

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

The Society's activities are ended for 1977 and we look forward to 1978 which promises to be interesting and rewarding. Before doing so, I want to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the very real success of the recent dinner, particularly Mrs. Joy Stewart for making her delightful home available and Mrs. Mavis Rolley as Convenor, for her careful planning and splendid catering.

Even the weather turned out to be just right, providing a fresh atmosphere that whetted our appetites for the varied dishes, many made and generously donated by the women members of the Dinner Committee.

Next year we open on the second Wednesday of February, when the featured speaker will be our member, Mrs. Laurie Dean, who will tell us of personal experiences in Outback Australia.

Friday 3rd March will be our day to have the Street Stall in High Street. Donations of potted plants, home made jams, biscuits etc. and eye-catching items suitable for inexpensive gifts will all be welcome. Further information is available from Mrs. Rolley -

On 2nd April our Third Pioneer Memorial Service being held in Xavier College Chapel, should have special interest. Xavier and Ruyton will both be celebrating their centenaries in 1978 and Trinity Grammar will reach the good age of 75. Education will undoubtedly be the theme with special tributes to the early residents of Kew who founded the Schools, showing such a practical belief in learning.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy Christmas, wherever you may be and I look forward to our re-union in the New Year.

Greetings and best wishes,

WINIFRED HALL.

CONFERENCES

On Friday 7th and Saturday 8th October, five members attended the R.H.S.V. Seventh Biennial Conference held at Kew High School Community Theatre. The theme was "Leisure in Victorian Victoria".

The following Saturday six members attended the Eastern Historical Societies Regional Conference where Waverley Historical Society acting as hosts, made every effort to make the visit a great success.

HISTORIC POSSESSIONS

By the co-operative effort of several members, most of the Society's possessions have at last been collected together. Beginning with a workshop on 14th August, this project has continued with the documents and correspondence being sorted into subject files and the registering of pictures and historical articles well on the way.

The offer of storage at Kew High School Library has been accepted, thus giving a single home to the collection until the Society can acquire its own permanent quarters.

DONATION FROM BANK

The Society was presented, by the National Bank, with the two earliest signature books of the Kew Branch of the Bank. These will be a valuable asset to our growing collection.

FINANCE

The Council increased our grant this year to \$250.00. We sincerely thank them for this as it will enable us to carry out urgently needed preservation activities.

HISTORIC COMMITTEE

Kew Council has formed a Historic Committee for the purpose of increasing the National Trust Listing in Kew. Our Society has written giving

full support, offering co-operation and asking for an early meeting between the committee and our representatives.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PROJECT

With the loss of "Ellesmore", "Reno" and a permit passed by Council for the demolition of Kew's oldest church, the Congregational in Walpole Street, it is very apparent that Kew's history is quickly disappearing, some, before it can adequately, be recorded.

During the Christmas break it is suggested that members give some time to the obtaining of photographs and written or tape-recorded information regarding the People and Buildings of early Kew. If you need help in the project, or require the use of the tape recorder, please contact a member of the Committee.

DICTIONARY OF STREET NAMES

Members co-operating in this project can obtain some assistance from the following books:-

Australian Dictionary of Biography, vols. 3-6

Serle, P. - Dictionary of Australian Biography. 2 vols.

Victoria and its Metropolis. 3 vols.

The Cyclopaedia of Victoria, 3 v.ed. by James Smith.

Heaton, J.H. Australian Dictionary of Dates and Men of the Time. 1879.

Hennell, P. Dictionary of Australian Biography. 1855-92.

Men of the Time in Australia. Vic. vols 1878-82.

(includes several Studley Park homes).

Johns, F. Notable Australians ... brief biogs. of men and women of the Commonwealth. 1906.

Bonwick, J. Boroondara.

O'Neill, J. The Church on the Hill.

Histories of Kew by F.G. Barnard, W. Vaughan and D. Rogers.

Some of these books are at Kew Library; the rest are at R.H.S.V. and Latrobe Libraries.

Record your findings on $\frac{1}{4}$ foolscap sheet, separate sheet for each street, include full name of person after whom street was named and, if possible, dates of birth, marriage and death; date of arrival in Australia, children, profession, and chief activities. If you require further information, please contact Miss E. M. Robertson.

CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTS

It is learned that transcripts of the Boroondara Cemetery Memorials have already been done by the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Instead of repeating this work some co-operation with them could be arranged.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

At the Annual Meeting Miss Eva Grant was conferred with Hon. Life Membership. Sadly, earlier in the year, we lost Mrs. A. Watson, who had wonderful memories of early Kew.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Mr. Clark would like to see our membership increase in the coming year, to 100 members (present number 60). This would improve the Society's financial position and help spread the work load. He is appealing for members to make every effort to reach this target.

MEETINGS 1978

Meetings for 1978 will be held in the Auxiliary Room, Kew Civic Centre, at 8.00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each Month. First meeting, 8th February, Please note change of week.

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Miss W. Hall,
Vice President: Miss E. M. Robertson
" " Mr. S. Warmington
Secretary : Mrs. J. Stewart
Treasurer : Mr. G. Clark
Asst. Treasurer : Mrs. M. Rolley
Committee : Miss E. Grant
Mr. G. Greer.