BAKER**

# BEING INVOLVED

## COLLECTIONS & COLLECTING

The Collections Group of the Society manages the objects that have been collected over a 50-year period. Members and friends of the Society have donated most of the items. Objects include: local histories of Kew, hats and gloves, works of art, puzzles and games, plaques and remnants of historic buildings that had been demolished, &c.

Throughout 2013, the Collections Group is undertaking a stocktake of items within the Collection. Understandably, this is a complex task as there are many thousands of items. To date, members of the Group have catalogued almost 1,000 of these objects, including the Research files. The latter, collected assiduously by archivists of the Society, are on a range of topics relating to history and heritage of Kew.

Two of the largest collections of documents relate to the Kew Mental Asylum (later called Willsmere), and to the Kew Police Station, Court House and Post Office complex at Kew Junction.

New items donated to the collection between June and September include: architectural items from the Kew Court House & Police Station restoration, photographs of the Council Family Hotel, a history of Raheen, a collection of articles on the City of Boroondara's history, planning reports from the 1980s, and a transcript of WW1 letters.

The Society would like to thank Norman Jackson, Jeanne Pratt, Gwen McWilliam, Clive Brimsmead, and John Torpey for these donations.

## HISTORY AT THE CEMETERY

What a day! 200 year 8 students from Kew High School descended on the cemetery, 50 at a time, to hear about the lives and view the graves of some of Kew's most eminent citizens. Margaret Robinson and Alex Wilson led one group, while Tony Michael and Mel Lawrence led the other.

Students heard about the story of the Springthorpe Memorial; the influence of the early newspaper owners – David Syme and John Halfey; and football's fathers – HCA Harrison, one of the original rule writers, and Thomas William Sherrin, the designer of the ball. The students also had the chance to stroke the bronze greyhound on Thomas Serrell's grave. Overall they were enthralled.



Kew High School students at the Springthorpe Memorial. Photographer, Tony Michael, 2013.

## ERIC SIBLY

Eric Sibly, a member of the Kew Historical Society, suddenly passed away on Wednesday 21 August, aged 73 years. Eric was a keen railway enthusiast, and having already travelled overseas a few times, including to the USA, Russia and Korea, was enjoying some local rail travel in South Australia. Eric died pursuing his favourite hobby.

Eric was Station Master at Camberwell between 1993-2003. After working at the railways for 38-years, Eric finished up in February 2011 as a relief station-master. Prior to the railways, Eric also worked at the tramways, and at the former State Bank of Victoria in Kew East.

As a long time resident of Kew East his knowledge was amazing, as was his recall of detail. He had an encyclopedic mind and could recall details of trams, trains, diaries, and places and people of note as if they had occurred yesterday. One time, we drove around Kew and Kew East, and I recorded Eric. These recordings will become an ongoing legacy to his knowledge.

TONY MICHAEL

## A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS ABOUT THE KEW WAR MEMORIAL

*Dear Judith*

*The article about the War Memorial, in the June 2013 Newsletter, brought back memories. In the December 1949/January 1950 university holidays, I had a job at Kew Council. One of my jobs was to clean the War Memorial every Monday morning.*

*As the trams passed the Memorial, especially on the curved track as they went from High Street to Cotham Road, the tram wheels would grind fine iron dust off the tram tracks. This would drift up to the War Memorial and settle as red iron oxide on the horizontal surfaces of the Memorial and its steps.*

*Each Monday morning they would give me buckets, a hose, a scrubbing brush with a long handle and some oxalic acid, (and gumboots).*

*I would mix the oxalic acid with water in the buckets and scrub the floor of the Memorial, its steps, and any other affected areas. I would then hose it down and then step back and admire my work. I was proud of my work. It looked so much better.*

*Ever since then I have always thought of the War Memorial affectionately.*

*John Hood,*

*East Ryde, NSW.*

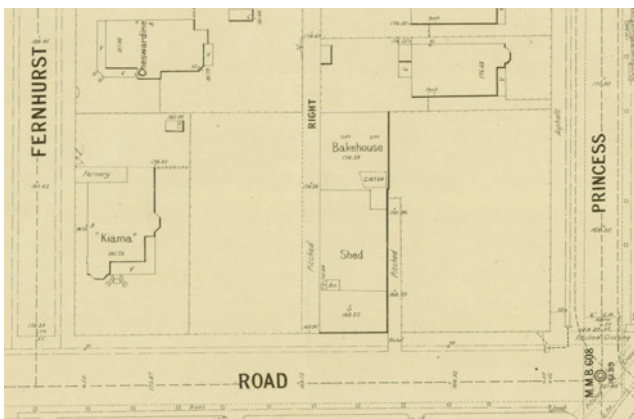


# JELLIS' BAKERIES

In 1947, a fire destroyed the upper storey of Jellis' Bakeries in Princess Street, Kew. An article in *The Argus* describes the fire, the number of customers supplied with bread by the bakery (4,000), and refers to the Bakeries' stores in Balwyn, North Balwyn and Hawthorn. Jellis' Bakeries would survive the fire, but as with other locally-based enterprises, it was to be swallowed up by a larger conglomerate in the 1960s. While the name of the Jellis family graced the business until that time, the family's connection to the business had long past.

It is over 50-years since the story of Jellis' Bakeries concluded, but the narrative and the people involved make revisiting the story worthwhile.

It is historically noteworthy that the bakery was the only industrial building, with the exception of 'Fuller's Breweries' and his later organ-building business, to extend to the west side of Five Ways. From the first decade of the twentieth century, the bakery occupied the large corner block on the corner of Studley Park Road and Princess Street. A 1904 Board of Works map gives some idea of its size, extending from the right-of-way in Studley Park Road to what is currently 15 Princess Street. The site appears much deeper on the 1904 map than that occupied by the current building, but this resulted from the widening of Studley Park Road and the intersection in the 1970s.



Detail, MMBW map, 1904, State Library of Victoria

The 1904 map shows a small building facing Studley Park Road with a shed and bakehouse to the rear. The delivery wagons must at that time have used the large vacant block on the corner to deliver supplies and collect the bread for home delivery.

The story of the bakery did not begin and end on this now much diminished block of commercial land. Its history stretched back to 1873, when Thomas George Jellis (1849-1916) opened his first bakery on the south side of High Street, next to the Council Family Hotel at Kew Junction. The first bakery was clearly a modest building. A postcard from 1880 shows it to have been a single-storey building with a wide awning over the footpath.

On opening his business, T. G. Jellis took the first steps towards becoming a local business identity. Together with many of Kew's prominent businessmen, including Herbert Henty, Samuel Kellett, Francis Barnard and W. H. Wrixon, he contributed to paid advertising to support Henry Hedderwick's campaign to be elected to the Borough Council.



High Street, Kew, 1880

By 1876, three years after he opened his bakery, he was already tendering for additions and alterations requiring brick and carpentry work.

In the 1880s and 1890s, not all things went to plan. In 1882, one of his employees appeared before the Kew Court, charged with stealing from the business. Found guilty, he was sentenced to three-months imprisonment. At the end of the decade, T. G. Jellis' wife Eliza died, aged 42. Finally, in 1898 he was fined for adding alum as a bleaching agent to his bread. (During the nineteenth century, alum was regarded as a contributing factor to the development of rickets in children.)

The fine was not an impediment to T. G. Jellis' commercial or civic success. In the political arena, he was elected to represent North Ward at the municipal election of 1900, and was to be elected mayor in 1905-06. He was to remain on Council until at least 1911. T. G. Jellis occupied other positions of power and influence in Kew. He was a Justice of the Peace, a deacon of the Congregational Church in Walpole Street, a director of the Kew Recreation Association, a trustee of the Local Manchester Unity Oddfellows lodge, and a president of the Kew Bowling Club.

T. G. Jellis' bread manufacturing business was also on a similar trajectory. In 1908, he was able to move his retail outlet to a new shop next to his bakehouse. His new home, 'Wandford', was in a new two-storey building on the corner of Studley Park Road and Princess Street.

Mayoral portrait, T. G. Jellis (1905-06)

## Collection note

The Kew Historical Society has preserved in its archives the (almost) complete set of framed mayoral portraits from the Kew Council Chamber. Some of these portraits can be viewed at the Society's History Centre.



## JELLIS' BAKERIES (CONT.)

The period between 1908 and his retirement was the heyday of his Kew business. In 1910, in a news report about the City of Kew's Jubilee, it was noted that vehicles from his bakery 'turned out, in force', participating in the march from Denmark Street, along High Street to Ridgeway Avenue, and down Cotham Road to the grounds of Xavier College. The theme of celebration was to extend to employer-employee relations. In 1911, 72 adult employees of the company, together with their 70 children, 'drove away from the factory in drags drawn by Mr George Mansfield's spanking teams' to attend the first annual picnic at Mordialloc. After a catered lunch, with attendant toasts to their employer, an adjournment was made to the nearby sports grounds, where races and matches were held. In these games, the 'bakers' were to defeat the 'carters' at cricket, while the carters reigned supreme in the tug-of-war.

Times were different before World War I. First there was the worker picnic at Mordialloc at the end of January, then in February a 'Bakers' Smoke Night' was held at the Empire Hall in Denmark Street. In the Hall, 'bedraped with bunting' and with 'exquisite table decorations', the employees presented T. G. Jellis with two 'handsomely framed photographs of those associated with the bread factory'. After performances by the employees on a piano and later a xylophone, songs and dances continued into the night before an 'enjoyable evening was concluded by the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem'.



The Empire Hall, Denmark Street (2013)

A further celebration was organised in October 1912, to mark the return of T. G. Jellis and his wife following their tour of England and the Continent. Following songs and speeches, T. G. Jellis eulogised the Australian worker. He announced that 'the working conditions in Australia were far superior to those in Great Britain or on the Continent'.

He was proud of Australia, and proud of 'Australian workmen, who could do more in eight hours than some could do in twelve'. After these inspiring nationalist sentiments, 'the hall was cleared for dancing, which was indulged in till midnight'.

By 1914, T. G. Jellis had passed on the management of the company to his son. It was at this time that the bakery extended its dominance in Kew with the purchase of Todd Bros., large grain and chaff store in High Street.

Four months after the conclusion of the Gallipoli Campaign in January 1916, T. G. Jellis was to die in his 67th year, leaving a [second] wife and grown-up family. The funeral and burial took place at the Boroondara Cemetery. Padbury's in Cotham Road were the logical choice as undertakers.

Twenty-one years after its founder's death, Jellis' Bakeries became a registered public company. The company directors named do not include a member of the Jellis family. In the two years following the company being listed publicly, it purchased five new businesses, and sold another.

The company, established by T. G. Jellis in 1873, was sometimes a victim of its own success. A burglary at the factory in 1917 was foiled by the local constabulary, who, while investigating suspicious lights in the factory, discovered that the 'safe had been removed and placed on bags of grain, whilst the keyhole had been plugged with gelignite and had a fuse attached'. Two young men, aged 19 and 22, who were hiding upstairs, were apprehended. In their possession were a couple of 'loaded revolvers' and a supply of gelignite. Thieves were more successful in 1951, when they stole a safe from the factory containing about £350. The safe, blown open, was recovered in Templestowe.

While a photograph of the original 1873 bakery in High Street can be found in Dorothy Rogers' *A History of Kew* (1973), no close-up photos are known of the bakery on the corner of Princess Street and Studley Park Road, apart from an aerial photo of Five Ways in the State Library's *Airspy* collection.



Jellis' Bakeries, Detail of Airspy photograph, SLV

The photograph shows the bakehouse and shed, T. G. Jellis home and shop on the corner, and the entrance from Princess Street where the carts deposited supplies for the bakery, and collected bread for home deliveries.

The Kew Historical Society would be interested to know if any of our members and friends have photographs of the bakery that they might donate to the Society's photograph collection, or lend for copying.

**ROBERT BAKER**

**In the next newsletter, we will try to include a short article on Alfred Fuller's brewery and organ building business in High Street South. If you have information relating to Alfred Fuller, or about the organs that he constructed, please contact 'The Archivist' of the Kew Historical Society (Phone. 9855-2852)**





**Glen Cara, 1978. John T. Collins (1907-2001) photographer.**  
State Library of Victoria

Currently named 'Whitty House', the mansion at 6 Studley Park Road has been occupied by the Villa Maria Society for five decades. Located on the corner of Fernhurst Grove, the building has been identified as one of the key mansions built in Kew and is recognised for the landmark value it holds on the hill in Studley Park Road. The large house is also known as 'Villa Maria', the name adopted for the Heritage Overlay that pertains to the property.

Compared with the well-known mansions in the western section of Studley Park Road, surprisingly little information exists about the origins of 'Glencara', the name sometimes misspelt as two words (Glen Cara) and also mistakenly referred to as Torwood. The paucity of information available is unfortunate, as this interesting and elegant building is the only surviving original mansion that remains in the eastern portion of Studley Park Road.

### The date of construction

Glencara was built on part of the grounds of 'Fernhurst', the large house once owned by the architect George Wharton, who had died in November 1891. Frank Vial, a belt-manufacturer, purchased the property and subdivided the land; an area estimated in Wharton's will to be about 8 acres. The eponymous grove was cut through the large holding, the subdivision advertised as 'Fernhurst Park'. Comprising 25 building sites, the allotments were auctioned in November 1897. The estate was bounded by Princess Street, Stawell Street, Studley Park Road, and the neighbouring former Carnegie property 'Ivanhoe'; the latter forming the western boundary of the subdivision. Wharton's home was retained by Vial, an indication that it failed to sell; however the sales of the allotments were successful.

Conflicting information about the name and date of this landmark building, together with the absence of its footprint on an MMBW plan, surveyed in 1903, prompted me to have a fresh look at the records. The allotment numbers in the 'Fernhurst Park' subdivision assist with identifying properties recorded in the City of Kew Rate Books, in the period when street numbers were not yet assigned. The Rate Book dated 1898-1899, records a Mr George H. Hope as owner of vacant allotments 24 and 25 in the subdivision, both allotments with frontage to Studley Park Road; allotment 24 also having frontage to Fernhurst Grove.

# GLENCARA

## STUDLEY PARK ROAD

Evidence that Charles B. Kelly purchased both lots is recorded in the Rate Book dated 1906-1907, the allotments each having a Net Annual Value (NAV) of £21. This increased to £120 in the Rate Book of 1908-1909, indicating that construction was advanced. A stable and a 13-roomed building were described in the Rate Book. Completion of the building is reflected in the NAV of £160 in the Rate Book of 1909-1910.

An advertisement, seeking tenants for the new building appeared in *The Argus* in November 1909. Referring to the 'lovely home Glencara, Studley-park Road Kew', it provided the first brief description of the rooms – 'four reception, seven bedrooms etc., stable, garage, man's room'.

### A distinguished occupant

The first tenant was to be none other than the noted Auguste Joseph Francois de Bavay, (1856-1944), Belgium-born brewer, chemist, bacteriologist and metallurgist. Initially renting Glencara, the Rate Books record that he had purchased the property by 1912.

De Bavay had arrived in Melbourne in March 1884. He became world-famous for the de Bavay process for the recovery of zinc blende at Broken Hill, which solved the problem of separating sulphides from worthless residue. This was said to have added millions to the wealth of Australia. In de Bavay's obituary in *The Argus*, 17 November 1944, Sir John Monash ranked the invention as one of the greatest discoveries in the world.

De Bavay's expertise in the nature of yeast cultures and fermentation were a significant contribution to Melbourne's brewing industry. Working at T. & A. Aitkin's brewery in Victoria Street, he developed the first pure yeast used commercially in Australia.

He was later co-opted as chief brewer for the Foster brothers' brewery in Collingwood. His invention of the draught lager process, is credited for the company's rapid expansion.



**Auguste de Bavay**  
(1856-1944), ca.1888,  
State Library of Victoria

## GLENCARA (CONT.)

The death rate from typhoid and diphtheria had been rapidly increasing in the 1880s. In 1889, de Bavay argued that foul water was entering the reticulation mains by way of fire-plugs - admitting sewage and typhoid bacteria into the water-supply, due to the contamination of the fittings. This triggered a Royal Commission and removal of the fittings. With the improved water supply, de Bavay was acclaimed a local hero. He presented a paper on the topic to the Victorian branch of the British Medical Association and later visited Pasteur's laboratories in France, returning home with a bottle of the first anti-toxin for diphtheria, which he donated to the Melbourne Hospital.

In 1904, de Bavay was involved in the foundation of the modern Australian paper industry. At the outbreak of World War 1, he produced acetone for the manufacture of cordite and was asked to design the Commonwealth's acetate lime factory in Brisbane. He was appointed O.B.E. in 1918. He also won Papal and Belgian honours.

His wife, Madame Anna de Bavay was renowned for her graciousness and hospitality. She hosted many parties at Glencara. Auguste de Bavay died at Glencara on 16 November 1944, his wife having died on 29 October 1933. Both are buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

### House names

Names of houses often travel with their occupants. The name given to the house was clearly significant to the builders of Glencara. Charles Bonyngé Kelly and his wife Lydia Frances Kelly, *nee* Treadway, had earlier resided at a newly built house at 59 Sackville Street, Kew, also named 'Glencara'. It had been built not long after their marriage at Trinity Church in East Melbourne in 1892.

Why they had not taken up residence in Studley Park Road when their new house was completed is unknown. Perhaps a vehicle accident in 1908, involving injury to another party alighting a tram (who thankfully later recovered) may have deeply jaded Kelly's enthusiasm, as he was the driver of the vehicle.

Unlike the Federation style of the 'handsome modern houses' in Fernhurst Grove, noted by Barnard in 1910, the features of Glencara speak of an earlier era, which might explain why the mansion was described as a 'fine old home' in an article in *The Argus* in 1936, when the house would only have been 27-years old at the time.

This raises the question of the brief for its design and whether its heritage-listed namesake in Westmeath, in the Midlands region in Ireland, may have inspired it. There are certainly ancestral connections to the Kelly and Bonyngé names in the region. The Georgian Irish counterpart is much older (c1810-1840), a plain but handsome double-storey, rendered country house. It shares elements of the slate-clad roof form, the heavily bracketed eaves and the prominent canted bay projections, but not the arched windows, verandahs and embellishments of the Kew house.

The date of construction in 1909, supports the integrity of the fabric of the unusual Art Nouveau inspired parapet on the tower, one of the most charming and highly visible features. The date of construction also confirms that the Art Nouveau tower was unlikely to be a later addition.

Knowing the year of construction optimises the chance of identifying the architect responsible for the design of this interesting and elegant building.

### The architect

The name of the architect is a mystery. However, three tenders called by Leonard J. Flannagan, published in *The Argus* in 1908 are suggestive. Tenders were invited for a 'large two-storey brick residence, in Studley Park Road' on 25 April 1908; another called 'for brick stable buildings and garage at Kew' on 8 August 1908; and finally 'for ornamental brick boundary walls, Gates and Gal. Iron Fencing, at Kew' on 18 November 1908. (The original wall on the Studley Park Road frontage was demolished when road-widening works occurred ca. 1972. A small painted section of the original fence still stands in Fernhurst Grove.) The tenders appear to align with the dates in the Rate Books.

Comparative rendered buildings designed by Leonard J. Flannagan include the Elizabethan-styled convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor for the Aged in Northcote (1890), and the renovations of the Tavistock Building at 383 Flinders Lane (1906), although it is said that he may have sought consultation for the elaborate Art Nouveau decoration of the latter. While not rendered, the Hawthorn Tram Depot (1916) with its Romanesque arches, classical pediments, and the Art Nouveau touch in the Metropolitan Tramway Trust's crest, is a local example of Flannagan's design versatility. One hopes the experts might shed light on the possible link between the architect and Glencara.

KERRY FAIRBANK



Glencara, 1978. John T. Collins (1907-2001) photographer.  
State Library of Victoria

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Historical Society Inc. will be held on Wednesday 9 October at 8:00PM in the Phyllis Hore Room, rear of Kew Library, Civic Drive, off Cotham Road, Kew.

The following business will be transacted at the meeting.

1. Apologies.
2. Speaker: Cr. Judith Voce – 'History Repeating Itself'.
3. (a) Minutes of the last AGM; (b) Minutes of the last Special General Meeting.
4. Reports from the President, Treasurer and Archivist for the year ending 30 June 2013.
5. Election of Management Committee members for the year 2013-14.

According to our *Constitution*, approved under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, all positions become vacant.

The elected Management Committee positions are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist, Curator, and three Ordinary Members.

Any member wishing to nominate a member for any position on the Management Committee should use the enclosed nomination form. All nomination forms should be in the hands of the Secretary (Judith Vimpani, 9818-0364) by 5:00PM, Wednesday 2 October 2013.

6. Appointment of Auditor.

Because of the new *Reform Act* the Secretary takes on the role of Public Officer.

Elected members of the Management Committee for 2012-13 were:

President: Alex Wilson OAM  
Vice-Presidents: Dione McIntyre; Philip Slobom  
Secretary: Judith Vimpani  
Assistant Secretary: Robert Baker  
Treasurer: Margaret Robinson  
Archivist: Dorothy Benyei (Robert Baker, after her retirement)  
Ordinary Members: Don Garden FAHS, FRHSV; Rosemary Smart OAM.

Public Officer: Thea Sartori; Auditor: Max Sartori.

Subscriptions for the year 2013-14 became due on 1 July 2013. To participate in the election of the Management Committee, members must be financial.

## 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, for the time being in force.

Signature of 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



## **BOOK SALE**

**17 November 2013**

The next book sale will be held on Sunday 17 November 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.

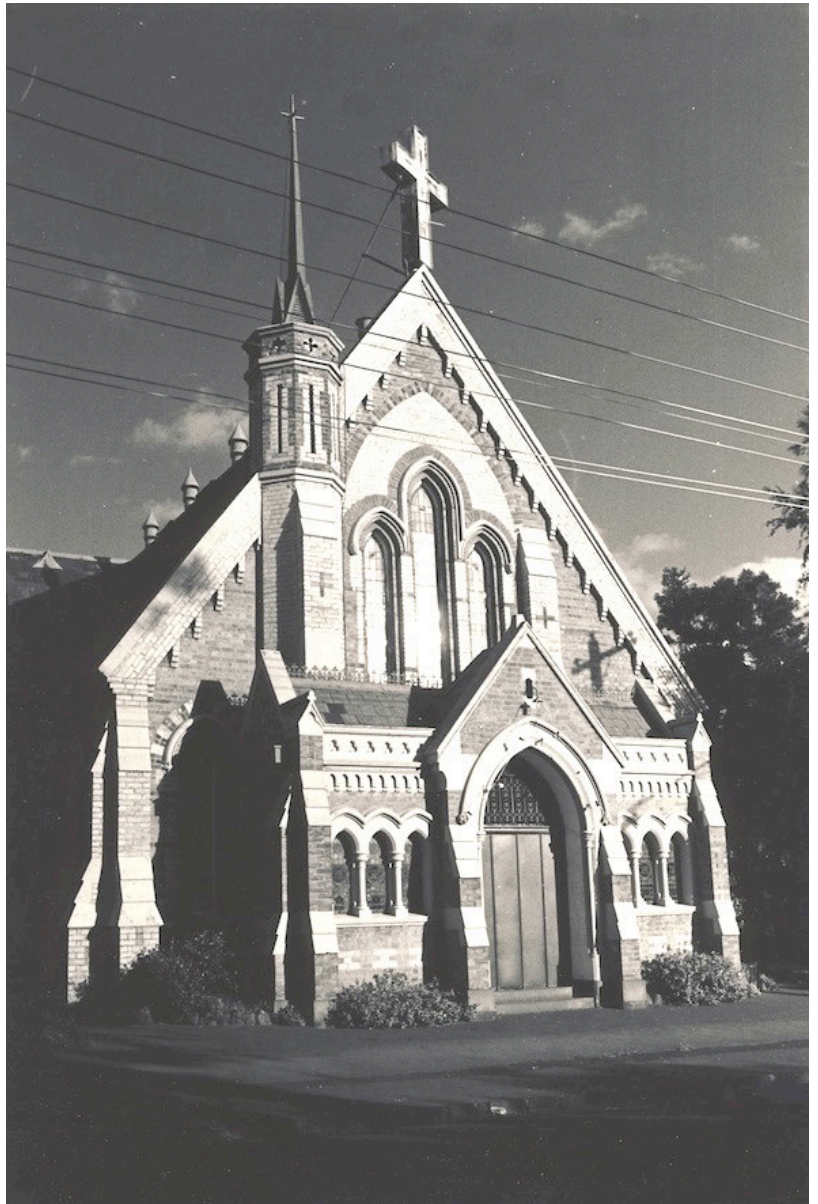
## **NAME THE BUILDING**

Built on the site of the earliest church in Kew, even this splendid building has passed into dust. Now, humans live, laugh, argue and sleep where once some of the most notable pioneers of Kew met for prayer.

Luckily, the Kew Historical Society remembers, and has a few precious, early photos of this church in its collection. Apart from these, we would like to know more detailed information about the building?

Do you remember, and would you be prepared to share your memories?

Join the Kew Historical Society and make memories count.



**Kew Historical Society Inc.**

**PO Box 175**

**Kew VIC 3101**