

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 175, Kew, 3101.

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

MARCH 1978

President:  
Miss Winifred Hall,

Secretary:  
Mrs. Joy Stewart

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

To allow time for printing, I must write this letter before we conduct the Street Stall on Friday 3rd March, but I am sure the result is a foregone conclusion, because arrangements have been completed, the Convenor Mrs. Rolley feels confident that the Society will have a financial success.

The Council have promised us the new Caravan which is much more spacious than the old stall and provides far more room for the display of goods.

April looks like being the most eventful month of the year for Kew Historical Society. First the Third Pioneer Commemoration Service at Xavier College Chapel on Sunday 2nd April, which this year will have the theme of tribute to early residents of Kew who had the vision, the enterprise, evidently the financial resources to found so many fine schools in the area. Now in 1978 Xavier and Ruyton are celebrating their centenaries, Trinity Grammar the 75th Anniversary. Representatives of these schools will take part in the service. I have been invited to read one of the lessons. I am looking forward to doing this as your representative, because as my father was a Head Master, I was reared in a school atmosphere.

This service will be followed by tea at the invitation of the Xavier Authorities, then we shall take a short drive to the new Dorothy Rogers Reserve where The Mayor will unveil a plaque so that one small part of Kew will bear the name of this well known Author and former member of Kew Historical Society who did so much to preserve the traditions of the area.

On Saturday 22nd April, as you know, the Society is organizing the re-enactment of the first visit of white men to the River Yarra, in particular to Kew, in February 1803.

We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Argall and a number of Trinity boys, experienced as both rowers and actors, who are bringing the scene to life, even providing a Bush Band and a group of Camp Fire Singers.

We are also to have a company of Brownies who will set up a camp of friendly Aborigines. Girl Guides to provide a Flag Raising ceremony. It is marvellous to have such enthusiastic support from the young people of Kew.

Even His Worship the Mayor of Kew, Councillor Whiting, is entering into the spirit of the occasion, which is part of Kew Community Week, and is coming in his Mayoral robes to take part in the pageant to receive the members of this small expedition, who long ago, found our municipality such a fair and promising place.

I hope you will all enjoy these functions and help to make them a success.

With best wishes,

WINIFRED HALL

#### NEW MEMBERS

1978 has started well with the following new Members.

Mrs. Val Lloyd	Mr. and Mrs. J. Copeland
Miss Ursula Callus	Mrs. A. Van Den Berg
Mrs. M. Cochrane of N.S.W.	Methodist Ladies College

#### A TRIBUTE TO MR. WAGNER

It was a sad occasion when Miss Hall announced, at our first meeting for the year, that Mr. Rupert Wagner had passed away on 23rd December.

Mr. Wagner had lived a long and active life; he was born in Kew, on December 29th, 1887, lived in Cecil Street until 1914 and moved to Camberwell at the time of his marriage.

He was apprenticed as an Instrument Maker in 1902 and was Kodak's Chief Camera Mechanic in 1914. He went to the War, rose to Sergeant of Engineers and was awarded the Military Medal.

In 1920 Mr. Wagner married and in the same year founded his own Camera business in which he maintained an interest until the day he died. He was an Hon. Life Member of both the Institute of Photographic Technology and Photographic Collectors Society.

Mr. Wagner was also a keen sportsman, playing cricket with the Southern Cross Cricket Team, was an amateur runner and boxer, also a golfer.

He had a good memory and a deep sense of humour and entertained us on several occasions with fascinating stories of his boyhood in Kew.

Since joining K.H.S., Mr. Wagner rarely missed a meeting and we enjoyed his company at both of our end of year dinners. All members will miss him and we extend to his family our deepest sympathy.

We are indebted to Mr. Jack Wagner for supplying this information about his Father.

#### PROGRAMME

March 8th. at 7.45 p.m. - General Meeting. Slides of South America by Mrs. Joy Stewart.

April 2nd at 2.30 p.m. - Xavier Chapel, Third Pioneer Commemoration Service followed by the naming of the Dorothy Rogers Reserve at 4.15 p.m. on the Cnr. of Studley Park Road and Fernhurst Grove.

April 12th at 7.45 p.m. - General Meeting. Talk by Mr. Peter Staughton, M. Arch. A Member of the Historical Buildings Preservation Council and author of two recently published books.

April 22nd at 2.30 p.m. - Re-enactment of Grimes arrival in Kew at the Kane's Bridge Picnic Area.

April 21st to 30th - Kew Festival - Kew Historical Society Information Desk.

May 10th at 7.45 p.m. - General Meeting. Talk by Mr. John Kendall, Director of the Science Museum.

June 14th at 7.45 p.m. - General Meeting. Talk by Mrs. Jess Reed, "South Melb."

All General Meetings will be held in the Auxiliary Room at the Kew Civic Centre, Charles Street.

ART SHOW. Our Vice President, Mr. Stuart Warmington will have on display at Kew Rotary Art Show, drawings of Historic Buildings of Kew, from which a series will be selected, to form a folio of Lithographic Prints. The Art Show is at Angelucci's Reception Hall, Walpole St. Kew, Sat. March 11th 9 am - 10pm, Sun. and Monday March 12 & 13th 10 am - 6 pm.

STREET NAMES PROJECT Cr. A. Hutchinson is anxious to receive more information regarding the History of the Street Names in Kew. If any members have completed the research in their area, would they please pass their findings on to Miss Robertson 80 3981.

FERNHURST - Members of the Executive have had valuable discussions with Mr. B. Quilligan, Principal of St. Paul's School for the Blind. In event of the demolition of 'Fernhurst' and the 'Farmhouse' K.H.S. is welcome to historic artifacts and St. Paul's School is willing to install commemorative plaques.

TRINITY PROJECT. As part of their History Course this year, Trinity Grammar boys are doing the History of Kew. Our Society was asked to co-operate and we supplied names and information to help the boys in their research. In return, they will furnish us with any information they have gathered.

#### FUND RAISING

Signed copies of Mr. John O'Neill's book "The Church on the Hill" are available at \$2.95. This book will make an excellent present. If you would like a copy contact Mrs. Rolley

Mr. Warmington has a negative of the Treaty between John Batman and the Aborigines and is willing to have prints taken from it. This is an ideal opportunity to get a copy of this valuable document. Cost \$3.50. If you are interested please ring Mr. Warmington.

A percentage of the proceeds of both these items will come to K.H.S.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

For those members whose subscriptions are still outstanding, a yellow form has been enclosed. Please return this as soon as possible.