

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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NEWSLETTER No. 18.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

February, 1982

Dear Members and Friends,

The Society has moved quickly into gear this year as usual. Members have enjoyed two interesting meetings where guest speakers Jonathan Benyei and Boyce Pizzey, by the many facets of their addresses, have left the audience with much food for thought and action. Our thanks to these two speakers for setting us off at a stimulating pace for 1982. Our next guest, on Wednesday, 14th April, will be Mrs. Edgar and her subject is "Archaeology". Friends, of course, are very welcome.

The Street Stall held on 5th March was a resounding success. Congratulations to convenors Mrs. Clarice Thompson and Mrs. Rae Brunette, and to all the helpers. Almost \$250.00 was raised and some fine "spruiking" was done by Mr. Thompson from the footpath!! Not even satisfied with this great result, Clarrie is willing to set up a small trading table at Society monthly meetings and would welcome continuing contributions of home-made produce. All offers will be gratefully received.

Miss Winifred Hall has represented Kew Historical Society at two meetings of the Eastern Region of Historical Societies and with Mrs. Kathleen Murphy, Mrs. Elizabeth Mackie and Miss Irene Stones, will attend the Annual Conference on 27th March. Members may be interested to note that the Region Tour will be to Colac in August.

Finally, the great Festival Week bus tour of Kew! Again these free tours have been fully booked and by the time you receive this Newsletter will no doubt have been successfully completed - without, we hope, too many disappointed unbooked would-be travellers. This is obviously going to be a continuing and growing feature of the Festival programme and we thank the Festival Committee for this opportunity to promote our historic buildings and, incidentally, our Kew Historical Society.

Yours sincerely,

JILL O'BRIEN.

Thanks is expressed to writer and editor Barbara Giles for taking on the job of writing a monthly article for Kew Council's Kewriosity Sheet on the history of Kew. It is always good to have a fresh viewpoint.

Barbara's work includes a book of poetry "Eve Rejects Apple" which tells of her experiences as a woman, a tourist, a mother and as a teacher in an inner-suburban industrial area where some of the children came from very deprived backgrounds. Her first poem ever published told of the problems of migrant children.

Other work includes the editing of educational books of children's poetry, short stories and a Puffin book entitled "Bicycles Don't Fly." She is also editor of the literary magazine "Luna" which includes poetry, prose, lectures and book criticism by well-known Australian writers. She lectures with the Council of Adult Education on poetry. As the history of Kew officially commenced in 1803, Barbara will have a wide field to cover, from colonial times to the present day and two world wars, the land boom and the depression.

THE REPORT OF KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON XAVIER COLLEGE CHAPEL, SOUTH WING, WEST WING AND GREAT HALL.

Our member, who inspected the above buildings, reports as follows:-

Chapel. Hunter River sandstone. Built as a war memorial; accept this as a significant component for the monumental, Middle Eastern style architecture. The main dome is a Kew landmark, also the stained glass centre makes it the most obvious internal feature in a basic, uncluttered school chapel.

South Wing. Double storey, Hawthorn brick, in part block cement rendered on bluestone platform. An impressive example of the best of the Victorian period - high ceilings, rose fittings, arches, deep cornices, high skirting boards, fretwork cast iron stair rails and balconies. Conversions and renovations have been executed with infinite care to preserve these original characteristics. This is the most important building under consideration relative to history, architecture and location.

West Wing. Three storey, red brick, partly block cement rendered on bluestone foundation. A bastille, functional type building, the interior of which has been modified to meet various educational and accommodation needs. Interesting items noted included cedar stair rails, cast iron spiral stairway to third floor and unique inverted porthole windows on this floor, which also provide a relief to the stark exterior.

Great Hall. A beautifully proportioned, single storey red brick structure. It is a classic gem, with high pine panelled ceiling, heavy rafters, stained glass windows, etched glass door panels, etc. all in harmonious accord.

Historical. In 1978 Professor Greg. Denning researched submitted material and we cannot elaborate on this professional effort, except emphasise that these buildings were constructed as an educational complex and have only been used for that purpose. In brief, Xavier College is part of Victoria's history, past and present.

Conclusion. It is considered that the South Wing, constructed in 1878, the first building on the site, and the Great Hall are worthy additions to Register of Historic Buildings, both in the historical/architectural context.

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The Speaker for our May meeting on Wednesday, 10th May, at 7.45 p.m. will be Mr. Jack Lyons of Kew Garden Club.

DONATIONS.

Sketch of Kathleen Green's Cottage - Mr. Harrison.

Kew Centenary 1860-1960 - Mr. Keith Smith.

Jubilee History of Kew - Barnard - Mr. Keith Smith

Outercircle Railway - to be known as Keith Smith Collection -

15 newspaper cuttings; photographs	)	
22 large photographs	)	Mr. Keith Smith
3 small photographs	)	
1 map	)	

Tramway - two early photographs - East Kew. - Mr. Keith Smith

Photographs - Deepdene - Burke-Cotham Roads area - Mr. Keith Smith

East Kew - floods - Mr. Keith Smith

War Savings street sign - Mr. Keith Smith

A History of Kew Baptist Church, - Jill Manton. Three copies. Kew Baptist Church.

Photograph - "Zig Zag" Bridge - Mr. Stuart West

Kew Advertiser 18.3.37 and 26.3.42 - Mr. Stuart West

Mark Cranwell - supplied by Irene Drakeford

Biographical material - "Writers of Kew." A. D. Hope, Yetta Rothberg,

Lillian Wood, Judith Rodriguez, A. Charlwood, Allan Aldous, Michele

Nayman, Barbara Giles, Elizabeth Mackie, Philip Martin, Tim Fitchett,

Sir Macfarlane Burnet.