

# KEWRIOSITY

Municipal Offices,  
Charles St., Kew, 3101

April 1987

## Preschool storytime at Kew Library



Megan Redmond and friends at Storytime.

Imagine a group of small children, sitting in rapt attention listening to a story or chattering as they make shapes from playdough or paper cutouts and you have **Preschool storytime**, held fortnightly at Kew Library.

**Storytime** started last September to provide free activities for preschoolers. It has proved to be very successful and the good news has carried by word of mouth.

**Storytime** is held in the children's book section under the supervision of Megan Redmond and Library Bear.

The three and four-year-olds love listening to Megan's stories and doing craft activities related to the narrative. She also involves the children in singing and acting rhymes.

If you haven't been along to **Storytime** try to make it on April 7th and 21st between 11 and 11.30am. Mothers stay with their children to assist with the craft work and all creations are taken home.

A similar storytime for primary school age children is held weekly on Wednesdays between 3.45 and 4.30pm with Carolyn Frank.

If you have any enquiries, contact Carolyn or Megan on **861 6745**.

## Trade Fair at Villa Alba

If you are keen on restoring Victorian or Edwardian houses, read on.

A Trade Fair will be held at Villa Alba, the imposing Victorian mansion in Walmer Street, on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th of April during Heritage Week.

Selected retailers and craftsmen have been invited to show the best of their wares, both historical and reproduction, and to demonstrate their skills.

Items on display will include wallpapers, fabrics, glass, leadlight, hardware, plaster, paint, floor restoration, woodgraining, marbling and National Trust books.

The opportunity to see all these goods in the one place at the one time is not to be missed.

The Villa Alba Preservation Committee, which is holding the fair, aims to restore, adapt and use Villa Alba as a repository, resource centre, training institution and display centre for interior design, decorative materials and techniques of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The centre would become part of the History of Human Society Division of the Museum of Victoria.

All proceeds of the Fair will go towards the Villa Alba restoration program and donations are tax deductible if made through the National Trust to the Villa Alba Appeal.

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# Dates for April

1

**Walk by the Yarra** and across Collins Bridge. Bus leaves Community House 1pm sharp.

2

**Nursing Mothers' Assoc. Kew/Balwyn Branch**, Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon at 195 Brougham Street, Kew. Toddlers and babies welcome. Please bring a plate if possible. Contact: 817 5721 or 859 8065.

4

**Kew Football Club** — Club XVIII (11.50am). Under 19 (2pm) at Victoria Park.

6

**Country Women's Assoc. Inc. Kew/Balwyn Branch** meeting at 1pm at the East Kew Uniting Church Hall, Normanby Road. Parade of Easter bonnets by members. New members welcome. Contact: S. Robinson, 819 1686.

**Neighbourhood Watch Area H67**. Monthly meeting at Kew East Primary School, 7.30pm. All residents welcome.

**Kew High School Chaplaincy Committee**, AGM, 8pm in Kew High School library. Speaker: the Rev. Peter Whittaker, Chaplain.

**Hyde Park Fellowship**, 2pm. Speaker: Rev. Ron Woodgate.

8

9

**Kew Garden Club**, Senior Citizens' Centre, 8pm. Speakers: Mr and Mrs Tangey of Mount Macedon on 'Growing Fuchsias'.

11

**Kew Football Club**. Seniors (2pm), Reserves (11.45am) v. M.H.S.O.B. at Victoria Park.

12

**Let's Try Hockey Day** at Willsmere Park, Willow Grove, East Kew, 2-3pm.

13

**Country Women's Assoc. Kew/Balwyn Branch**. Display of David Keys knitwear at 10.30am followed by basket luncheon at East Kew Uniting Church hall in Normanby Road.

**Nursing Mothers' Assoc.** discussion on 'Breastfeeding and Sexuality' at 8pm, 35 Ramsay Avenue, East Kew. Contact: 817 5721 or 859 8065.

15

**Kew Legacy Widows' Club**, 11am at RSL Hall, Cotham Road. Contact 859 2097 or 859 2346 (a.h.).

25

**Kew Football Club**. Club XVIII (11.50am). Under 19 (2pm) at Victoria Park.

27

**Kew Afternoon Garden Club** at Senior Citizens' Centre. Topic: Standard geraniums.

28

**Country Women's Assoc. Kew/Balwyn Branch**. Craft meeting, 10am at East Kew Uniting Church Hall, Normanby Road.

**Arthritis Foundation, Kew Self Help Group**, 10.30am at Senior Citizens Centre. Speaker: Ms Wilma Gardiner, Education/Training Co-ordinator with the Arthritis Foundation, on the Arthritis Self Help Course. Visitors welcome. Morning tea provided. Contact 862 2021 or 836 8794.

## notices

### Tennis players wanted

Kew Uniting Church Tennis Club in Highbury Grove invites players for Tuesday mornings between 9am and 12 noon.

If you would like to join the club, contact: **861 9963** or **817 3929**.

### Interested in scouting?

The 1st Kew Scout Group is holding a recruiting drive for boys aged 11-15. Enthusiastic leaders offer outdoor activities such as camping, canoeing, bushwalking and games.

They meet each Wednesday between 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

For further enquiries please contact Pat Day on **861 6148**.

### Give hockey a try

Players are wanted for the Kew Junior Hockey Club.

The club will be fielding 12 sides in age groups from 'Minkey' (6-7 year olds) and U9 to U17 in both girls and mixed competition.

The club is also looking for people prepared to coach or umpire junior matches on Saturday mornings.

If you haven't tried hockey come along to the **Let's Try Hockey Day** on the 12th (see Dates).

For further information, ring the Secretary, Ken Brick on **817 5506** (ah).

### Invitation

The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver cordially invite you all to the Mission Concert to be held Sunday, 3rd May at 2.30pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 116 Cotham Road, Kew.

The Concert will be compered by Sir Eric Pearce and the program includes items to suit all tastes. Soprano — Lois Dynan, Pianist — Julie Kurkowski, Vocal — Lenore Somerset, Scottish dancing from Royal Scottish Country Society, including other items.

The proceeds will aid the rebuilding of several schools destroyed by a tornado in Lesotho, Africa, and will help provide good drinking water for children in an orphanage in Assam, India. Enquiries: **817 3715**.

### Deadline

*Kewriosity* is produced by the Information Officer for the City of Kew and a community based Editorial Committee. Copy for the May issue should reach the Municipal Offices by **April 3rd**.



# Commentary

## The latest on the Rec. Centre

What's happened to the Recreation Centre?

This is one of the questions I am most frequently asked and I'm happy to report that the Recreation Centre is slowly progressing according to plan.

The centre, to be built on the present swimming pool site in High Street, will provide a year round aquatic centre.

Stage one of the aquatic centre includes a large, free form heated pool, separate heated toddlers' pool, a spa, a sauna room, a creche and aerobics room.

The free form pool accommodates eight 25 metre lanes, a learners' area and a large general water play area. It's surface area is 640 square metres, slightly larger than the Box Hill pool.

Special design features are an indoor slide, a bubble maker and ozone water treatment (no chlorine, no sore eyes and no odour). A separate splash down pool for a water slide will be used for hydrotherapy when the slide is not in use.

The centre will face north to maximise sun and large doors will slide open to allow



Cr Joe Ormando Mayor

swimmers to use the park area containing barbecues and a children's playground.

An integral part of the funding of the project is the selling of part of the site for the

office development; timing will depend on how quickly rezoning of the area can be completed.

Council is doing everything possible to expedite this process and we aim to sell the land before the end of this year.

If all goes to plan, Kew residents will be splashing around in their new Recreation Centre in 1988.

### Council meeting times for April

- 7 Standing Committee 7.30
- 14 General Purposes Committee 7.30
- 28 COUNCIL 8.00

Meetings are held in the Committee Rooms of the Municipal Offices and are open to the public.



## So what are you waiting for?

What's on for young people in Kew

Does Theatre Sports ring a bell?

If not, it's a competition based on the make-it-up-as-you-go games which are part of the training for actors and drama students.

Over a number of bouts, teams of four vie for supremacy.

Theatre Sports is a battle of wits, needing imagination, humour and skill. It's also fun and the good news is that during 1987, Next Wave, Victoria's festival of young people and the Arts will be running Theatre Sports in secondary schools.

After two terms of training and heats, the Victorian schools final will be held in Melbourne in October.

If you want to know more about Theatre Sports, the Next Wave and how you can become involved, contact the Next Wave office on 614 2632 or Maureen McLaughlin, Kew's Youth Services Development Officer on 862 2466.



Young people thinking about "Theatre Sports"?



## Willsmere Billabong

The City of Kew is fortunate to have within Willsmere Park one of the best natural oxbow lakes along the middle reaches of the Yarra River. It has, however, suffered 140 years of interference from European man and his works to the point where the natural ecology of the billabong has become severely truncated and degraded. It no longer supports the varied bird life originally found there.

Kew Council is very conscious of the need to preserve this unique feature for existing and future generations to experience and enjoy. In 1984 it commissioned consultants to study the area and produce a development and management plan for Willsmere Park in general and the billabong in particular — aims being to preserve the billabong for its landscape value and to re-establish its value to wildlife (particularly birds) as a habitat.

To help test and implement the consultants' suggestions, Council has established the Willsmere Park Advisory Committee consisting of local residents, people with conservation expertise from local groups and State authorities and Councillors and staff.

The Committee has many problems to resolve and there are many differing views to be reconciled — the degree of restoration of natural vegetation, the control of exotic water lily (the spread of which has severely degraded the billabong as a bird habitat), potential pollution from street

drains and other sources, the interaction of people and their domestic pets with wildlife, declining water levels — being among the most important. Some of these problems will be compounded when the proposed Yarra River Cycle Track through the Park (ultimately to Warrandyte) is completed.

All of these issues are being carefully considered by the Committee and will take time to finalise. In the meantime, you can assist the Committee:

- by offering comment on — how you see the future of the billabong, its importance, specific proposals put forward to best preserve the area or to balance conflicting user needs and views; and particularly
- by using the park and the billabong area in a thoughtful, responsible manner.

Responsible use of the billabong area involves:

- a respect for the natural environment — it is there for quiet enjoyment, not disruption;
- a sensible approach — please obey the recently erected signs and keep your dog away from the immediate billabong area (they create much less havoc by swimming in the river rather than the billabong!);
- be tidy — don't litter.

If people use the area in a quiet, thoughtful way the Committee's (and Council's) task in preserving the billabong as a sanctuary will be made much easier.

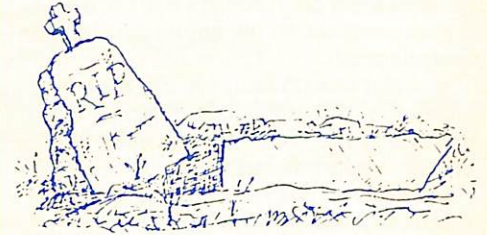
## Review

### Visiting the Tombs

If your taste runs to murder, you would have enjoyed the Premier Theatre Company's first production, **Tomb With a View**.

The company, comprising young people in Kew, chose the play because of its off-beat humour and great potential for character development.

**Tomb With a View** is macabre, but very funny. The characters run the gamut of the bizarre. There's the vitriolic, apple eating Emily Tomb and the toga-clad Marcus Tomb, who speaks only in lines from **Julius Caesar** and is convinced that he is the Roman Emperor. And then there are Dora Tomb, who has a penchant for poisoning people and planting them in her rose garden and the hapless Perrigrine Potter,



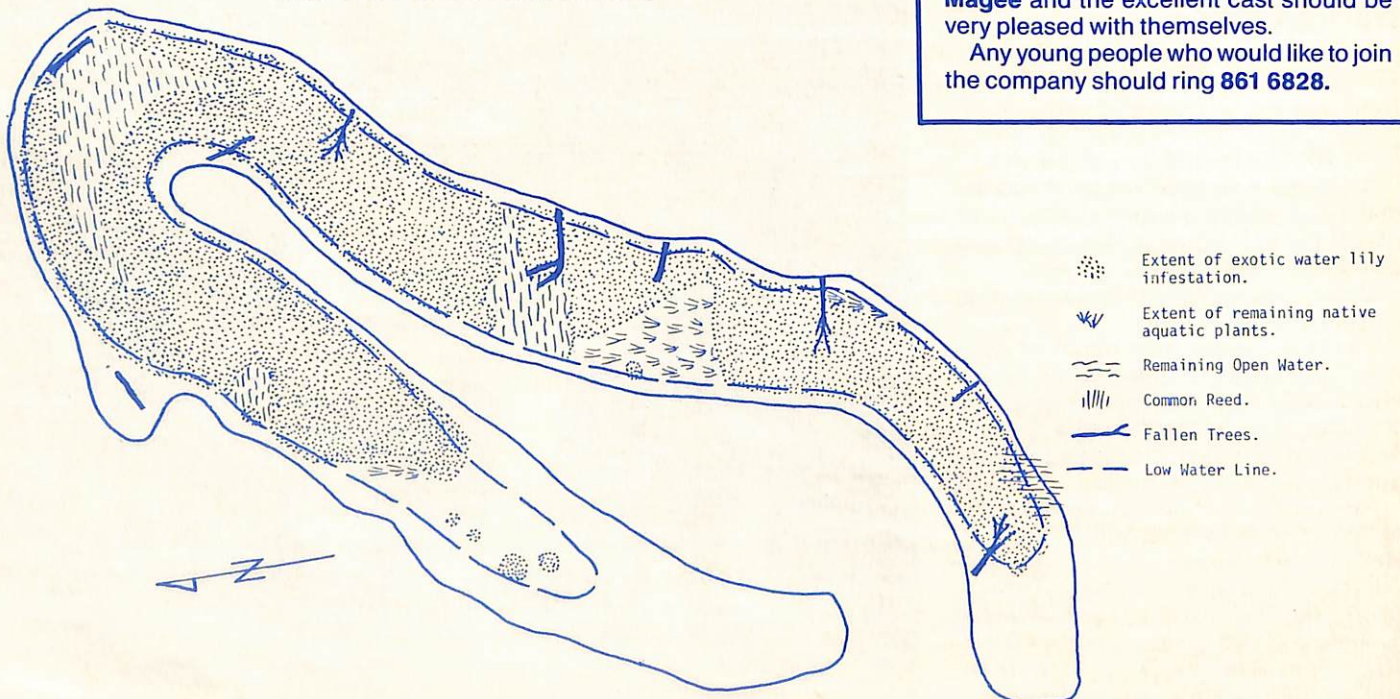
pseudonymous writer of romantic fiction, who stumbles upon Monument House, the bleak family seat.

The actors handled their parts with skill and a developed sense of comic timing. Costumes and set were impressive.

The production was a team effort and Director, **Kelly Hutchinson**, Assistant Director, **Lucinda Hutton**, Producer **Paul Magee** and the excellent cast should be very pleased with themselves.

Any young people who would like to join the company should ring **861 6828**.

EXISTING CONDITIONS - WILLSMERE BILLABONG





# What exactly do they do?

## The City Engineer's Department

The City Engineer's Department is the largest municipal department, encompassing office and Depot.

This department carries out the physical services that have always been associated with Councils.

Within the department, there is considerable specialisation.

The City Engineer, Ron Gould and his deputy, Ian Poulter, oversee the proceedings and work on forward planning and policy development.

Works Engineer, Neill Hocking looks after maintenance of roads, footpaths and

drains, street cleaning and weed control, garbage collection and parks and gardens.

The design section, dealing with capital works, streetscaping, roads, footpaths and playgrounds, consists of Sam di Giovanni, Design Engineer, Halina Norrison, Engineer and Janine Hunter, Engineering Assistant.

Traffic Engineer, Glen Eastaway looks after traffic management and all contracted labour is supervised by Clerk of Works, Tony Douglas.

Superintendent of Parks and Gardens, Peter Davies deals with the landscaping

and design of the city's recreational areas and runs the Council nursery and co-ordinates the work of our tree specialists and gardeners.

John McBrien is Superintendent of Works and supervises our garbage collection crews, road workers, mechanics, carpenters and painters at the Depot.

If you ever ring the Engineering Department, the friendly voice at the end of the phone belongs to Ann Watson, who also happens to be a Commissioner for taking Affidavits and seems to know where most people are, most of the time.



**Bill Watson and Robin Frew**



**George McBrien, Head Mechanic at the Depot**

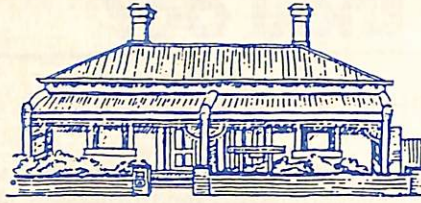


**Michael Dunn, Tree Surgeon**



# KEW COMMUNITY HOUSE INC.

Co-ordinator: Judy Price



6 DERBY STREET, KEW, VIC. 3101  
Telephone: 862 3126

## Meet Judy

**Judy Price** is sitting in her office surrounded by many pieces of paper and even more loose ends.

Taking over as co-ordinator of the Community House is not meant to be easy!

Still, Judy is feeling very positive about her new role as she has a long standing belief in the importance of community contact.

She trained as a kindergarten teacher but moved into work with a family support agency as she became increasingly interested in the family group as a whole.

From there, she went on to establish a neighbourhood network in Alphington, where she lives.

The main purpose of this network was to meet informal childcare needs but it developed beyond this and became a reference point for Northcote Council and other groups who wanted to know what was happening in the locality.

At the same time, Judy did the Community Development course at PIT.

Judy intends to take a "networking"

approach in Kew. She has some knowledge of the area as her children went to Kew High and she does not think the House would be meeting community needs if its focus was primarily on classes.

"The House should be a focal point for the whole community where information can be given but which also meets a variety of needs for a wide range of people. It should be a place where people who want to do things can do them," she said.

Judy is pleased to see how well the informal drop-in arrangement on Wednesdays is working. She would like to strike a balance between the needs of different groups and plans to base future programs on research into what is most appropriate for the Kew community.

As co-ordinator, Judy would also like the House to develop as a place where people with skills to offer and time on their hands can learn about volunteering opportunities both in the House and in the wider community.

While all this sounds rather daunting,

Judy is reassured by the commitment of the House volunteers, a number of whom have been associated with the House for some years.

"It's great to have this continuity," she said.

And talking of continuity, Judy will be serving community lunch on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Lunch will also be served on Wednesdays as part of the 'Drop-in' program.



**Judy Price**



**Mark Homden, Assistant Health Surveyor, at work.**

## Second start:

Basic education for local adults

At Swinburne TAFE Access Education Centre there is a free individual program for local adults who want to make a second start with their basic education. Last year over forty men and women studied through this program, but because it is a confidential service, not much is heard about it.

Adults who feel their basic spelling, writing or reading needs to be tackled on an individual basis can work either in the day or evening with a trained volunteer tutor. Special notice is taken of writing and reading needed for work or for home life. (People with a foreign language background need to speak fluent English).

If you have a friend or member of your household who can't read this but may be interested, can you tell them about this program? Enquiries to Mary Sutherland, 819 8816, 819 8806, or leave a message on 819 8118.



## Library cuts threaten service

The relocation of 90,000 books to their new home in the revamped municipal library in June is only a small problem facing Kew Library, compared with the threat of the planned government cuts in library funding.

The Minister for the Arts, The Hon. Rance Mathews announced the cuts late last year to take effect in 1987/88. \$2,000,000 will be cut from the total state contribution to municipal libraries across the state and Kew Library will suffer as a result.

This cut is on top of the government's failure over a series of years to increase the subsidy to libraries in line with the CPI. Kew now meets \$377,000 or over 75% of the cost of its library service despite a government election promise of dollar for dollar sharing of library costs.

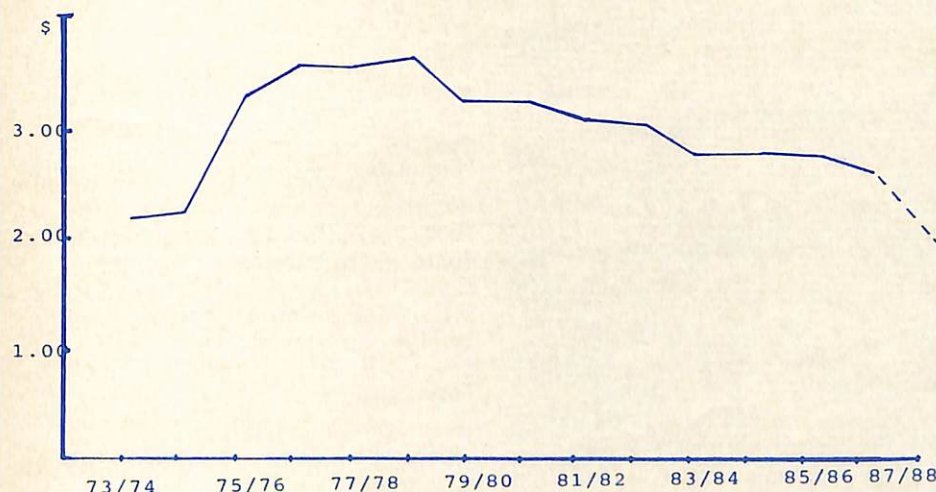
Victoria already has the dubious distinction of having the second lowest per capita library grant of any state and if the cutbacks go ahead, all Victorians should expect fewer books, reduced hours or reduced levels of service.

Municipal libraries have been tightening their belts over recent years. In fact the cost of a loan in a public library has gone down from \$1.12 to \$1.01 in the last ten years.

Kew Council has a strong commitment to its library service and is proud of its record of the highest per capita level of borrowing of any municipal library in the state.

Council is therefore supporting the Survival of Libraries campaign (SOLV) to fight the reduction in government spending and return to a state of funding equity.

REAL STATE FUNDING 1973/74 TO 1987/88



- . using 1980/81 as base year
- . assuming CPI of 8.5 for 1986/87 and 87/88
- . 1987/88 based on recent advice from State Govt.

## Ruth is playing for Australia

Kew cricketer Ruth Buckstein, has been selected as opening bat in the Australian Women's Test team which will tour England in June.

Ruth has been playing district and state cricket for 13 years, and has captained her side at both levels in recent years. She sees her selection for the Australian team as the high point in her career.

How does one reach the top in women's cricket? "Through a lot of hard work," says Ruth.

"Players in the Australian team train two or three hours a week, play once a week and carry out regular fitness work," she said.

And if this massive time commitment is not enough to test their devotion, there is a financial commitment as well.

"It will cost each player \$1,000 plus the loss of three months earnings to go to England," Ruth commented.

Increasing sponsorship is helping alleviate this burden, but women's teams even at the state and national levels have not always been offered free equipment which men's teams have regarded as basic even at the district level.

This has its positive side. Because a great deal is asked of them, women cricketers take the game very seriously.

"We still play cricket in the spirit in which it was intended — to promote fair play and comradeship," said Ruth.

There is a possibility that the increasing pressure to move from a social to a professional standard, which is necessary if women's cricket is to gain in status, may compromise this spirit. Even if this does occur, Ruth has faith that it will not do so to the extent it has with the men's game.

And there is nothing like an international tour to make the players feel that they are really putting women's cricket on the map.







## Footy news

The Kew Senior team showed the benefit of proper pre-season preparation, in defeating old foes Hampton Rovers by 100 points in a practice game.

Coach Brett Burden stated after the match that it was a solid team effort in a lead-up to the forthcoming season.

The Reserves, after leading at half time against last year's Premiers, dropped their concentration and lost by five goals. Bad luck, fellas.

Further practice matches are scheduled during March against Balwyn, Thornbury and Marcellin O.C.

Brett and assistants Terry Hayes (Kew veteran of 321 games) and John Smith (Fitness Advisor) are anxious to hear from local footballers wishing to play in the strong Amateur competition with Kew at Victoria Park.

Kew fields teams in Senior, Reserve, Under 19 and Club XVIII plus Under 16, 14, 12, 10.

President Ted Kelly is promoting a drive by Committeemen to promote the Kew Club in the local community by approaching local businesses and residents to support their football club.

Club details — Secretary Mick Bollman 63 0481 (W), 818 6536 (H).



## Keeping you informed



### Social Services

The range of Social Services available to members of the Australian community has expanded greatly in the years since World War II. Amongst those who benefit are the aged, the widowed, the supporting parent, the disabled and the unemployed. Help for the disadvantaged is channelled through agencies of Federal, State and Local Governments and many private organisations.

The dedicated work of the Salvation Army, the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence and St. Vincent de Paul is well known, but there are many other caring groups providing services for those with special needs. Your local Citizens' Advice Bureau has information on a wide range of welfare organisations, as well as having its own qualified Social Worker.

For people needing help, the Bureau has trained volunteers who can guide you in the selection of the most appropriate agency. Just call on us between 10am and 3pm on weekdays, or telephone on 861 5244. You will find the Bureau at the rear of the City Hall directly opposite the Library.

## Good Friday and Easter Services

### ANGLICAN

**Kew: Holy Trinity, High St.**

Good Friday: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Easter Eve: 8 p.m.

Easter Day: 8 a.m., 10 a.m.

**St. Hilary's, John St.**

Good Friday: 9.45 a.m.

Easter Day: 8 a.m., 9.45 a.m., 7 p.m.

**East Kew: St. Paul's, Windella Ave. and Hale St.**

Good Friday: 9.30 a.m., 12 noon, 3 p.m.

Easter Eve: 9 a.m.

Easter Day: 8 a.m., 10 a.m.

### BAPTIST

**Kew: Highbury Grove**

Good Friday: 9.30 a.m. Combined Service at Uniting Church.

Easter Day: 10.30 a.m.

**East Kew: Woodlands Ave.**

Good Friday: 9.30 a.m. Combined Service with Chinese.

Easter Day: 11 a.m. Combined Service with Chinese.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

**East Kew: Valerie St.**

Good Friday: 9.30 a.m.

Easter Day: 11 a.m.

### CATHOLIC

**Kew: Sacred Heart, Cotham Rd.**

Good Friday: 3 p.m., 7.30 p.m.

Easter Eve: 7.30 p.m.

Easter Day: 8 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11 a.m., 5.15 p.m.

**East Kew: St. Anne's, Beresford St.**

Good Friday: 3 p.m.

Easter Eve: 7.30 p.m.

Easter Day: 8 a.m., 10.30 a.m.

St. Joachim's: 9 a.m.

### UNITING

**Kew: Highbury Grove**

Good Friday: 9.30 a.m. Combined Service with Baptists.

Easter Day: 10.30 a.m.

**East Kew: Normanby Rd.**

Good Friday: 9 a.m.

Easter Day: 10.30 a.m.



Storytime at Kew Library. See page 1.