

SEPTEMBER, 1980.

NEWSLETTER No. 13.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Members,

Recently an incident was related to me that has promoted me to pass it on to you in this edition of Newsletter.

A resident of Kew, of senior school age, called out aggressively to a member of our Committee - "You should have saved the Congregational Church, you should have saved Fernhurst."

My first reaction was to say - "How true it is that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Some people make these statements with no idea of the problems and complexities involved.

Today, with property values rising higher and higher, only very large sums of money provided by the Government, public appeals or legacies can purchase these fine interesting old properties that can no longer be maintained by the owners or church denominations. Historical Societies of the Regional type can only awaken public interest and appeal to the appropriate authorities as Kew Historical Society did in the case of the Congregational Church.

Those present at "Bodalla" when the Memorial Plaque was unveiled by Lt. Col. Lee Archer heard him state in his speech that our submission to the Preservation Board could not be faulted in any respect, but no finance was available at that time. The members of the old Church's congregation - now members of the Uniting Church - appear to feel satisfied that on the site of the Church has arisen a Social Service Complex into which parts of the old building have been incorporated with much imagination and great sensitivity and part of the Church's work will continue.

Perhaps one day suitable premises will be available where we shall have the opportunity to display the many documents, maps, artifacts, costumes and pictures which the Society possesses, and which, thanks to Mrs. Rolley and others, are in such excellent condition.

The pioneers and early residents of the Kew area left us a valuable legacy of treasured possessions, even if it were not possible to bequeath us their real estate as well.

Good wishes to you all.

WINIFRED HALL.

OFFICE BEARERS: PRESIDENT - Miss Winifred Hall.
 HON. SECRETARY - Mrs. Joy Stewart.
 HON. TREASURER - Mrs. Kathleen Murphy.

NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 8.0 pm. Wednesday, 8th October, 1980.

Members are reminded that all present office bearers and Committee members will retire at the Annual Meeting. For your nominations of the following offices for the ensuing twelve months, please fill in the form at the end of the Newsletter and return to Hon. Secretary by 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday, 8th October, 1980.

Members will be sorry to hear that Mavis Rolley has decided not to nominate for the position of Archivist.

President	Hon. Secretary
Two Vice Presidents	Asst. Secretary
Archivist	Hon. Treasurer
Two Committee Members	Hon. Auditor

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Your subscription is due () Paid for 1980 (). The Society would like to thank all members for their support during the past year and would like to remind them that the annual renewal of membership is due and payable on the 1st October. It was passed at the September General Meeting that Life Membership, as from 1st October 1980, be raised to \$30. making it the pro rata of 10 times that of the annual subscription.

An appropriate form is enclosed at the end of the Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The Society's Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, 18th December at 6.30 pm. at the home of Joy Stewart, , North Balwyn. Details will be discussed at the November Meeting.

1981 DATES TO REMEMBER.

Regional Conference. Kew will host the 1981 Conference of the Committee of Eastern Historical Societies. The date is Saturday, 4th April. More details will be published in the December Newsletter.

Street Stall. The 1981 Street Stall will be held on Friday, 6th March. More details later.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.

At the presentation on Sunday, 3rd August, the Mayor, Cr. Kaye Cole, gave prizes to the following boys:

1st Prize - Peter Giolekas	} Trinity Grammar School
Stewart Brunt	
2nd Prize - Mark Leaman	Carey Grammar School
3rd Prize - Simon O'Brien	} Trinity Grammar School
Brett McMahon	

In presenting the prizes Cr. Cole said she hoped that in the coming year, as a personal effort, she would be able to encourage further the concept of the "Oral History" project.

Barbara Giles spoke on behalf of the Historical Society and pointed out how important it was for "the young" to talk to "the old", thus getting historic facts in the right perspective.

"COTHAM ROAD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

Cotham Road was a beautiful road with great elm trees on the south side about 40 feet (13 metres) apart, making continuous shade. Every Sunday there was a morning parade; in summer beneath the shade of the elms and in winter on the sunny north side. The parade was a memorable sight, the gentlemen in their fine top hats and the ladies with their leg o'mutton sleeves, voluminous skirts and large hats. Behind the parents trotted decorous children who were well reprimanded if behaviour ever became "improper". When progress brought trams in 1916, the great trees were destroyed.

In those days many carriages and carts travelled up and down Cotham Road, and water troughs were placed along the way. A canvas water pipe was overhead near the Normanby Road trough and the horses automatically made for it to catch the drips. Council employees regularly removed the manure, which was first scraped up to the bins placed at intervals along the way; these were then carted away to the depot. Nearly opposite Normanby Road were the paddocks and stables for the horses of the regular bus service which ran prior to the arrival of the tram.

There was a green verge to the road and a foot-worn track for a path. Sheep and cattle were herded along the road going for agistment to out-lying areas. Sometimes a sheep could be bought for 1/6d (15 cents). This would be shared by all the neighbours.

To the east of Genazzano Convent were nurseries and market gardens. On the corner of Mt. Victor Road was a blacksmith's forge. Also a store where local residents called in carts to buy their supplies.

On the corner of Cecil Street was Robinson's horse paddock, where the local boys played cricket. At the time when Jack the Ripper was frightening London, a lad who lived in Cecil Street floated about the area in his mother's nightie, trying to frighten people. Finally, one of his 'victims' threw him into a monkey-thorn tree.

This is a summary of part of a talk by our late member Mr. Rupert Wagner. We are printing it for the first time and as a result of a suggestion by Stuart West that some of our newer members might like to know more about the history of our City.

"BOROONDARA - A PLACE OF SHADE."

This brochure, the latest Society publication, is a "mini tour" of the Boroondara Cemetary showing forty graves of prominent citizens plus a short biography of each person.

Cost - \$1.00 to members
\$1.50 to general public,
plus 50 cents for postage.

THE COPY SHOP.

Members and Friends are welcome to visit the Copy Shop in Walpole Street on any Friday from 10.30 am. to 2.0 pm. where a cup of coffee or tea - and a chat - is available, and there is an opportunity to browse through some of Society's possessions. For the energetic, help is needed with sorting and filing.

DONATIONS.

1. Mrs. N. Wright - 1914/18 War Service Roll of Honor Certificate, issued to T. Rand by the Town of Kew.
2. Mrs. J. Stewart - folder of Brochures and invitation cards from her late mother's collection (Mrs. C. Dickins). Contents - Kew pre-school Association 1947 reports. Kew Mental Hospital Welfare Group reports. Vic. Housewives' Association, information re local customer discount houses in Kew, Camberwell, etc. Invitation to the opening of science block M.L.C. 1951. Invitation Kindergarten Training College, Kew. Presentation nights. Centenary Brochure Augustine Congregational Church, Auburn. Brochure Victorian Protestant Federation Annual Convention, 1919. Nineteen coloured slides - unveiling plaque Walpole Street; Queenscliff area; Old Masonic Hall, Walpole Street, and livery premises opposite, as they look today.
3. Mr. S. West - book The Federal Story by Alfred Deakin. Photo - album of early Melbourne. Series No. 3. Fifteen coloured slides "South Esk", Government House, Como, Ripponlea; Corio Villa.
4. Mrs. K. Murphy. Brochure History of the Old Government Farm and first Governor's residents Strawberry Hill. Albany, West Australia, one coloured postcard. Publication by Western Australian Museum. Articles of maritime archaeology, environmental expeditions and field study.
5. Mr. J. O'Neill - tape recording of plaque unveiling ceremony to commemorate historic churchsite Walpole Street.
6. Mr. J. Dudley - book "Gadsden, The First 100 Years."
7. Mrs. M. Rolley - one tape-recorded speech by a member of the Genealogical Society of Victoria General Meeting 10/9/80. One paperback "Australian Pageant", an anthology of Australian prose by P. R. Smith. Local researched articles for reference material and archive.
8. Mr. Jonathan Benyei - project volume on Eastern Freeway and its significance to North Jew.
9. The Genealogical Society of Victoria - book "Ancestors of Australia."
10. Mrs. Shirley Browning - printing costs.
11. Cr. Ivan Wade - security doors at the Copy Shop.

We thank members and friends who have generously donated the above items to our Archives.

COUNCIL GRANT.

The Society would like to thank Kew City Council for their generous grant of \$500. The bulk of this is being put towards the purchase of a suitable filing cabinet for our larger photographs, etc. If any member knows where we can obtain, for a reasonable price, a mapping cabinet or something similar, would they please let us know.

PROGRAMME.

October 8th. Wednesday, 7,45 pm. Annual General Meeting. Guest Speaker Miss Christine Gray, President, Committee of Eastern Historical Societies.

November 12th. Wednesday, 7.45 pm. General Meeting. Guest Speaker Mrs. E. Trewarne, Hon. Secetary, Heidelberg Historical Society. Slides and talk on Heidelberg (cancelled in March owing to power strike.)

December 18th. Thursday, 6.30 pm. Christmas Party. "

All General Meetings will be held in Auxiliary Room, Kew Civic Civic Centre, Charles Street, on the second Wednesday of each month, February to November inclusive.

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS.

I wish to nominate

for the position of

Moved

Seconded

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY - SUBSCRIPTION.

Hon. Treasurer,
Kew Historical Society,
P.O. Box 175, KEW. 3101

Please find enclosed \$..... covering -

Ordinary Membership	\$3.00	()
Family Membership	\$5.00	{ }
Student Membership	\$1.00	{ }
Life Membership	\$30.00	()

NAME - MR.
MRS.
MISS (Please print)

ADDRESS - POSTCODE.....

TELEPHONE.....

N.B. To save costs - unless required earlier receipts will be forwarded with your next Newsletter.