

Post Office Box 175, KEW. 3101

JUNE, 1982

NEWSLETTER No. 19.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Members,

One of the many tasks in the hands of our Vice President/Archivist, Kathleen Murphy, is the binding and preservation of the Society's Minute Books. The importance of this work has only now been properly appreciated by me, since I have just read through the entries in the current (almost full) book. This dates only from 1977 to the present, but it is full of historical material well beyond the record of meetings and business.

It is fascinating to read the summaries of guest speakers' addresses. Their recollections and accounts of past events makes the Minute Book of great historical significance - as doubtless are the several preceding books.

Further, the recurring lists of generous donations of photographs, books, letters and other memorabilia indicates something of the treasuretrove entrusted to our care.

Perhaps the Society should again be directing its attention to a permanent and secure home for its wonderful archives collection. We are grateful for the space in the Copy Shop, but this is not an appropriate repository for our valuable material; nor is there facility for cataloguing, restoration, display or for quiet research.

Now, while Kew Council is considering library services and the future of the Masonic Hall building, is the time to prepare our submission.

Yours sincerely,

JILL O'BRIEN.

WERE YOU LIVING IN KEW IN 1938?

If so, you have the opportunity to take part in an oral history project linked with Australia's Bicentennial.

"Australia 1788-1988 - A Bicentennial History" is described in a pamphlet from the Australian National University as a national project intended to break new ground, provide teachers, students and families with works of reference so far unavailable on this subject.

Several hundred people are involved, including historians and social scientists in tertiary institutions throughout Australia, as well as non-professional historians. The oral history project is being co-ordinated by Louise Douglas of the School of History, Philosophy and Politics at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Kew is an area selected for a detailed coverage in a volume which deals with such aspects as work, entertainment and family life in 1938, and you will be asked to recall these aspects from a personal point of view. In Louise Douglas' words - "The Australia 1938 volume will concentrate on everyday life in a variety of environments. By consulting those who actually lived through this time, we hope to create a picture of life in the late 1930's which is both readable and meaningful."

Your response will be tape recorded, relevant details extracted, then once the volume is completed, all tapes used in the compilation will be deposited in the National Library, thereby creating a unique historical resource for the future - a privilege of involvement is yours, if eligible.

If you were living in Kew in 1938 (born before 1930) and are interested in being a contributor to this national project, please write to Mrs. Kathleen Murphy, Archivist, Kew Historical Society, Post Office Box 175, Kew, 3101, or phone for further details.

DONATION.

Mr. T. Thomasson. Photographs Yarra River 1925.

Members are advised that a Victorian Archaeological Survey is being conducted regarding the aboriginal settlement of Port Phillip and the environs of Melbourne. Anyone who has evidence or family stories of aboriginal settlement is asked to write to:-

The Secretary,
Victorian Archeological Survey,
29-31 Victoria Avenue,
ALBERT PARK. 3206

or ring 690-5322 to share your information.

THE COPY SHOP is open from 10.30 a.m. to 2.0 p.m. on the second and fourth Friday of every month to meet members of the public regarding historical information or enquiries. Historic booklets for sale include "Touring Round Kew" - \$2.00 and "The Artists of Kew" - \$2.50. Students writing essays on local history can contact the Copy Shop, 3 Walpole Street, Kew, or ring during the above hours ().

DATES TO REMEMBER:

<u>14th July</u> , Auxiliary Room, 7.45 p.m.	Speaker Barbara Giles - "Images of Exile in Australian Literature."
<u>11th August</u> . " " "	Speaker Eva Grant, "Van Diemen's Land"
<u>8th September</u> . " " "	Members' night. Bring an antique and give a brief talk to us about it.
<u>13th October</u> . " " "	Annual Meeting.
1st November or early December	- Christmas Dinner Party. Date to be set.
Mid November	- K.H.S. day trip to Colac and the Western District.

In the warmer weather later in November the Society is planning a bus trip to Colac in the Western District on a Sunday, leaving 10.0 a.m. from Kew City Hall and arriving for a chicken and wine lunch at "Airlie", the Colac home of Mrs. Mackie. "Airlie" is an old homestead built by the MacCrae family, who were pioneer settlers on the plains at Larpent. Lunch will be followed by a drive to "Balnagown" a Scottish baronial home on the lake, and a trip to the Municipal gardens, which were designed by Guilfoyle, the creator of much of Melbourne's Botanic Gardens. After a pleasant walk by the lake, with views of the volcanic crater Red Rock, Devonshire Tea will be served at "Airlie", and it is expected that the two hour journey back to Kew will be completed by 8.0 p.m. Costs will be reasonable and more information will be at hand for the September meeting.

List of new members welcomed by our Society:

Mrs. D. Benyei.

Mrs. C. Flack.

Mrs. V. Lloyd.

Mrs. P. Tinney.

Mr. H. Weaver.

Mrs. C. Minogue.