

President:  
Miss Winifred Hall -

Hon. Secretary:  
Mrs. Joy Stewart

PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

The Autumn Season has been a momentous one for the Society, as I am sure you will agree.

For possibly the first time we have stepped out into the community and revealed the Society as a living thing, active in the present, as well as a group of people endeavouring to preserve the fabric, traditions and historic possessions of the municipality of Kew.

This was particularly exemplified on 22nd April when we literally "gathered at the river" for the Grimes Re-enactment. The response from the public was tremendous and I shall remember most vividly the excitement and involvement of the children - Guides, Brownies, settlers' wives, assorted small boys etc., who barely escaped falling into the Yarra in the determination to greet the explorers as they stepped ashore. One little boy rushed up to me almost bursting with excitement shouting "I touched him, I touched Grimes". For him it was the real thing!

We are indebted to the Mayor, Councillor Whiting and to Councillor Hutchinson for entering into the spirit of the occasion, helping to make it go.

The third Pioneer Memorial Service, this year at Xavier College Chapel, had dignity and simplicity and it was most pleasant to be entertained to afternoon tea by Father Brennan and Father Boyd, before going on to the Naming of the Dorothy Rogers Reserve by His Worship the Mayor. A strong and chilly wind was something of a setback at the garden, but fortunately the weather remained fine and it was a delightful, short ceremony in the presence of Dorothy Rogers nearest relatives.

Thanks to our photographer Stuart West we have a number of fine coloured photographs taken, for the records, on that day and I know that many of us have obtained copies for our own albums.

Many members and visitors have expressed pleasure in participating or attending these functions and on behalf of the Committee I warmly thank everyone who contributed in any way.

The opening of the Society's Information Office at 3 Walpole Street, on four days during the Festival Week was well worthwhile and brought us several new members.

A tremendous amount of the organization of these events was undertaken by Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Rolley so please join me in extending hearty congratulations to them.

May I suggest that we go along quietly for the Winter months concentrating on the monthly meetings and the more routine work of the Society, emerging in the Spring for several "specials" that are in the planning stage.

With best wishes and sincere thanks for your co-operation.

WINIFRED HALL.

NEW MEMBERS

- |                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mrs. Kathleen Murphy    | Miss Mary Nash                |
| Mrs. M. Kerr            | Mrs. A. O'Farrell             |
| Mrs. Dorothy Zahara     | Mrs. W. D. McIntyre           |
| Mr. Royal Carrington    | Cr. Noel Whiting, J.P.        |
| Cr. Bib Stillwell       | Mrs. Juanita Green            |
| Mrs. Y.L. McGredie      | Mr. John Ryan                 |
| Mrs. Margaret Raggett   | Mr. L.E.C. Safstrom           |
| Mrs. Elaine Stradwick   |                               |
| Sister Mary Rose F.C.J. | Principal Genazzano Convent   |
| Sister Elizabeth F.C.J. | Principal Sacred Heart School |

MAVIS ROLLEY REPORTS - - -

Grimes during his exploration of the Freshwater River and surrounding land, "Studley Park", was assisted by a capable party of men. In presenting the re-enactment of this historic occasion, our assistance came from the Kew Girl Guides, Brownies, Company Leaders, District Commissioners Mesdames Tope and Stradwick, Trinity Grammar School boys, their music and history teacher Mrs. Argall, and parents.

This large contingent of talent, complemented by the picturesque location, provided a delightful afternoon's entertainment for the many hundreds who came to Kane's Bridge to witness our contribution to the Festival of Kew.

A combination of excitement and relief was shared amongst the organizers and spectators, as Grimes and party appeared, rowing heartedly up the Yarra. They disembarked and were greeted by friendly Aborigines. In the background settlers wives wandered through the gums while Brownie Guides cooked damper in the ashes. The Trinity bush band added a Colonial flavour to the festivity.

In a less frivolous moment the Mayor of Kew welcomed Grimes' party and accepted a report on this 1803 expedition, taken from the authentic diary, and Girls Guides performed their Flag Raising Ceremony. Cr. Allan Hutchinson, as town crier, added expertise and colour to the event.

Favourable comments verify the success of the venture. Many welcomed the opportunity to visit and enjoy the natural bushland setting at Yarra Bend Park and we were happy to see members from Richmond, Essendon and Keilor Historical Societies present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Mr. Harrison, Zenith Press, for donation of printing costs.
- Mr. Paul and Peter Vandersluys, Studley Park Boathouse, for donation of boat costs.
- Mr. Rotherham and Yarra Bend Park Trustees.
- Mr. C. Findlay for organising amplification.
- Mr. John Hallgarten, Essendon Historical Society for loan of Seamen's costumes.
- Mr. Peter Somerville and Bob Hayes, Keilor Historical Society
- Miss Eryl Morgan and Mr. Peter Butler.
- Mrs. Janet May for bringing Elder Citizens in the Mini-Bus.
- Whitehorse Standard for co-operation with Festival activities and donation of photographs.
- Progress Press and Camberwell Free Press for co-operation with recent historical activities.

LIFE AND STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

It was passed at the March Meeting that two new types of membership would be made available -

- Life Membership - \$20.00
- Student Associate Membership - \$1.00 per year.

BARNARD'S CLOCK

Barnard's Clock is at last in position in the Library, and after cleaning and restoration keeping good time. A plaque underneath gives a short history of the clock's origin:

MRS. COCHRANE REMEMBERS

Our most senior member, Mrs. May Cochrane nee Thompson, who now resides in N.S.W. has written her memories of Kew nearly 100 years ago. The following is a short extract - -

"My father attended a Presbyterian primary school in South Yarra after which, to his delight, the Church of England opened the Melbourne Grammar School. Dr. Bromby was then the Headmaster. My grandfather, forgetting on a busy day to enrol his son, my father enrolled himself, and was among the first pupils. My father did well there liking Dr. Bromby immensely. Later he went to Melbourne University and returned as a teacher to Melbourne Grammar where he became head teacher under Dr. Bromby.

When Dr. Bromby retired my father was invited to go to Kew by some well off families there who had sons to be educated. My father purchased a school, the head of which had died, and so he went to Kew where he ran the School successfully for nearly 30 years.

My mother was Louisa Elizabeth Grattan and she and my father were already married when they came to Kew. Housekeeping at Kew High School meant work as there were always boarders, some of them sons of country people. My father called the house "Molina" (I believe Greek for Mill), and it was situated on land bounded by Charles Street, Stanley Street (a small blind street) and the fence of St. Francis Xavier College, and the dividing fence of Mr. Sadler's land, on which was his large house where he lived. The boundary of his land was Wellington Street.

I was born in 1881 the youngest of a family of four, two brothers and one sister. We were all born and grew up in Kew."

INFORMATION CENTRE

After the success of the Information Centre during the Festival an application has been made for the use of 3 Walpole Street on the 4th Thursday of each month, 12 noon - 3 p.m. The indications are that the F.A.C.S. Committee will pass this application, and we can plan to open from the 22nd June. If you wish to help please contact Mavis Rolley or Joy Stewart.

NEWS FROM EASTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Regional Conference, this year to be hosted by Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society, will be held late in September.

A boat trip up the Maribyrnong River is planned, tentative date, November 11th. Before this excursion can be booked a boat load of 80 people must be guaranteed.

FUND RAISING - "Kew's Civic Century" by Cr. W.D. Vaughan and "The Church on the Hill" by John O'Neill, both available at the very reasonable price of \$2.75, a percentage of which comes to the Society. If you wish to obtain a copy please contact Mrs. Rolley 861 5154.

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

The following Kew buildings have been listed on the Australian Heritage Register :-

- "Field Place", 3 Henty Court
- Holy Trinity Church and Rectory, Cnr. High & Pakington Streets.
- "Lalla Rookh", 41 Fellows Street,
- "Merridale", 43 Sackville Street
- "Ross House", 292 Cotham Road
- "Studley House", 15 Nolan Street
- "Willsmere" Mental Hospital, The Boulevard

This is not very many considering the number of buildings of historic value in Kew. The Society must make every effort to ensure this list is lengthened and the research walk, planned for Sunday, July 2nd, is part of this programme.

NEWS FROM KEW RECREATION COUNCIL - - - -

On December 9th, 1878 the Kew Recreation Association was formed, to cater for the recreational needs of the growing community. In commemoration of this date the Kew Recreation Council is planning a Display featuring 100 years of recreation in Kew. If you would like to help with this project and can supply information, photographs or documents which would be of assistance, please contact Mrs. Betty Shelton, Kew Recreation Council or Mrs. Joy Stewart.

PROGRAMME

- June 14th - 7.45 p.m. General Meeting. Tapes and photographs.  
The Society has some interesting tapes to be played and if you have photographs of the Grimes re-enactment, bring them along.
- June 22nd - 12 noon - 3 p.m. Information Centre.
- July 2nd - 2 p.m. Research Walk. A project to continue the survey of buildings in Kew. Meet at Victoria Park, Main Gate, High St.
- July 12th - 7.45 p.m. General Meeting. Founders Night.  
In commemoration of the birth of Mr. W. Dickinson.  
Talk by Mrs. Jess Reed "South Melbourne".
- July 27th - 12 noon - 3 p.m. Information Centre
- August 9th - 7.45 p.m. - General Meeting. Members' contributions.
- August 24th - 12 noon - 3 p.m. Information Centre.

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