

# KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

P.O. BOX 175, KEW 3101

President:

Mrs. Sue Leong  
( )

Hon. Secretary:

Miss Lex Allen  
( )

Newsletter No. 33

October/November, 1986.

Dear Members,

It seems rather early to be wishing you a Merry Christmas, but as this is the last newsletter for the year it will be my only opportunity. I hope you all have a restful and happy time over the Christmas season.

Whilst we're thinking of Christmas, I'd like you to note that the date of the Christmas Party has been brought forward one week. It will be held on Friday, 5th December, at 7.00 pm at the home of Chris and Jacci Simpson (63 Hartington Street, East Kew). We are employing the services of "Big Bob's Beef on the Spit" and are looking forward to a meal of roast beef and salads, preceded by an entree of gourmet sausages and polished off with delicious desserts and coffee. The cost will be \$15 per head, including drinks. Children will be free. As the idea of bringing a gift and receiving one was so popular last year, we have decided to repeat it this year. Please come along with a small gift to the value of \$2.00 that is marked for a lady or gentleman. Children's gifts could have the child's name on it. We would like to have a Santa again, and any volunteer will be welcome. At the November meeting, we hope to confirm numbers and collect the money. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting and party.

The Annual General Meeting saw a large attendance of members. We were delighted with the response. It was an historic occasion for us as we became officially incorporated. We were treated to two speakers at the meeting: Shane Carmody, who gave a very interesting account of his work on the Environmental Study of Kew's History, which is being prepared for the Heritage Study; and Kew's Mayor, Cr. Joe Ormando, who bravely answered many burning community questions from our members. We farewelled Jacci Simpson and Clarry Thompson from our committee. Both ladies have provided invaluable support throughout the year, but we realise that they deserve a well-earned rest. The new committee was announced, and I will list the names and phone numbers at the end of this letter. Unfortunately, our new treasurer resigned due to unforeseeable circumstances. Another treasurer will be appointed and endorsed at our November meeting.

Unfortunately, the Port of Melbourne Authority cancelled the launch trip on the 14th October at the last moment due to unbelievable weather conditions. There are no alternative bookings available this year, so another date will be arranged for early next year.

We received some good news from the National Trust. The Kew Post Office building has now been classified. We will endeavour to have the building listed on the Register of the National Estate. It is to be hoped that these moves will ensure the building's preservation.

There will be a working bee in the archives on Saturday, 15th November, from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. All members are welcome to have their names put on the roster. We will be sorting through the photographs, which need to be removed from the albums.

We have been asked by the Mayor to organise a ceremony to commemorate the centenary of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Fountain (situated in the Alexandra Gardens)

on the 21st June, 1987. I ask all members to put on their thinking caps for suggestions of a suitable ceremony. It may not hurt to ask the Council to refurbish the fountain in time for the centenary. Perhaps we could all remind our local representatives!

Well, this has been another long letter and I had best close.

Regards,

Sue Leong  
President.

P.S. I am speaking on your behalf at the East Kew Rotary Club on Wednesday, 22nd October. I will be going armed with tour books, writing paper, slides and information. Hope you will feel as if you have been well-represented!

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#### HISTORICAL NOTES

Extract from the "Argus" on 5th July, 1852:-

The advertisement read -

MONDAY, 5th JULY,

Important Sale of 225 Allotments of Land, in the Village of Kew, Parish of Boroondara, Adjoining a village reserve on the Banks of the Yarra Yarra, To Capitalists, Gold Diggers, Newly-arrived Emigrants, and Others.

SYMONS & PERRY are favoured with instructions from the Owner to submit to public competition, at the Commercial Sales Room, MONDAY, 5th JULY, at Twelve o'clock,

225 ALLOTMENTS of LAND in the Village of Kew, Parish of Boroondara, each containing about Two Roods of fertile Land, having frontages to wide streets as per plan of sub-division, comprising the whole of Section No 87 of the said parish.

Title - A Grant from the Crown.

Note - The above magnificent property is situated just one mile from Richmond Bridge, the road from Melbourne to which is to be immediately metalled and made good, thus placing it within a short and agreeable distance from the City of Melbourne. It is bounded on the north side by the well known property purchased by the late Mr J.W. Cowell, and on the south by the high road leading to the Upper Yarra, and Unwin's Special Survey: on the north-west by the beautiful village reserve on the banks of the river Yarra Yarra, from which it is distant about a quarter of a mile only, thus affording the incalculable benefits arising from an abundant and a never failing supply of excellent water, together with various local advantages only to be comprehended by a visit to this delightful spot, in the neighbourhood of which land of far less intrinsic value has, of late, attained prices hitherto unprecedented; the well known fertility of this peculiar spot, combined with the convenience of access, rendering it desirable for market gardens or suburban retreats: facilities for securing which are daily becoming less, from the competition caused by the immense and unlooked for increase of capital obtainable from the Goldfields of this auriferous Colony.

Terms - Half cash, and remainder by bill at three months.

A plan of subdivision may be seen, and further particulars obtained at the Rooms of the auctioneers.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Extract quoted from "Calling All Housewives", June, 1967, kindly loaned by the then President, Mrs. Gwen Steele (then Kelley) about the "Turning on" ceremony of the Melbourne Water Scheme and opening of the Yan Yean Reservoir:-

"The first ceremony was appointed to take place yesterday at the valve house in Carlton Gardens, and from noon the people began to gather in large numbers in that locality, so that by the time arrangements were complete there were not less than 7000 persons present.

"For want of some preliminary management, the scene of confusion that surrounded the principal valve baffles all description.

"Men, women and children, foremen and policemen, soldiers and sailors, volunteers and civilians, were mingled together in an inextricable mass. At length something like order was restored, and the procession formed.

"Precisely at 1 o'clock Major-General MacArthur (The Governor, Sir Henry Barkley, being absent through illness) opened the valve and turned on the water supply to the feeding pipes of the city.

"The Artillery fired a salute, and speeches were made, then the procession filed off, headed by the Major-General and his staff. A guard of honor of the 40th Regiment, with band, and the volunteers of the different corps followed.

"Next came the children of the various Abstainers Societies, headed by the Societies themselves having their different banners and mottos.

"The plumbers followed with a very handsome new banner, and, lastly, came the horsemen and carriages, almost all the latter filled with ladies.

"The procession moved along Nicholson Street and entered the city by Lonsdale Street, down Stephen Street to Bourke Street, thence along to Elizabeth Street and down to the junction with Flinders Street, increasing as it went till there must have been over 10,000 people.

"During the progress of the procession much amusement was caused by the appearance of two loaves of bread carried by some boys on handbarrows.

"One was a gigantic fellow, labelled 'The Abstainers Loaf,' the other was a penny bun, marked 'The Tipplers' Loaf.' Immediately on arrival of the head of the procession at Flinders Street, a desperate attempt was made to get the congregating masses into some kind of order.

"The weather was very hot and sweltering policemen pushed and shoved about in order to aid the Hon A. F. A. Greeves (Chairman of the Water Commission), who was fighting desperately for room to work the lever with which to set the water playing.

"Elbow-room being obtained, the first jet d'eau (jet of water, J. A. Reid) was squirted into a carriage filled with ladies, who, in their innocent confidence had driven up to get a sight of the first water to be set in motion in the capital city of the Southern Hemisphere.

"In a moment they were drenched from head to foot, and their coachman was so nearly drowned that he was some minutes before he could move out of the range of the Yan Yean water.

"Meanwhile, from the opposite corner of the street, another stream was discharged upon them. They could stand it no longer, and were fairly washed away.

"Amidst the confusion Mr Steele managed to secure a large bottleful of water to be forwarded by request to Mr Latrobe, the late Governor, now in London.

"The bottle bore the inscription: 'Yan Yean Reservoir, commenced 26th Nov., 1853, by C. J. Latrobe, Esq., breaking ground, and opened at Carlton Gardens by Major-General Edward McArthur, Commander of H.M. Forces, on 31st Dec., 1857, Steele and Martindale contractors.'

"After the Yan Yean had been projected 60 or 70 feet in a perpendicular direction, the volunteers gave three hearty cheers, and the whole affair terminated."

COMMITTEE FOR 1986-7:

President: Mrs. Sue Leong  
Vice Presidents: Cr. Phillip Barnes  
Mrs. Thea Sartori  
Honorary Secretary: Miss Lex Allen  
Assistant Secretary: Miss Irene Stones  
Archivist: Mrs. Dorothy Benyei  
Committee: Mrs. Clancy Crowe  
Miss Mary Macdowell  
Supper Committee: Mrs. Lori Dean  
Miss Rona Jenkins

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ACQUISITIONS:

Errata - the Woodbury College Badge was kindly donated by Mrs. Hester Houston.  
Copy of extracts from the 1850s "Argus" about property sales in Kew kindly donated by Gwen McWilliam. (Parts of these are reprinted in this newsletter.)  
Copy of his article on the Boroondara Cemetery in the "Progress Press" kindly donated by Chrys. Spicer.

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DIARY NOTES:

12th November: Final meeting for 1986. 8.00 pm at the Manchester Unity Hall, Union St., Kew. Guest speaker: Mrs. Margaret Thompson from the National Trust will talk about the National Trust properties and show slides.  
15th November (Sat.): Working bee in the archives - 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. (Contact Dorothy Benyei, , or Sue Leong, .)  
5th December (Fri.): Christmas Party: Spit Roast at Chris and Jacci Simpson's, 7.00 pm , East Kew. Cost \$15, drinks included. Children free. \*Bring a gift and receive one.

Notes for next year:

11th February: First meeting.  
6th March (Fri.): Annual cake stall.

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SPECIAL PLEA:

If you can help at the Library on Mondays from 2.30 to 4.00 pm, please contact Dorothy Benyei on

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