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NEWSLETTER No. 16.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

A short letter this issue as Newsletter is about to go to press. During the next few months our thoughts will be with Mrs. Joy Stewart, who will be enjoying the warm sunny climate of Northern Queensland, and perhaps we shall feel envious. No doubt she will find new scenes to paint, new friends that are congenial and fresh activities to cultivate. We wish her good health and the best of luck.

Our thanks go to Mrs. Elizabeth Mackie for organising a tour of some of the most imposing of the old Kew mansions, notably Campion Hall and Burke Hall, on the afternoon of Sunday, 26th April, and for graciously inviting all those making the tour to afternoon tea at her home.

Some of you will remember a visit we had a year or so ago from Mr. Don Taggart, President of St. Kilda Historical Society, who gave descriptions and showed slides of old St. Kilda. Do you remember Berkeley Hall, the magnificent white colonnaded mansion built as early as 1854 for Mr. H. F. Gurner, Melbourne's first Town Clerk? I was delighted to read in the May issue of National Trust News that this building has now been designated by the Historic Buildings Council as it is one of the oldest surviving houses in St. Kilda.

With greetings and best wishes to all.

WINIFRED HALL.

Resignation of Secretary.

We, the members, regret the resignation of our very popular Secretary, Mrs. Joy Stewart.

Mrs. Stewart was foundation member No. 4 of this Society, having joined in 1958 with her mother, the late Mrs. C. S. Dickens. Her interests in Kew commenced in childhood and she has been involved in many local cultural and artistic activities, also an A.R.P. Warden and one of Mrs. Price's (Mayoress of Kew) "Rosebuds" when service personnel were entertained at St. Hilary's Church Hall.

In addition to being an efficient, enthusiastic Secretary from 1976, she also gave willingly of her time and many talents, including her literary and artistic ability, for which the Kew Historical Society is indebted.

Our sincere thanks to Joy for services rendered and best wishes for happiness in your new sphere.

Report on the Eastern Historical Societies' Conference.

The Conference commenced at 2 p.m. with a conducted tour by Mrs. Juanita Green and Mrs. Joy Stewart of interesting sites at Boreondara Cemetery, followed by a welcome afternoon tea provided by Kew Historical Society, who were the hosts on this occasion, in the hall of the Kew Uniting Church in Highbury Grove.

The Conference commenced at 4 p.m. and was a forum where Societies could report on their progress as well as discuss their difficulties and seek advice from members in other Societies. Colonel Lee Archer, of the Royal Historical Society, spoke on the importance of these Regional Conferences to discuss problems common to most Societies.

A delicious buffet dinner, catered for by The Hungry Hawk in Hawthorn, was provided for the guests, and after coffee the evening concluded with a delightful and witty talk by our President, Miss Winifred Hall, on "The History of Old Kew". Everyone agreed that the day had been a great success.

Regional Reports from the Conference.

Miss Grey, the Chairman, welcomed members from ten Societies in the Eastern suburbs. The minutes of the last conference at Lilydale were read and confirmed, and \$5.00 subscription from all members was requested.

Croydon Report. New acquisitions for their museum room which is to be opened in May include a parcel of aboriginal implements carbon dated at 5,000 years old.

Doncaster/Templestowe Report. At Shramm's Cottage they encourage school groups to tour and suggest a questionnaire project which is handed to students to fill in is a helpful aid to achieve the children's interest.

Hawthorn Report.

Historical workshops have been held in Hawthorn Library. Council Rate Books and old copies of the newspaper "Boreondara Standard" have been collected for the archives. The Society is preparing a project for the Bi-Centenary Celebrations.

Kew Report.

Joy Stewart spoke on the role of Societies, and said the preservation of local material was left to a dedicated few. Historic buildings preservation now plays an important part in modern life. The pressure for information places pressure on the voluntary helpers and an easing of the work load needs to be solved. Bibliographies printed off can assist research enquiries. Government Departments wanting information on old buildings are a problem, often the expertise of professional architects etc. is needed. It was mentioned that school rolls must be preserved because they are considered legal documents and a Birth Certificate record. The enquiries of estate agents regarding properties was discussed, and fees for research were suggested.

Lilydale Report.

For the 50th Anniversary of the death of Dame Nellie Melba a silver spoon with the portrait of Melba on the handle was offered by the Society for sale to collectors. The Apex wing of the Museum was opened and they have had a successful year.

Ringwood Report.

In their twenty-third year this Society is busy cataloguing their collection. A discussion took place on the possibility of employing an archivist to research material for the whole of the Eastern region, to be paid for by each Society.

Upper Yarra Report.

Declining membership, but the new interest of teaching local history in schools may bring new blood into Societies. There is a Museum of local history, photographs and farming implements run by the Society at the Old Yarra Junction Railway Station.

Warrandyte Report.

A special exhibition will be staged in July to commemorate the 130th Year since gold was discovered in the area. The Council have purchased land in the centre of the town for a community centre and historical headquarters.

Waverley Report.

Meetings are held in Caulfield City Hall. As the National Trust has recently acquired "Labassa" it will be a great interest and involvement for members of the Society. In the discussion which followed reports it was suggested that each Society consider whether or not they wish to charge fees to people seeking information and research, and to report to the next Regional Conference about their decisions.

The next Regional Conference will be held at Croydon in either March or April, 1982.

Combined Eastern Societies Bus Tour of Goldfields.

Itinerary- 12th September, 1981. Bus leaves Kew for Gisborne, Dalesford, Maldon. Overnight stay at Castlemaine.

13th September, 1981. Tour of the mill at Kyneton, return to Melbourne.

Total cost \$61.00 for the weekend. Enquiries to Christine Gray, Secretary.

Eastern Societies' Annual Dinner. This will be arranged at the end of the year. Details in the next Newsletter.

New members.

Mrs. Carole E. Waldron
Mrs. Charmaine Stuart
Mrs. Jacci Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. R. Bennett

Donations.

Mr. R. Bennett. Early History of Kew Baptist Church.

R.H.S.V. per favour of Eva Grant.

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Joy Stewart.

Royal Botanic Gardens - booklet.

Photo "The Mouse House"

City of Camberwell. Geoffrey Blainey. History Book

Rev. George Grant.

"Fifty Years On." East Kew Presbyterian Church

Elizabeth Mackie.

Illustrated copy of map of old Kew 1875.

Mr. Brian White.

Rank Xerox copies of map of old Kew 1875 by Dorothy Roger's Aunt
and copies of Elizabeth Mackie's map of the same subject.

Programme.

Thursday, 21st May. Farewell buffer dinner for Mrs. Joy Stewart
6.30 pm. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall of Surrey Hills.

Wednesday, 10th June. 7.45 pm. General Meeting. Mrs. Sylvia
Morrissey, B.A. will speak on "Aspects of Australian History."

Wednesday, 8th July. 7.45 pm. General Meeting. Mrs. Elizabeth
Mackie will show slides of Scotland, featuring Scottish history
and literary associations.

Wednesday, 12th August. 7.45 pm. General Meeting.

A special Buffer Dinner to farewell Mrs. Joy Stewart was given by the President, Committee and members of the Society on 21st May at the delightful home of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Marshall, long-standing members and very gracious hosts. Members both old and new attended what turned out to be a particularly lively party and one of the Society's most successful functions. Halfway through the dinner a small ceremony was held during which the President, Winifred Hall, expressed the regret felt by members at losing such a vital personality as Joy Stewart, wished her a happy and rewarding life in Cairns, and presented her with a card of signatures and a sum of money towards a special purchase.

Replying, Mrs. Stewart said she felt very sad at leaving so many good friends behind, but expressed the wish that some at least would travel North to visit her in her new home.

The Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Kathleen Murphy, formally thanked Mr. and Mrs. Marshall on behalf of all present and in an atmosphere of warmth, laughter, lighted candles and flowers the dinner proceeded with a delicious assortment of sweets created by the members.

In every way a night to remember.