

NEWSLETTER NO 8

JUNE 1979

PRESIDENT

Miss Winifred Hall

EDITOR

Mr Ken Capes

SECRETARY

Mrs Joy Stewart

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear Members,

At the Conference Dinner of the Eastern Region held at Hawthorn several weeks ago, a member of one of the Societies remarked to me, that she particularly appreciated the opportunities provided to participate in tours to other areas.

Our conversation, has given me the idea to use my section this quarter, to bring to your notice several benefits available to members of our society. These are an extension of general meetings and the routine work of cataloging, locating and preserving records, photographs and artifacts of the area.

So I am concentrating on touring, a good example of which was the recent visit to Williamstown with the Nunawading Historical Society. I regret that only about ten members were available to join the bus at the Civic Hall. On a fine Sunday morning we travelled via Westgate bridge to tour the old "Port of Sandridge". On the way we stopped to admire the restored ship "Polly Woodside", moored at her own small wharf on which stand two tall ornamental lamps (a gift from Glasgow).

On arrival we were met by our guide provided by the Williamstown Society. We then proceeded on our tour of Williamstown; some of the highlights being the Clock Tower, the picturesque Prince of Wales Hotel with its lacy ironwork and the old homes along the Strand built by the sea captains. This part of our tour was followed by a delightful picnic lunch in the gardens. After our repast, we were driven to the 'olde' Mechanics Institute which has been converted into the Historical Museum, specialising in model ships and relics of the days when windjammers visited the port.

The finale to our day, was an "old style" afternoon tea provided and hosted by members of the local society. I say "old style" because, the tables groaned with home made cream sponges, apple tarts and delicious petit fours (which are a rare sight these days).

The Nunawading Society also organised an interesting tour of Keilor. In fact, an even more ambitious tour has been organised by our Eastern Region President, Miss Christine Grey. The tour to Echuca in August, will include a visit to the restored inland port and is well worth the visit. So take a bus ride members at moderate cost, it can be a lot of fun and will certainly widen your knowledge of Victoria's Heritage.

With all good wishes,

Winifred Hall.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mrs. R. Vaughan-Smith.

Mrs D. Ashley-Brown.

Mr K. Capes.

Mrs C. Daw.

Mrs J. Gray.

Mrs. M. Deane-Johns.

Mrs J. O'Brien.

Mrs F. Robinson.

Miss M. Robinson.

Mr J. B. Thompson.

NEED FOR SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

Because it is becoming a matter of urgency that the Society find a satisfactory place in which to establish Permanent Headquarters, this subject will be the major topic of discussion at the July Working Meeting.

REPORT ON REGIONAL CONFERENCE

This years Eastern Historical Societies Conference, so ably hosted by members of the Hawthorn Historical Society at the Hawthorn City Art Gallery, was both entertaining and productive.

On display was a collection of enlarged photographs taken from one of Australia's earliest cinema films, "Living Hawthorn" by Johnson and Gibson. This film was made in 1906 and is believed to be among the first twenty films made in Australia. Also of great interest, was the display of photographic equipment and literature arranged by the Photographic Collectors Society.

After a delightful dinner, representations from the eleven societies present, submitted reports on their activities over the past 6 months. These reports showed that the problems faced by each Historical Society are basically the same and of major concern, is the ever increasing request for information by a wide cross-section of the public, which is placing a heavy burden on the available voluntary man-power.

It was moved and seconded that, if requested, the Committee of the Eastern Historical Societies would give written support to any of the affiliated Societies wishing to make an application to their local Council for financial help in publishing information data. Nine of the Societies present receive some form of council assistance, Five could boast of permanent headquarters in Historic Buildings, but others had little or no hope of obtaining a suitable place to store and/or display data and artifacts within the foreseeable future.

It was suggested that the problems faced by Historical Societies, in getting access to historical material and documents should be brought up as the major discussion at the next Regional Conference. The meeting closed and the evening finished with supper.

PROGRAMME

- June 13th - Wednesday 7.45pm. General Social Meeting.
President Miss Winifred Hall will talk on 'the Rocks' in Sydney.
- 24th - Sunday - Williamstown Historical Society bus tour of Kew.
- July 11th - Wednesday 7.45pm. General Working Meeting.
Members contributions welcome.
- August 4th-5th - Saturday and Sunday - Trip to Echuca with Committee of Eastern Historical Societies.
- 8th - Wednesday 7.45pm. General Social Meeting.
Guest Speaker - Revnd. Dr. Arthur doQ. Robin. Vicar of Holy Trinity Church of England, Kew.
- All General Meetings will be held in the Auxiliary rooms Kew Civic Centre, Charles Street, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month February to november inclusive.

CONSTITUTION

Copies of a draft Constitution will be available at the July Working Meeting, for members to deliberate and comment on at the September Working Meeting.

THE ORIGINS OF STREET NAMES IN KEW From the Early 1840's to 1880.

by Mr. G. Stuart Warmington

One of this Society's activities, which commenced about 20 years ago; soon after the founding of the Society in Sept. 1958, is the recording of the origins of street names in our City. All the effort of those years of research is worthy of collating and bringing to fruition in some tangible form, such as a comprehensive guide to the pioneers and others in honour of whom the streets were named - not just a boring catalogue of proper names.

For "history is at bottom the history of the Great Men who have worked here" as Carlyle declared in the opening sentences of his famous series of lectures in 1840 entitled "On Heroes, Hero Worship and the Heroic in History".

At the outset I should acknowledge my sources of information :- the most fruitful sources were -

- . Barnard's Jubilee History of Kew (1910)
- . Dorothy Roger's A History of Kew (1973)
- . Alexander Sutherland's 2 massive volumes "Victoria and Its Metropolis" (1888)

and finally,

- . City of Kew Centenary 1860 - 1960 prepared by a Committee of the Kew Historical Society, Part 2 of which is entitled, "Story of the City and its Street Names".

I freely acknowledge the assistance the well-researched work of the 1960 Committee has given me.

Who were these "Great Men" and "Heroes" after whom our streets were named? Our story will show that they were men and woman of all types - a colourful array of characters exhibiting the whole gamut of human behaviour, both integrity and frailty. They range from Hugh Glass who became one of Melbourne's most unscrupulous land speculators and whose financial dealings brought about the closure of the Colonial Bank, to the Rev. Hussey Burgh - Macartney, an investor who was for 40 years Dean of Melbourne.

They include failed miners, successful architects, distinguished English statesman and military men, poets and explorers - Antarctic heroes as well as ill-fated explorers who disappeared into the unrelenting heat of the "Dead Heart" - eminent lawyers, modicos and educationalists, Regal and Vice-Regal personages, artists, publicans, pioneer settlers, professional men - one of whom was a medical practitioner turned cordial manufacturer, at least one son of a transported convict, and a purveyor of peppers, pickles and mustards.

And high on the list of citizens honoured by having streets named after them is an inordinate number of former Mayors and Councillors of the City - or so it seems until one remembers that all of these had distinguished themselves in their particular calling or some toher involvement in the life of the community.

(to be continued)

TOUR OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

A visit to Government House is being planned for Wednesday, 17th October at 2.p.m. It is proposed that members meet for a B.Y.O. lunch prior to the tour. Cost will be \$1-00 per head donation towards Society funds. More details in the September Newsletter.

21ST BIRTHDAY PARTY

On the 16th September 1979 the Kew Historical Society will celebrate its 21st year. To commemorate this historic milestone, the Society is to hold a 21st Birthday party at, _____, Kew on the 20th September. Members, their families and friends are cordially invited to attend. The party will commence at 6.30pm (drinks). For those interested in attending a return slip is enclosed and should be returned no later than August 8th.

Cost: \$11.00 per head.

OLD TITLE S AND PROPERTY DEEDS by Mavis Rolley

Many old land title papers are still in _____ circulation, having been issued under seal during early land sales in Booroondara. These documents are valid though fragile with age. Often their owners with good intentions offer them to Historians and Historical Societies for preservation. They do not realise that by doing this, their identification of ownership would have to be proved in the event of the property being sold, or left to a beneficiary. The time involved in searching for the missing papers and possibly the need for a new title issue, will create costs.

Old Titles can be made invalid and worth only their historic value by making application for a transfer; then a new title will be issued under Reg. government land act. The fee for such a transaction is costly, it involves a new survey and administration costs applicable to the land value. Months of waiting may occur and there is the possibility that once the old Title is released it could, be placed in the archives of the title office, and not returned to the owner.

To be returned no later than 8th August

Kew Historical Society Social Fund
Secretary,
Kew Historical Society,
P.O. Box. 175,
KEW. VIC. 3101.

Please find enclosed \$ _____ being payment for Seat(s) at the 21st Birthday Party.

NAME Mr
Mrs
Miss (please print)

ADDRESS
.....

POSTCODE