

OCTOBER, 1981.

NEWSLETTER No. 17.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that I write a brief introduction to this last Newsletter for 1981.

First of course, on behalf of all members of the Kew Historical Society, I extend warm and sincere thanks to Miss Winifred Hall for her inspiring leadership during the past four years. We have all enjoyed her brilliance as a raconteuse and look forward to hearing her resume - "Four Years of the Best" at the November meeting. This will no doubt be lively and amusing and a fitting note on which to end the year. We thank Miss Hall also for the many occasions on which she so graciously represented the Society at Regional and civic meetings and functions, and welcome her continuing guidance as Vice President.

Mrs. Kathleen Murphy has been an untiring Honorary Treasurer since 1979, but following the departure of our friend, Joy Stewart, she accepted the additional onerous task of Honorary Secretary. While recording our thanks to Kathleen, it should be noted that she will continue her active role in the Society as Archivist, as well as being Vice President with Miss Hall.

The 1981-82 Committee has already met to plan next year's activities. As usual, meetings will be held in the Auxiliary Room on the second Wednesday of each month, commencing on 10th February with guest speaker Jonathon Benyei talking about "Cycling around Europe." The Street Stall will be held on Friday, 5th March so do please note these dates.

With best wishes and Seasons Greetings.

JILL O'BRIEN.

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL MEETING 14th OCTOBER, 1981.

Your Warship; Members,

So many happenings during the year from October, 1980, have been covered by the Honorary Secretary in her resume that I shall confine my report to four matters of particular importance to the Committee and members

Undoubtedly the event with the strongest impact on the Society was the departure of Mrs. Joy Stewart to make her home in Queensland.

Mrs. Stewart must receive the credit for being more responsible than any other person for the renaissance of Kew Historical Society after some years of keeping afloat in very quiet waters due to the increasing infirmity and failing eyesight of the founder Mr. W.H.S. Dickinson. One cannot praise too highly the enthusiasm and drive that she brought to this labour of love, and her many talents enriched the Society and inspired those of us who worked with her.

The fact that we are carrying on into the twenty-fourth year, and hopefully into the future, will be her reward.

The great achievement of the past year has been the success of brochures written, illustrated and published by members of the Society - "Boreondara" by Juanita Green and Joy Stewart; "Touring Round Kew" by Joy Stewart; "The Artists of Kew" by Elizabeth Mackie, and the reproduction of the 1875 Map of Kew, restored by Elizabeth Mackie. A most welcome sum of money has come to the Society through the sales as well as the interest created.

The new President will be Councillor Jill O'Brien, who will take up the position when she returns shortly from a trip to the Far East, and we look forward to our association with her and wish her a happy and successful year.

It is with a feeling of regret that I bring to an end my four year term as President, as it has been a most rewarding experience and a tremendous pleasure to be part of so many varied experiences. Shortly before she left for the North Joy Stewart said to me - "Well, we have done the possible and the near impossible and about the only things we have not tried to organise are a ball and a race meeting."

However, as I shall appear at the next Committee Meeting as a Vice President, I seem to be only playing 'musical chairs.'

During the past year, as before, I have enjoyed the support of those splendid office bearers, Kathleen Murphy as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer; Irene Stones as Assistant Secretary, and June Henty, who has travelled long distances to give support as Vice President.

Elizabeth Mackie has taken over Newsletter; Lorie Dean and Rhona Jenkins have been our wonderful supper hostesses. Grace McDermott has organised the Copy Shop; Clarice Thompson and Jean Gray were convenors of the highly successful Street Stall. Peg Marshall was our generous hostess for the farewell dinner for Joy Stewart, and Max Sartori has consented to be our Honorary Auditor.

To all these members and friends and to all those who have assisted them I express my most grateful thanks and appreciation. Four years ago I said it would be my aim to promote team work and make every member an active part of the Society, not a spectator. It has been gratifying to watch this theory become a reality.

I take pleasure in submitting this 1980-81 report.

WINIFRED HALL.

SECRETARY'S/TREASURER'S REPORT.

In concurrence with the meaning of our President's terminology - that of wearing two hats, I have taken a liberty and combined the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports.

In April, just prior to her departure to live in Cairns, Joy Stewart resigned as Honorary Secretary, thereby went her administrative, literary and artistic talents, all of which she had given in abundance. Much of the Society's present prestige can be attributed to Joy's involvement, dedication and enthusiasm.

This being my last report, I will concentrate on the "behind the scenes, activities, commencing with "Touring Round Kew", one of Joy's last major efforts for the Society. Here is a brief recap of the time and expertise expounded in such a production. Having envisaged an interesting route, the historic material must be researched, the rough draft being of some thirty odd handwritten foolscap pages, then the found sketched for the cover, now the route timed in consultation with the coach driver, followed by days at the Copy Shop, where Irene typed and Joy duplicated; finally the pages had to be collated within the covers. Then we were ready to participate in the Kew Festival by conducting residents on an educational and social outing, with Winifred as hostess and Joy compere.

Another community effort was to meet the needs of the new H.S.C. curriculum, for which Elizabeth Mackie produced and distributed to Kew's secondary schools free copies of a "Bibliography of Kew". This required extensive research and skill - such information does not evolve out of thin air.

Clarrie Thompson and Jean Gray were again convenors of our successful street stall. Members' contributions to this stall provides finance for the Society's running expenses.

With Kew as hosts for this year's Eastern Historical Societies' Conference, the catering arrangements were the responsibility of Winifred and Joy. On Conference day, Joy and Nita Green conducted a tour of Borondara Cemetery for delegates. Lorie Dean and Rona Jenkins not only obtained the use of the Uniting Church hall as the venue, but in the same quiet, efficient manner they attend to the monthly meeting suppers, supervised the food presentation for the afternoon tea and dinner, as well as organised the kitchen staff. Winifred Hall as guest speaker enchanted her audience with anecdotes of Kew's past.

In April Elizabeth Mackie arranged a tour of "Campion Hall" and the "Burke Hall" complex, which was appreciated by participants, as were the history notes and afternoon tea.

During the year guest speakers enlightened us on a variety of interesting subjects, while in turn, within the limits of available material, we replied to an ever increasing number of enquiries received from the whole ambit of society, also made inspections and tendered submissions where necessary. Grace McDermott and her small group of helpers regularly manned the Copy Shop. Elizabeth Mackie provided informative articles for the "Kewriosity" sheet each month and due to her initiative the reproduction of the 1875 map has been our most outstanding financial success to date - in no small measure the result of sales ability exhibited in the article on same. Irene Stones has been kept very busy with the Society's typing requirements - a demanding and continuous task, willingly undertaken.

NEW OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1982:

PRESIDENT	Councillor Jill O'Brien
HONORARY SECRETARY	Mrs. Elizabeth Mackie
ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARY	Miss Irene Stones
VICE PRESIDENTS	Miss Winifred Hall
	Mrs. Kathleen Murphy
TREASURER	Mr. Jack Copeland
ARCHIVIST	Mrs. Kathleen Murphy
COMMITTEE	Mrs. Clarrie Thompson
	Mrs. Grace McDermott
SOCIAL COMMITTEE	Mrs. Rae Brunette
	Mrs. Clancy Crowe
COPY SHOP REPRESENTATIVE	Mrs. Grace McDermott
SUPPER COMMITTEE	Mrs. Laurie Dean
	Miss Rona Jenkins

COSTUMES. The collection of 19th century costumes which has been faithfully preserved for the society by the care of Mrs. Jess Reid has been presented to the National Gallery of Victoria, and will be displayed as the Kew Historical Society Collection.

DONATIONS.

Trinity Grammar (1902-1952) - Kew Library.  
The Artists of Kew - Elizabeth Mackie  
The Henty Papers (Tarring, Sussex) - Richard Tolley  
Slides and photographs of the opening of Auburn Heights Bowling Club 1906 - Stuart West.  
Kew Bowling Club 1880-1980 - James Dudley  
Zenith Press letter head - Mr. Harrison  
Copy of will of Joseph Lush owner of "Walmer", Studley Park - Mr. H. Berry  
Photograph of Rockingham 1870's - Mr. G. Gardiner  
Letters and biographical material from authors of Kew received from - Lillian Wood. Judith Rodriguez. Yetta Rothberg.

OBITUARY. Mr. R. Bennett, the descendent of the Morgan family, pioneer settlers in Kew at "Morganville" died suddenly last month. Members send their sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

THE COPY SHOP, will be closed for Historical Society business from 30th October to February 1982.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members.