

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

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

President:
Mrs. Gwen Steele

Hon. Secretary:
Miss Lex Allen

1st May, 1989.

Newsletter No. 42

Dear Members,

There has been much to hold our interest since my last letter. "Kew Living" was finally delivered and hopefully met with general approval - such a lot of earnest effort went into its production. Then there was the Kew Festival and our stall in the Alexandra Gardens on March 18th. I regret I was unable to attend, but have had good reports on the interest shown in our projects.

I feel sure we all regret the nibbling away of land at Willsmere, but according to the report in Progress Press of April 26th, the State Government have different ideas and local ambitions have been ignored - our only consolation is that at least we tried.

We were happy to welcome Mr. Chris Long and the interesting film of "Living Melbourne" at our meeting in February and I find that we were very fortunate that he was able to visit us, as it seems he is under instruction from Canberra and is not always available for local visits.

The tour of No. 2 area of Kew on March 22nd was blessed with good weather and could have been better attended, but with Easter early this year it was necessary to make it on a week day, which may have prevented some of our members and friends from joining us. Our thanks to Kew Council for providing Mr. Pollard's new coach for our tour and, of course, Dorothy Benyei was a wonderful guide.

We were happy to welcome a group of members from "Proceed Adult Education" who came by coach from Warrigal on March 1st. They had a very hot day to tour Camberwell and were very grateful for the cool drinks, tea and coffee which we were able to provide, while they had their lunch in Hall 3. They toured Kew Library and gave a helping hand with the tapestry being produced and then went to Boroondara Cemetery, accompanied by Dorothy - my thanks to her for her untiring interest and capable organisation.

We were happy to welcome Mr. Poulter, Kew City Engineer, at our meeting on April 12th, who presented us with some early records of Kew Council and gave us an interesting talk on current affairs of Council, and he then offered to try and answer any questions of interest to members and opened the flood gates - I do thank him for his patience in handling the many and varied questions (and complaints) hurled at him.

I remind you that our next meeting on May 10th will be held at St. Hilary's Church, John Street, Kew, and members are requested to meet in the entrance area by 8 p.m. to hear "The History of St. Hilary's Anglican Church" and to observe the many improvements recently carried out on the Church complex. If you have a query about transport to St. Hilary's, please contact a member of the committee or myself on Phone 817-4757. As it is a week night, there should be no difficulty with car parking in either John or Rowland Streets, and I do hope we have a good attendance to accept their hospitality.

Kindest regards,

GWEN STEELE

President.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The repair of KANE'S SWINGING BRIDGE is much in the news. Here is an extract from Cr. W. Vaughan's "Kew's Civic Century":

"Kane's Bridge. - In the Yarra Bend National Park a footbridge was erected over the Yarra in 1928 to provide access from the Kew side to the public golf links. The cost was £2,600, towards which the Government contributed £1,500 and the Kew Council £250. This was afterwards named Kane's Bridge."

Dr. Edward Robertson (1870-1969), Head of Victorian State Health Dept., 1913-1937, and a resident of Kew from 1891 until his death, wrote about another earlier Kew Bridge as follows:

"STUDLEY PARK BRIDGE:

Hodgson's Punt provided for access across the Yarra to Boroondara from 1842. Prior to this it was necessary to use Palmer's Punt. It was very inconvenient to use this punt for the growing population of Newtown. John Hodgson came to the rescue and established the punt known as Hodgson's Punt. The traffic was mainly in the carriage of wood from Boroondara where there was abundance whereas on the north side of the Yarra forest growth was scanty.

As a result of separation from New South Wales and the discovery of gold population increased and the settlement spread. The traffic demands on the punt became so great that it was no longer able to cope with them. It was generally agreed that a bridge was necessary to meet the situation but it was left to Hodgson to take the necessary steps.

Hodgson was a very active member of Parliament and so he had facilities for securing the necessary legislation - the Studley Park Bridge Act which came into force on 3rd March 1856. The preamble to the Act is as follows:-

'An Act to incorporate a Company to be called the Studley Park Bridge Company and to enable the said Company to erect and maintain a bridge over the Yarra Yarra River at Church Street East Collingwood and to take toll thereat and for other purposes

Whereas the construction of a bridge over the River Yarra Yarra at the northern end or termination of Church Street East Collingwood near the City of Melbourne to connect the said City as well as East Collingwood, Richmond, Prahran, St. Kilda, Kew, Boroondara, Eltham, Templestowe, Anderson's Creek, the German settlement and other important localities on the left bank of the said river where a large and increasing traffic now exists would be productive of great benefits to the inhabitants of these places and to the community at large and it is therefore advisable to grant encouragement to such persons as may be willing and desirous to make and maintain such bridge by granting them an Act of Incorporation.

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Victoria with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council.'

The Act provides for the incorporation of a Company consisting of John Hodgson, John Carson and William Augustus Rucker having all the necessary powers to erect and maintain the Bridge and prescribe the amounts of the Toll payable for the various kinds of animals and vehicles passing over and by persons walking over. The charges for tolls were:-

Foot passenger		1d
Goat or cattle, each		1d
Horse		4d
Dray - 1 horse	} 2 wheels	1/-
" 2 "		1/6
" 4 "		2/-

DIARY NOTES:

Wed. 10th May Meeting at St. Hilary's Anglican Church,
John Street, Kew.

Wed. 14th June Mr. A.B. Natoli, Solicitor in Kew, will
speak on "My Life and Times in Kew".

Wed. 12th July Mr. Fritz Schaumburg, who was the first
President of the Boroondara Bushwalkers,
will be guest speaker.

Wed. 9th August Guest speaker from M.L.C.

Wed. 13th September Dr. Chris Judge will speak about the
history of the Kew Cottages.

(Note - all meetings held at No. 3 Hall, Library
Complex, unless otherwise advised.)

GIFTS TO ARCHIVES:

Tennis racquet and case, tennis shorts,
and a Gladstone bag - from Mr. Max Sartori
Blotting paper container - from Mrs. Gwen Steele
Early sewage maps of Kew and a horse shoe found on the site of
the old Kew Depot - from the City Engineering Dept. of Kew
Nail care articles and wax for
a flat iron - from Mrs. Jean Thompson of Bunyip.
Folding Eastman Kodak camera - from Mrs. Phillips.

WORKING BEE:

Because of the Kew Rotary Club's Art Show (5-14 May) the
proposed Archives Working Bee for 6th May has had to be
cancelled. We will try to have a work day on Saturday,
1st July. Please phone Dorothy Benyei nearer the time.
Much depends on whether or not the No. 3 Hall is occupied
that day.

NEW MEMBERS:

A friendly welcome is extended to our new members:

Mrs. K. Chain
Mrs. N. Gallagher
Dr. S. James
Mrs. Y. Knight
Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Littlechild
Mr. and Mrs. B.M. Milton