

# KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

P.O. BOX 175, KEW, VIC., 3101

*President:*

Mrs. Thea Sartori

*Hon. Secretary:*

Miss Lex Allen

June, 1988.

Newsletter No. 39

Dear Members,

The year has progressed at a rapid pace, with the Society involved in many City activities. Members hosted a successful bus trip and walking tour during the Kew Festival, participated in the official replacement of the horse trough and hitching post at the gates of the cemetery and the official opening of the rotunda in the Alexandra Gardens. An excellent photographic display of Kew in its early days, combined with an exhibition of banking procedures, was a feature in the Westpac Bank during the month of May. A number of our members assisted at the Trade Fair at Villa Alba during the Anzac weekend and had the opportunity to view the first public showing of the J. Ross Anderson drawings.

The two Bicentennial projects in which the Society is involved are well under way, work has commenced on the tapestry panels and the photographic history of "Kew Living 1988" is progressing well.

The Treasurer has brought to my attention the fact that a number of members are unfinancial. Due to our recent incorporation, you may be unaware that the sections dealing with fees read as follows:

- "4.(2) The annual subscription is payable in advance on or before the 1st day of October in each year.
- 4.(7) Any member whose subscription is six months in arrears may be debarred from taking part in any meeting of the Society and from nominating any candidate for election and from being a member of the Committee. Further, all other privileges of membership may be dealt with as follows:-  
after sending to such member written notice and following a reasonable time (not less than 14 days) for a reply thereto the Committee may erase his or her name from the Register of Members and he or she shall be held to have forfeited all his or her rights in the Society."

If your newsletter has a yellow sticker, please forward your subscription to the Treasurer within 30 days to ensure that you continue to receive the Society's newsletters.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting on the 8th June.

Kindest regards,

THEA SARTORI  
President.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

Extracts from "Kew Mercury", 17th December, 1910:

### "Jubilee Celebrations"

"Kew was en fete on Thursday, 8th inst. in celebration of the jubilee of the municipality and its proclamation as a town. The old road board of Boroondara originally embraced within its boundaries the present municipalities of Hawthorn, Camberwell, and Kew. Half a century ago it was resolved to secede from the parent body, and with a population of about 1400 and 279 buildings, Kew entered upon its municipal career. The first councillors were Dr. Henry Fox, Messrs. Mark Cranwell, George Wharton, John Carson, Wm. Derrick, George Lewis, and Richard Oswin, the only surviving member being Mr. Derrick. Though hampered always by limited means of communication with the city, the natural advantages of Kew gradually attracted population, and is undoubtedly the most picturesque and most desirable residential area around Melbourne. The population at the present time exceeds 9800 and there are about 2100 dwellings."

"Ideal weather favoured the celebrations on Thursday, the streets, business establishments and residences were gay with bunting. The mayor and councillors had the assistance of a large committee of residents, with the town clerk (Mr. H. H. Harrison) as honorary secretary, and the celebrations were carried out with the greatest enthusiasm. Added importance was given to the occasion by the presence of his excellency the state governor (Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael) and Lady Carmichael. Neatly designed medals, produced by Messrs. Stokes and Sons, were presented to the school children of the district. On the obverse side of the medal was portrayed the arms of the municipality, and on the reverse was the following inscription:- 'Kew Jubilee, 1860-1910, Cr. J. F. McCrea, J.P., mayor.' One of the functions in connection with the jubilee was the opening of the new infant department of the Kew state school. The new school, which occupies a splendid position in the highest part of Pakington street, is a handsome addition to the public buildings of Kew."

"The whole building, which has cost nearly £1000, is considered the most complete yet erected in the state, and will accommodate about 300 pupils."

"His excellency then addressed a few words to the children and declared the school open. An adjournment was then made to the playground, when the ceremony of presenting and hoisting a flag sent out by the scholars of the King's school, Kew, near London, took place. This flag, it may be mentioned, was sent in exchange for one forwarded by the local school, and presented to the English school on Empire day, 1900, by Sir Reginald Talbot, K.C.B., formerly governor of Victoria. Hon. G. Swinburne briefly recalled the circumstances, and stated that the casket in which the flag was forwarded was of historic interest, for

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it had been made of oak taken from the central pile of old Kew bridge, demolished in 1758. The beading was of boxwood and the lining of sycamore, both grown in the Royal gardens, Kew."

"In addition to the flag, a number of trees had been sent out from England (through the good offices of the Rev. W. H. Bliss, vicar of Kew). These had been grown in Kew gardens, and since their arrival in Victoria in January last, had been under the care of Mr. G. Pockett, the curator of the Alexandra gardens, and seemed none the worse for their long absence from a permanent home. The chairman of the board of advice then requested Sir Thomas Carmichael to plant the first tree, an English oak, in commemoration of the day."

"A brief inspection of the exhibits was then made before the vice-regal party took its departure to attend the garden party given by the mayor and mayoress in the Alexandra gardens."

"The Trinity grammar school cadets acted as a guard of honor to their excellencies Sir Thomas and Lady Gibson-Carmichael, whose arrival at the gardens was heralded by the playing of the National Anthem. Among the guests were parliamentary representatives, mayors and councillors of metropolitan municipalities, and pioneer residents of Kew. The band rotunda and shelter house erected by the people as a jubilee memorial was formally opened by the governor, and, at the mayor's invitation, the Kew brass band took up their position in the rotunda and played an inspiring selection. Refreshments were dispensed in spacious marquees, entertainment was provided by a company of pierrots, and brass and string band music was rendered at frequent intervals. In the evening there was a tremendous influx of visitors to witness the torchlight procession and the magnificent illuminations in the business portions of the town and at many of the private residences."

"A procession committee, consisting of Messrs. W. H. Bradshaw, H. F. Cooper, H. C. Crouch, W. Kellett, J. Launder, G. Smith, J. L. Todd, and C. Watson, had been appointed, and the fine display was evidence of the energy of the committee. The business establishments were brilliantly illuminated, some very pretty devices being noticeable. At the intersection of the five roads at the Junction lines of electric bulbs crossed and re-crossed the roadway. Messrs. Todd Bros.' lofty establishment created an effective background to loopings of vari-colored lights, which extended to the top of the flag pole. "The Block", comprising the business premises of Messrs. W. H. Bradshaw, H. F. Cooper, J. Donaldson, J. Burrage, and the Savings bank, was illuminated on a lavish scale, as, in addition to the flow of myriads of electric lights, there were stars and crowns and other gas-lit devices. On the summit of the hill the electric illuminations at the Prospect Hill hotel were a scene of dazzling splendor visible from miles around. Mr. C. Watson's butcher's shop was a noteworthy example of the pretty effect

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produced by a judicious arrangement of gas-lit devices and Chinese lanterns. The finest show of lanterns in High Street was undoubtedly at Messrs. Woollard and Sons' establishment - lanterns of all sizes, colors, and designs."

"The illuminations extended throughout the residential portions of the town, mansions, villas, cottages, and gardens having a fairy like appearance under the glow of the lanterns. From the railway station, and extending along the entire length of Denmark street, Messrs. H. C. Crouch, J. L. Todd, H. F. Cooper, G. Smith, W. H. Bradshaw, and C. Watson, had a busy time in forming up the procession, which moved off shortly after 8 o'clock. Mr. H. Rice, in the uniform of a British general, acted as marshal, and the Kew brass band headed the march."

"The line of march was from Denmark street, thence along High street to Ridgeway avenue, down Cotham road to Xavier college grounds. The streets were thronged with people, and thousands found their way to the grounds, kindly lent for the occasion by the rector. Here was given a fine display of fireworks and moving pictures and music by the bands. When all was over there was a feeling of satisfaction among Kew people that they had right royally celebrated the jubilee, and this sentiment was heartily endorsed by visitors."

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### DIARY NOTES:

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| June 8th    | Mr. Keith Glover.                       |
| July 13th   | Speaker from Kew Tennis Club.           |
| August 10th | Mr. John Shannon - Boroondara Cemetery. |

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### NEW MEMBERS:

Two recently joined members are cordially welcomed into our Society and are invited to take an active interest in our activities. They are:

Mr. George A. Story  
Miss Jennifer Jones