



New Historical Society  
Newsletter  
21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Edition

DECEMBER 1979

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Mr Leigh Scott		Miss I.J. Littlefield	
Mrs Neville Vaughan		Miss Hilda Y. Daniell	O.B.E.
Mrs C.S. Dickins		Mr John Crofts	
Mrs Joy Stewart		Mrs L.M. Chinner	
Mrs Bressler		Mr W.W. Bevan	
Miss Alma Figuerola		Mrs C.A. Bevan	
Mrs E. Riley		Mr Geoffrey Clark	
Cr. W.H.S. Dickinson	M.B.E.	Mr J. O'Shannessy	
Mrs W.H.S. Dickinson		Miss Fairie Dumaresq	
Miss Janet Dickinson		Mr R. Cameron	
Miss Judith Dickinson		Dr C. McDonald	
Dr E. Robertson		Cr. Marie Dalley	O.B.E.
Cr. Wm. D. Vaughan		Mr Whitman	
Mrs Clarice Thompson		Mrs E.M. Orford	
Mrs Dorothy Rogers		Miss N.B. Donaldson	
Mrs J. Bisley		Miss L.B. Cady	
Mr L.M. Chinner		Miss M. Bull	
Mr Eric L. Frazer		Miss Eva Grant	

MEMBERSHIP 1979

Ordinary Members	81	Student Members	2
Paid Life Members	17	Affiliated Members	3
Hon. Life Members	11	Honorary Members	2

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Mrs Joy Stewart Telephone:  
P.O. Box 175, Kew 3101.

Subscriptions:	Ordinary Members	\$3.00
	Family Membership	\$5.00
	Student Membership	\$1.00
	Life Membership	\$20.00

## INTRODUCTION

Two ideas in particular have resulted in the compiling for publication of this booklet, the first being the desire to provide members with a memento of the 21st Anniversary of the Kew Historical Society, which would also serve as a record of the Society's aims and achievements during the earlier years and onwards to the present day.

A 21st Anniversary should not be only a time for celebration, but for stocktaking, too.

The second idea embodied the hope that the booklet would be read by citizens of the Kew Municipality, outside the membership, and so gain new friends for the Society who might use their influence to assist with the acquiring of suitable premises where historical data, journals, pictures, photographs and period treasures could be displayed, giving the children of Kew, in particular, an opportunity to learn more of their heritage. For example, the neighbouring Historical Society across the river at Heidelberg has just acquired the picturesque old Court House for a headquarters and Museum.

It is most fortunate that your foundation members, who were present at the inaugural meetings, are still active with Society work today. They are Mrs Joy Stewart, Miss Eva Grant, Mrs Clarice Thompson and Mr Geoffrey Clark, who have given valuable support through the years.

In the report of the first Annual Meeting in 1959 the Honorary Secretary ends with the words, "We feel that we are doing worthwhile work and we hope it will continue for many years."

At that time the new Society looked forward to the Kew Centenary Celebrations, to take place in December 1960. The Council requested the Society to produce a brochure on the history of Kew, which was done with great success.

Reading through the minutes of the well-attended monthly meetings, one is struck by the fact that the early members had the quality of vision and were consistently looking forward to a time when the Historical Groups would receive a high degree of recognition and encouragement.

They had a finger in many pies, such as a delightful Lawn Party given by Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Reed in 1963, when they opened their lovely old home "Roseneath", to raise £110 (\$220) towards the removal of La Trobe's Cottage to the Domain.

The first historian of Kew, James Bonwick, wrote in 1858 "Kew is unquestionably the prettiest place outside the dust of Melbourne," and it is the aim of the Society today to try to preserve the best that remains of the old Kew which attracted so many men and women of note in the fields of politics, commerce, education, religion and the arts, to live within its boundaries and leave their mark upon it.

It is my hope that this booklet will provide both interest and pleasure to all who read it.

WINIFRED HALL  
President.

#### FOUNDATION

On Thursday, 16th September, 1958, at "Lanreath", 196 Cotham Road, Kew, Councillor W.H.S. Dickinson chaired a meeting which had been convened by the Kew Civic Movement and at which the Kew Historical Society was founded.

The aims were defined as: "... to conduct research into the early history of the municipality, study such records as are available, contact the descendants of early Kew residents and bring together those who were interested in the subject, having particularly in view the production of a History of Kew for the Centenary Year." The annual subscription was set at 5s. (50 cents) per member.

## CENTENARY BROCHURE

In March 1960, Miss B. Mackey, Mr L. Scott, Mr L.M. Chinner, Mr E. Frazer and Councillor W.H.S. Dickinson (Centenary Mayor of Kew) were appointed as a sub-committee to prepare a brochure - "City of Kew - Centenary - 1860-1960" - which was completed and distributed to every Kew household at the time of the Kew Centenary Celebrations.

### MEETINGS

Early meetings were held mainly in the home of the founder. On cold winter nights, when a fire burnt brightly, the atmosphere was friendly and intimate, with the warm hospitality of Cr. and Mrs Dickinson encompassing all who attended.

Members were ardent in their efforts to gather information about the pioneers of the City and the buildings they erected. at regular intervals guest speakers were invited to talk on a wide range of topics. Much of the valuable data collected during this period is recorded in the minutes.

### THE PRESENT

Today, the Historical Society plays an accepted and important part in community affairs, and the growing interest of the general public in their historic background has brought about rapid expansion and the necessity for an efficient and business-like approach. Fund raising has become an essential, to cater for the growing needs and an extended range of social activities is enjoyed by the members.

However, the basic role of an Historical Society is still the recording and preserving of local historical material, and the founders of our Society have laid a solid base on which we can continue to build and further collect historical information related to the City of Kew.

#### AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Kew affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in March 1959, with the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) in March 1970, and has always fully co-operated with all affiliated organizations, in particular having kept in close contact with historical societies in the Eastern Region.

In April 1967, the Society was host for the Eastern Regional Conference, and over the years has hosted tours of Kew for the R.H.S.V., Traralgon, Malvern and Williamstown Historical Societies and the Junior National Trust.

#### FIGHTS FOR PRESERVATION

In conjunction with the National Trust, a long and hard battle was fought to save "Southesk", but unfortunately the lovely old home with its hand-painted ceilings was demolished in 1970, to make way for the present Municipal Chambers.

The Society protested over the demolition of the original Town Hall in Walpole Street, where Kew City Councillors had met since the first Council meeting in January 1861.

In 1978 the Society applied to the Historic Building Preservation Council to have the former Congregational Church in Walpole Street added to the Victorian Register. The application was rejected and the oldest church in Kew was demolished.

#### KEW FESTIVALS

The Society has participated in every Kew Community Festival, providing a display at the Civic Centre in 1974 and 1976; and in 1978, with the co-operation of the Girl Guides, Brownies and boys from Trinity Grammar School, re-enacted the arrival of Charles Grimes and his party to the Kew area, in 1803. In 1979, a "Family Treasures" display was staged at the Civic Centre.

## MEMORIALS

In August 1965, in Bowyer Avenue, a ceremony was held in dedication to a large gum tree which had once stood on the site and from which the Aborigines of the Yarra Yarra tribe had, long ago, cut a canoe. The money for the plaque had been raised, in conjunction with the Aboriginal Welfare League, by a fund raising afternoon held at "Roseneath".

The name of the late Dorothy Rogers was perpetuated on a windy Sunday afternoon in April 1978, when City Councillors, Society members, friends and relatives of the esteemed former member of the Society attended the ceremony to hear Mayor Noel Whiting give her name to a Reserve on the corner of Studley Park Road and Fernhurst Grove.

Three Pioneer Memorial services have been held -

March 1976 at Holy Trinity Church of England  
March 1977 at The Uniting Church of Kew  
April 1978 at Xavier Chapel

## 21st ANNIVERSARY MEMORIALS

In this the 21st year of the Society it is felt that there are three events which will stand as future Memorials :

1. The Anniversary Dinner held at "Sunninghill" in September, at which members and friends who attended signed a Scroll.
2. The ratification of the Constitution at the Annual General Meeting in October, which will safeguard the Society's possessions.
3. The completion by Mrs Mavis Rolley of the recording and cataloguing of the Society's collection of historical data and artifacts. This has taken two years of dedicated work.

## NEWSLETTER

The first Newsletter was produced in June 1977 with Miss E.M. Robertson (Betty) as Editor.

This Anniversary issue is in no way a full and comprehensive history of the Society nor has it tried to incorporate all the names of the many members who, over the 21 years, have made generous contributions to the Society and the City of Kew.

The Anniversary booklet was the idea of our President, Miss Winifred Hall, and made possible by her donation of \$25.00 towards publication costs.

The cover was designed by Mr Stuart Warmington and the typing contributed by Miss Joy Adamson; Editor Mrs Joy Stewart.

## A PERMANENT HOME

Kew was one of the earliest Historical Societies founded and it has long been the members' dearest wish to have a home of their own - permanent headquarters for the preservation of records and valuable items. Such a collection is undoubtedly of the greatest historical significance.

History is "now", and succeeding generations who will look back on the present time as "the good old days" will have no more knowledge of Kew as it is, as it has been and as it will be, than we can leave them.

The comments and suggestions of members and/or those who are interested in our aims are therefore sought. A letter to the Honorary Secretary will be most welcome.

<i>Presidents</i>	Cr. Wm. H.S. Dickinson	M.B.E.	1958-1974
	Mr Geoffrey Reed		1974-1975
	Mr Marshall Slattery		1975-1977
	Miss Winifred Hall		1977-
<i>Honorary Secretaries</i>	Miss Judith Dickinson		1958-1962
	Miss Eva Grant		1962-1965
	Mrs Evelyn West	M.B.E.	1965-1976
	Mrs Joy Stewart		1976-
<i>Honorary Treasurers</i>	Mr John Crofts		1958-1970
	Mr Geoffrey Clark		1970-1979
	Mrs Kathleen Murphy		1979-
<i>Honorary Life Members</i>	Miss Hilda Y. Daniell	O.B.E.	23. 3.61
	Cr. William D. Vaughan		4. 2.65
	Miss Fairie Dumaresq		1. 3.73
	Mr W.H.S. Dickinson	M.B.E.	7. 8.74
	Mrs Amy Watson		7. 4.76
	Miss Beryl Mackey		3.11.76
	Mr Geoffrey Clark		3.11.76
	Miss Eva Grant		5.10.77
	Mr John Crofts		13. 9.78
	Mr Thos. H. Harrison		13. 9.78
	Mrs Ellen J. Mills (Judy)		13. 6.79
<i>Patroness</i>	Mrs Evelyn West	M.B.E.	2. 6.76

\*

*THE FRONT COVER:* The cover depicts the Kew Post Office prior to the erection of the War Memorial in the days when the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain was erected at the junction of Cotham Road and what was then Bulleen Road (now High Street). This fountain was removed to the Alexandra Gardens to allow for the erection of the present War Memorial after the First World War.

OFFICE BEARERS

1958

<i>President</i>	Councillor W.H.S. Dickinson M.B.E.
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	Miss Y.H. Daniell O.B.E. Councillor W.D. Vaughan
<i>Hon. Secretary (pro tem.)</i>	Mr N.F. Vaughan
<i>Hon. Asst. Sec.</i>	Miss Judith Dickinson
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Mr John Crofts
<i>Recorder</i>	Miss Alma Figuerola
<i>Custodian</i>	Miss B. Mackey
<i>Public Relations</i>	Mr L.M. Chinner
<i>Librarian</i>	Mr L.M. Frazer
	-
<i>Hon. Auditor</i>	Mrs N.F. Vaughan

\*

OFFICE BEARERS

1979

<i>President</i>	Miss Winifred Hall
<i>Vice Presidents</i>	Mrs Mavis Rolley Mr Stuart Warmington
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Mrs Joy Stewart
<i>Hon. Asst. Sec.</i>	Miss June Henty
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Mrs Kathleen Murphy
<i>Archivist</i>	Mrs Mavis Rolley
<i>Committee</i>	Miss Eva Grant
	Miss Juanita Green
<i>Hon. Auditor</i>	Mr John Crofts

Supplement to the Newsletter  
of  
KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 175,  
KEW, 3101.

DECEMBER, 1979.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members :-

Mrs. Jane Ang.	Cr. Kaye Cole.
Miss Irene Stones.	Ms. Hazel Hume.
Mr. & Mrs. G.R.T. Johnson.	Mr. Clive Mottram.

KEWRIOSITY SHEET

Mrs. Elizabeth Mackie has kindly offered to supply regular articles for publication in the Kewriosity Sheet. We are sure members will look forward to reading these.

STREET STALL

Friday, 7th March, 1980 in High Street near Coles from 8.45 a.m.

Conveners - Mrs. Clarice Thompson ....  
Mrs. Jean Gray .....

The main theme is "Market Fair" with cakes jams etc., but the Conveners would be grateful if, over the holiday period, members got busy with oddments of material and wool to produce aprons, kettle holders, tea cosies etc. In fact, if you have a favourite craft, they would be more than pleased if you could let them have a few samples.

Remember! Large and bulky items are difficult to handle so keep plants etc. in small containers.

OBITUARY

Members will be sorry to hear of the death, in December last, of our most senior member Mrs. May Cochrane. Age 97.

Mrs. Cochrane's Father, Mr. J.H. Thompson purchased, after the death of the founder in 1875, a private boy's school known as Kew High School. When Mr. Thompson retired in 1908 the school became a part of the Trinity complex. See 1978 - June Newsletter.

We extend to Mrs. Cochrane's family our deepest sympathy.

CONSTITUTION

The Constitution was ratified at the Annual General Meeting and any member wishing to obtain a copy may do so by forwarding, to the Hon. Secretary, a stamp addressed envelope (size 23cm x 10cm).

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

DONATIONS

The Society gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following donations :-

- Mrs. F. Johnson - Articles photostated from the Victorian Naturalist's Publications and Metropolis - 1890's Editions. Reports on Excursions to areas in Kew, and Biography of a member who was an early Kew Pioneer.
- Mrs. E. Mackie - Compiled histories of homes situated at 74 Charles Street and 5 Molesworth Street.
- Mrs. Carrick - 1893 Edition of Songs Without Words by F. Mendelsson.
- Mr. P. Gare - A.R.P. Warden's Manual, Duty Instructions, Armlet, Identification Certificate issued to Kew residents during Second World War.
- Mrs. I. Greer - Dymo Tape writer, Leather Wallet presented to the late Gordon Greer from Royal N.S.W. Bowling Association. Two blank tapes. Notes by G. Greer (deceased member)
- Miss J. Henty - Photocopy of press article - Miss Henty of "Roxeth" marries at Holy Trinity Kew 25-11-1886. Guest list and account of Wedding.
- Mr. S. West - Set of Liardet's prints of early Melbourne with biographical comment. Leaflet of preliminary pencil sketches 1867 by Liardet.
- Mr. J. Collins - Principal. 1978 Kew Primary School Magazine - Sketch on cover - forerunner, Common Day School 1869.
- Mrs. K. Murphy - Framed reproduction print - Johnson Street Bridge, 1876.
- Mrs. N. Green - Two photpgraphic studies - Old oak tree and home in Derby Street, entrance gates of home in Highbury Grove.
- Mrs. M. Rolley - Fine photographs of 21st Anniversary Dinner and old homes of Kew. Anniversary cake. Photo album, folders, stationery, lettertabs, system cards.
- Miss E. Grant - Story of a Tree by Eva Grant.
- Mrs. E. Mackie - Snapshot of home, 1 Molesworth Street.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are our most valuable source of revenue and we would like to remind those members who have not paid for the year 1979-80 that we would be grateful for their continued support and ask them to forward their remittance to the Hon. Treasurer, as soon as possible.

A blue form will be included for those members whose subscription is still outstanding.

N.B. Because of the high cost of postage, unless required earlier, receipts will be held and sent with the next issue of the Newsletter

THANKYOU MEMBERS

The Committee would like to thank Miss Rona Jenkins, Mrs. Lorie Dean and their helpers who have so efficiently managed the catering arrangements throughout the year. Our thanks also, to the Hon. Auditor, Mr. John Crofts and to Mr. Ken Capes who so willingly stepped in and produced the June and September Newsletters. Finally, we would like to thank each and every member who has supported us in making this a happy and productive year.

\*\*\*\*\* A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*