

MARCH, 1981.

NEWSLETTER No. 15.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Members,

Here we are at the beginning of a new year and, as members, perhaps looking forward to an interesting and rewarding programme of meetings and special events. No doubt we shall have our high spots and inevitably we shall experience losses and changes.

In a society such as ours there are constant comings and goings and this ebb and flow perhaps prevents us from becoming static or complacent.

We shall commence our events with the Street Stall on Friday, 6th March, which promises to be the usual lively morning of "soft sell" as no great persuasion is needed to dispose of the delectable foodstuffs that we shall display briefly - I say briefly because last year one hardly had time to admire the cakes, james, pies etc. before they passed over the counter.

Again I express my thanks to Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Gray for being such expert convenors of the stall.

Probably the event of the year will be the holding of the Eastern Regional Conference in Kew on Saturday, 4th April. This annual conference reminds us that Kew Historical Society is part of a region of societies extending from Richmond to Lilydale, Yarra Junction and the region in turn is under the umbrella of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Miss Christine Gray, the Regional President, is a great planner even to the smallest detail. Last year, when several of us joined the bus tour of the Bellarine Peninsula, Miss Gray announced at the start of the week-end that she had her First Aid Kit and any member suffering in any way was welcome to visit her room on the Motel first floor.

I do not think I have mentioned my interesting visit to Adelaide and environs late last year, when I became acquainted with a variety of historical and picturesque old buildings, including the delightful Ayers House, the headquarters of the National Trust of South Australia.

During a day visit to the Clare Valley we had permission from Adelaide University to spend an hour or two at Martindale Hall, the old country mansion used in the film "Picnic at Hanging Rock." It has quite a history. The original owner in pioneering days built it as a replica of an old hall in the wild country of Cumberland for a bride who never came. I was there on a hot summer day, but on a bleak winter evening it could well pass for the proverbial haunted house.

Best wishes to you all.

WINIFRED HALL.

NEW MEMBER:

Miss Belinda Holt.

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

HISTORICAL NOTE - by Elizabeth Mackie.

"MYRTLE HILL" 1871.

This rambling gracious Victorian home of Hawthorn brick overlaid with simulated stone in plaster, originally standing on fourteen acres of land with gates and a circular carriage drive in Normanby Road, Kew, is now situated on a half acre block in Myrtle Grove. It was built for Mr. Miller, who was second in command at the Royal Mint, where one of his tasks was to separate gold from silver.

The original drive swept up past "The Canoe Tree" which is still preserved in the surrounding street. The original stables and orchard to the east of the house are now demolished.

The spacious ballroom was an addition to the house ten years later in 1881. An original dance programme has been framed by the present owners. The beautiful copper-plate writing includes waltzes and schottiches.

The kitchen was originally built some distance from the house in case of fires. The stone cellar remains with bluestone flagged floor and bluestone slabs for cooling - milk, butter, milk puddings, etc. The cellar temperature is very cold. When the present owners first occupied the house the cellar was three feet deep in water, and floating on it were old brassbound chests containing lace ballgowns and old family albums, which all rotted when touched, unfortunately.

The original wallpaper remains in the dining room, featuring pine tree branches and birds, and there are lovely ceiling plastic roses for light fittings, and gilded or black painted mirror frames over the marble mantelpieces featuring birds and flowers. Long French windows open from all rooms to a terracotta verandah all round. There are gilded pressed metal dados above the curtains in the main rooms.

TOUR OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

On Sunday, 26th April, Mrs. Elizabeth Mackie has kindly arranged a tour of Champion Hall, Burke Hall and Studley House. The tour will start at Champion Hall at 2.30 pm. and will be followed by afternoon tea by courtsey of Mrs. Mackie at 1 Molesworth Street.

Cost will be \$1.00 per head and a set of notes will be available at the start of the tour or at the March and April General Meetings.

Anyone wishing to attend please contact Elizabeth Mackie on  
or Joy Stewart on .

ARCHIVES.

To get the fullest possible use from the valuable and interesting information which is stored in the Society Archives, it is essential that all data be indexed and filed in alphabetical order.

Miss June Henty and Mrs. Joy Stewart have started this long and arduous job and made considerable progress. Help is required, and if any member feels they would like to assist please contact June or Joy.

STREET STALL.

A final reminder about the Street Stall. The conveners will be following the pattern set last year and the goods found to be good sellers were - homemade small cakes, tarts, biscuits, scones or gem scones, preferably packed in half dozens. Sponge or fruit cakes, nut loaves, bar cakes. For hygienic reasons all these to be covered with glad wrap. Sauces, pickles and relishes, home-grown lemons, vegetables etc. Plants in small pots. Goods to be delivered between 8.45 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. to Lions caravan, which will be parked just down from Walpole Street, in High Street. It is helpful if all goods are priced, and if there is a problem with delivery please ring Clarrie Thompson or Jean Gray, who will arrange to pick up on Thursday.

FESTIVAL 1981.

The Society will be holding a display in The Junction Male at 175 High Street, where Cr. Joseph Ormando has kindly given us window space for the week of the Festival. Volunteers are needed to help mount display. The Society is also conducting bus tours of the municipality on Monday, 23rd and Tuesday, 24th, starting at 2 pm. finishing at approximately 4.30 pm. Bookings are to be made at The Copy Shop on Friday, 20th March from 10.30 am. to 2.0 pm. or ring 861-6281 between these times. A brochure "Touring Round Kew" will be available for sale, and those wanting a "cuppa" please bring own afternoon tea - a quarter hour break will be held along the way.

PROGRAMME.

- March 6th - Friday 8.45 am to 12 noon (approximately). Street Stall.
- 11th - Wednesday 7.45 pm. General Meeting.
- 20th - 29th Kew Festival. Historic Display.
- 23rd - Monday 2. 0 pm - 4.30 pm. Bus tour of Kew.
- 24th - Tuesday 2. 0 pm to 4.30 pm. Bus tour of Kew.
- April 4th - Regional Conference.
- 8th - Wednesday 7.45 pm. General Meeting. Mrs. Grace Lock, world renowned photographer - "Historic Slides."
- 26th - Sunday 2.30 pm. Tour of Historic Buildings.
- May 13th - Wednesday 7.45 pm. General Meeting.

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

CONFERENCE 1981.

The Committee of Eastern Historical Societies' Conference will follow the following format:

<u>VENUE</u>	Uniting Church Hall, Highbury Grove, KEW.
<u>TIMES</u>	3.30 pm. Afternoon Tea
	4. 0 pm. Conference
	6. 0 pm. Pre dinner relaxation - chance to look at small display of Kew's historic collection.
	6.45 pm. Dinner
	7.45 pm. Speaker - Miss Winifred Hall. Some points of interest related to the history of Kew.
<u>OPTIONAL</u>	- Meet at main gate Boroondara Cemetery, High Street, Kew, at 2. 0 pm. Guided tour of approximately 1½ hours.
<u>COST</u>	\$7. 0 per head.

Numbers are limited! Any member wishing to attend please send \$7.0 per head to Hon. Treasurer by March General Meeting. Volunteers are needed to help with afternoon tea, arrange the hall and assist with the dinner.

DONATIONS.

- Mr. James Dudley - The History of Kew Bowling Club.  
Programme and Menu of Kew Bowling Club Centenary Dinner.  
Ecumenical Centenary Service Kew Bowling Club.
- Mr. George Lean - The History of the Kew Bowling Club.
- Miss Winifred Hall - Publicly Speaking, by Joan Hunt - a history of the  
Penguin Club of Australia.
- Mr. T. Harrison - Newsletter Envelopes.
- R.H.S.V. - Paper of Seminar "The Effective Training of Office  
Bearers of Historical Societies."
- Telecom Australia - "The Palace of Winged Words" and "100 Years of Telephone  
Director."
- Xavier College Preparatory School - 1980 Calender with black and white  
reproductions of paintings of Burke Hall.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

For those whose subscription is outstanding since 1st October,  
1980, a blue form is enclosed. No further Newsletter will be forwarded  
unless the Hon. Treasurer receives the remittance for 1980-81.

INFORMATION REQUIRED.

The Society has been asked for information on "Woolarah",  
27 Stevenson Street, Kew. If any member can help please give Joy Stewart  
a ring.