

Registered for posting as a Publication - Category B.

DECEMBER, 1980.

NEWSLETTER No. 14

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Members,

The Society's pre-Christmas dinner to be held on 18th December at Joy Stewart's delightful home should not only be an enjoyable evening for those of us able to be present, but a fitting end to a good year.

We have such a long vacation from the November meeting to the first for 1981 that it is very pleasant to foregather for the dinner just one week before Christmas Day.

During the year we lost one foundation member and gained a number of new friends.

We held the most successful Street Stall yet; the function at "Bodalla" for the unveiling of the plaque was one of the Society's most rewarding occasions and the generosity of the Council relieved of us of financial anxiety.

In spite of the winter epidemics the monthly meetings have been well attended and we are grateful to the interesting speakers who have contributed to the programmes.

A special occasion for me was the presentation by the Regional President, Christine Gray, at the Annual Meeting of an Hon. Life Membership on behalf of the Society, and I greatly appreciate this gift.

To those who will not be present on the big night I wish a very Happy Christmas and we shall look forward to your continued interest in the coming year.

Best wishes to all.

WINIFRED HALL.

OFFICE BEARERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING:

PRESIDENT:	Miss Winifred Hall
VICE PRESIDENT:	Mr. Stuart Warmington
VICE PRESIDENT:	Miss June Henty
HON. SECRETARY:	Mrs. Joy Stewart
ASST. SECRETARY:	Miss Irene Stones
HON. TREASURER:	Mrs. Kathleen Murphy
ARCHIVIST:	Miss June Henty - pro-tem
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Mrs. Jaunita Green
COMMITTEE MEMBER:	Mrs. Clarice Thompson

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING OF KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Madame Chairman, Members.

I take pleasure in presenting the 22nd Annual Report of Kew Historical Society, and as you have already heard details of the year's activities from October, 1979, to the present, I shall confine myself to a more general survey.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the period would appear to be the greater unity and increasingly companionable atmosphere prevailing at both special occasions and the monthly meetings.

This, I think is the natural outcome of members working together on projects such as the fund-raising Street Stall, which was a tremendous success this year in every way.

I should like to thank the convenors - Mrs. Clarice Thompson and Mrs. Jean Gray for their wonderful organisation, and not forgetting Mr. Jim Thompson.

In April the Sunday afternoon excursion across the river to visit "Banyule"; the venerable St. John's Church and the Heidelberg Historical Society's Museum in the old Court House was entirely rewarding, due in part to the fact that we chose a beautiful warm late summer day.

Since then a party from the Royal Historical Society have followed in our tracks, no doubt finding, as we did, that there is much of historical interest close at hand.

Undoubtedly the most significant event was the ceremony at Bodalla in Walpole Street on 29th July, when the President of the Royal Historical Society, Lieut.-Col. Lee Archer, unveiled a memorial plaque on the site of the old Congregational Church which stood for one hundred and twenty years until the congregation became part of the Uniting Church.

A large number of people accepted the invitation to be present at a rather unique occasion, as the plaque set into the brick wall at the entrance was the combined gift of Kew Historical Society and the Board of Management of the new Social Service complex built by the Uniting Church to serve the elderly people of Kew and beyond. Our Society is indebted to Matron Crombes and the Board of Management for inviting all present to a delicious afternoon tea.

It has been most gratifying to welcome new members throughout the year as members are the life blood of the Society and quite a surprising number have availed themselves of the opportunity to become Life Members, thus showing their confidence in our organisation.

This report must include a tribute to Joy Stewart and Juanita Green who jointly have recently brought out "A Place of Shade", an attractive booklet and guide to many of the most interesting memorials Borondara Cemetary.

Mrs. Green's painstaking research and Mrs. Stewart's delightful sketches ensure a good sale for this useful and highly individual brochure. Proceeds to Kew Historical Society and Borondara.

I wish to set on record my appreciation of the generous donation from Kew Council following after our 21st Anniversary, when we celebrated twenty-one years of endeavour to preserve the best of old Kew.

Our final function for 1980 will take place on 18th December at the home of our generous Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Joy Stewart, and will take the form of a buffet dinner. One can confidently predict that a good time will be had by all.

Finally, I express my warm and most sincere thanks to the members of the Executive - Mrs. Joy Stewart our tireless Hon. Secretary; Mrs. Kathleen Murphy our excellent Treasurer, and Mrs. Mavis Rolley, the dedicated Archivist; to the Committee and to all members of the Society who have given me encouragement and support in full measure.

It has been a happy and progressive year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - OCTOBER 1980.

In this year's report I would like to draw attention to two important aspects of the Society's activities.

Firstly, the housing of the Society's records in The Copy Shop in Walpole Street. This is proving successful in several ways:

1. For the first time in the history of the Society members have ready access to the information and records which has been collected over the years.
2. Members have more easily been able to assist with the work of the Society in the assembling of the Newsletter and the recording and filing of documents etc. Reg and Jessie Miles have made a valuable contribution in this area.
3. A place of contact has been established where the public, many of whom are unaware of our existence, can take the opportunity of becoming better informed not only about the activities of the Society but also about the history of Kew.

Secondly, I want to report on the co-operation and assistance given by members in the organising and supporting of the various projects carried out during the past year.

On the social side, at the end of 1979, Peg and Austin Marshall generously opened their home for the Christmas Party, and I think all those who attended will agree that this was perhaps the most successful end of year function ever held.

In March, Jean Gray and Clarie Thompson convened a most satisfactory "Market Fair" Street Stall. Members gave their over whelming support and brought a wide range of cakes, James etc. which sold almost as soon as they hit the counter.

During the year Elizabeth Mackie has written articles for the Kewriosity Sheet on a variety of interesting topics related to the history of Kew. Barbara Giles stepped in on one occasion when Elizabeth was heavily committed at exam time. Elizabeth and Barbara also judged the tapes submitted for the Mayor's Oral History Project.

Grace McDermott has been doing a valient job in organising names for a roster of people to man The Copy Shop each Friday.

For the past 18 months Nita Green has spent many hours wandering in the Boroondara Cemetary collecting information not only for the recently published Brochure, but also for future publications on this vast subject.

Stuart West has always been ever ready to provide a projector for our interesting slide nights.

Irene Stones has had a difficult task in deciphering my bad spelling and even worse writing when typing up the Newsletter and final draft of the Boroondara Brochure.

Eva Grant, Rona Jenkins and Lorie Dean have entertained members with interesting talks on their travels.

Lorie and Rona, with all their helpers, have once again this year quietly and efficiently organised the supper, which makes a fitting finish to each of our monthly meetings.

Without the support of each and every member, the Society could not function as efficiently as it does, and on behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you all for making this year so successful.

Finally, I would personally like to thank Mavis Rolley for her work as Archivist and Research Officer, Kathleen Murphy for her sound judgment on all matters, June Henty for her continued support under the difficulty of coming to and returning home from meetings, a long distance by public transport, and Winifred Hall for her calm and reliable leadership.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT - OCTOBER, 1980.

In presenting my final report prior to retiring I should like to pay homage to Mr. Dickinson, the late founder who had the foresight to bring together residents for the purpose of recording the histories of Kew. At general meetings held in his home members were encouraged to speak on their knowledge of the area, and its people. These talks were recorded in the minute books. An early committee of "historians" was formed, including Dorothy Rogers, Dr. Robertson, Mr. Chinner, Miss Mackey and Mr. Fraser, and they soon began researching material for a Kew Centenary Brochure and future archive. Since that first meeting in 1958 the Society has developed beyond all expectations, although progress has often obscured the reason for which it was founded.

Too few members have followed the tradition of those earlier historians, with the result the research in our reference files is far from adequate.

During my three years as Archivist, I have found it necessary to devote weeks to research prior to compiling a report for a particular organisation, such as National Trust, Historic Building Preservation Council and our local Municipal Office.

I recommend that attention be given to this all important section of the Society.

Throughout the years members and friends have donated museum artifacts, photographs, books and slides with the ultimate aim of seeing these belongings displayed in a permanent home, along with the more recent Tour Guide publications, Kew Society sheet articles, member's family trees and other researched documents, newsletters, brochures, reference books and maps.

The Society's belongings are housed for the present in a section of the old Masonic Hall, Walpole Street and the Municipal Archive.

On taking office three years ago I collected all the belongings of the Society, which had been held in custody by the various members since the early days of the Society, and for the first time each item was given a number and descriptive entry in a register and sorted into its respective order. As things are donated or purchased an entry is made. Other than correspondence the Secretary is holding, everything trusted to my care has been recorded. Madam President, in the next week when it is convenient I will assist the newly appointed Archivist to take office.

CHRISTMAS PARTY.

DATE - Thursday, 18th December
TIME - 6.30 pm.
VENUE - 33 Tower Road, North Balwyn.

There will be no charge, but members attending are asked to bring "a plate". Anyone wishing to attend and wanting to know what to bring please contact Mrs. Clarice Thompson, or Mrs. Joy Stewart . We look forward to seeing you.

DATES FOR 1981.

February 11th - General Meeting
March 6th - Street Stall
" 11th - General Meeting
" 21st-29th - Community Festival
April 4th - Eastern Region Conference
" 8th - General Meeting

Details will be published in the February Newsletter.

COUNCIL NEWS.

D'estaville - Council has successfully negotiated an exchange of blocks, thus ensuring the safety, from Sir William Street, of the northern side of the carriageway into the property.

104 Peel Street - Council has approved of the application for a permit for the restoration of this unique building once known as the "Mouse House."

The Society was consulted and approved of the proposed plan for the building of an aged person hostel for 23 people at 20 Fellows Street.

An objection was lodged by the Society to the proposed new Educational Building at M.L.C. and a letter with comments was sent regarding the Kew Junction Development Plan.