

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

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

President:
Mrs. Gwen Steele

Hon. Secretary:
Miss Lex Allen

September, 1989.

Newsletter No. 43

Dear Members,

Our meetings since my last newsletter in May have been varied, to say the least. As many of you know, we had to contact St. Hilary's Church, who very kindly invited us to visit their complex instead of the arranged speakers attending our May meeting. I feel I speak for all members who enjoyed their hospitality and the warm welcome extended to the large number who attended.

The June meeting could have been a disaster with our guest speaker unable to attend and our capable secretary laid low, but members rallied around and we had time to inspect the collection of large photos just presented to our Archives, which have been refurbished and a number are now on display in our show case in the Library.

The first President of the Boroondara Bushwalkers Club, Mr. Fritz Schaumburg, was our guest speaker in July and was most interesting - not only did he give us an idea of where we could walk in our own locality, but gave us a verbal tour of many parts of the world.

We welcomed Dr. Janet McCalman on 9th August, who spoke on "Towards a History of the Melbourne Middle Class in the 1930s". She revived memories for many of us and was kind enough to answer many questions.

As so often happens in a group of mainly older citizens, we lost one of our very regular members, Alva Allen, and we sadly miss his recollections of earlier Kew.

To the present and near future - our congratulations to our new Mayor, Councillor Michael Montalto, and our best wishes to our new Deputy Mayor, Councillor Daryl Oldaker.

Dr. Judge will have visited us before you receive this newsletter and I feel sure we will get some answers about Kew Cottages - a subject very much in our minds at present.

September 22nd is booked for our annual street stall* and I do hope we can make it a grand success, so come on all you wonderful cake and jam makers, we need your co-operation and help. If anyone can help on the stall during the day, please contact Dorothy Benyei

October 11th is the Annual Meeting and we hope the Mayor will be able to attend and, of course, there will be the election of office bearers for 1989-90. All positions are open and I hope you will nominate - proposal forms are available if required. There has been a change in meeting dates: there will be a normal meeting in November* and the Christmas break-up party will now be held on Friday, 1st December, at the home of Jacci and Chris Simpson, 63 Hartington St., Kew, and we will discuss this at the next meeting.

The annual Melbourne Cup Day bus trip will be to Werribee Park. The bus is booked and I hope many members will take advantage of seeing the Mansion, which has been well restored by the M.M.B.W. Let us make it a well patronised outing and hope for good weather, both for the racing fraternity and the Kew Historical Society members.

Kindest regards,

GWEN STEELE
President.

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Kew Historical Society, held at the home of Mr and Mrs Dickinson, 196 Cotham Rd, Kew, on Thursday 4th November '65, at 8 p.m.

PRESENT: The President, Mr. W.H.S. Dickinson, M.B.E., J.P., in the Chair. Miss Dumaresq, Mr Crofts, Cr and Mrs Reed, Miss Mackey, Miss Grant, Mr Clark, Mrs Thompson, Mrs McAlister, Mrs West.

APOLOGIES: Mrs Rogers, Mr & Mrs Marshall, Miss Munro, Mrs Spring, Mrs Osborne, Mrs Gahan, Mrs Barbara Clark.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd Sept.'65 were read and confirmed by Miss Mackey, seconded Miss Figueurola.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

Miss Grant handed a copy of the November issue of Sennachie to the Chairman and an extract relating to the Future of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria was read to the Members by Mrs West.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr Crofts reported a balance of £14:6:- for Oct '65 and £22:2:9 for November. Mr Crofts moved the adoption of the report and Miss Figueurola seconded.

GUEST SPEAKER: The Guest Speaker for the evening was Miss Dumaresq, Vice-President of the Kew Historical Society.

Miss Dumaresq, who has a very wonderful memory, gave us a most interesting talk, telling us of her parents and grandparents and their families and their very interesting careers.

Her Grandfather donated land for the building of St. Hilary's Church of England, Kew, but the Church Committee said they were not prepared to build a Church then and would rather have the money so he took back the land and gave them £500. However, instead of spending this on the Kew Church the money was given to Ballarat and Bendigo for their Churches. Then a number of Parishioners, led by Captain Dumaresq, raised sufficient money and ten acres of land was purchased and the Church finally built at a cost of £780. The building was opened on 1st January 1889 by Bishop Goe, the first Minister being the Rev. H. Stanley Mercer, M.A. After two years the Rev. Mercer applied for leave to go to England and later advised he would not be returning. The Rev. Collier was appointed and remained for 20 years. Miss Dumaresq told us of her Grandfather's purchase of 110 acres of land at £3/5/- per acre, bounded by Cotham and Burke Roads and the streets John, Alfred, Edward, Rowland and Thomas were all named after members of his family. 8 acres of land in Thomas Street were Chinese Gardens. Her Grandfather, who went to India and studied Hindustani, was granted furlough on account of ill health. He was given 3 years leave which he spent in Tasmania and when the family came to Sydney he joined them. He then returned to India and was given 12 months to live. He came to Australia and lived to 104 years.

Cr. Reed thanked Miss Dumaresq for her very interesting talk which was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all the Members present.

Miss Dumaresq then presented a book to the retiring Secretary, Miss Eva Grant, on behalf of the Society, as a token of esteem and grateful thanks for all she had done during her term of Office.

The President supported Miss Dumaresq and complimented Miss Grant on the fine record of service and her comprehensive minutes which made an excellent record of the Society's activities.

The President then spoke of the request by the Town Clerk, Mr Birrell, who asked if the Historical Society could perhaps suggest a name for the Kew Mental Hospital. The following names were suggested:- Willsmere, Atheringa (aboriginal for "Dream Time") River Park, Tandara, Yarralea, Carinya (home of Peace and Happiness). It was decided that this subject should be further discussed at a Meeting to be held in December. The Meeting closed at 10 p.m. and supper was provided by Mrs Dickinson and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This was a most happy and interesting meeting and our thanks are extended to Mr and Mrs Dickinson.

sgd. W.H.S.DICKINSON, Chairman.

AN ITEM OF INTEREST:

DIGHT'S FALLS PUMPING STATION

When Melbourne was founded there were Falls in the vicinity of Queen & Market Streets. Latrobe caused them to be built up with stones mud mortar and anything available to form a varrier against the tide, thus ensuring that the salt water remained below the falls. A bridge was built across the Yarra at the spot, but it was frail and constantly in need of repair.

In 1883 a second bridge replaced this one, and the falls felt the blasting. As it was necessary to deepen the channel to allow larger ships to come up to the wharfs, dynamite was finally used and the blockage removed altogether.

At one time the course of the Yarra ran through the Botanical Gardens. The lake marks the approximate banks of the stream. There was a marsh first and then the course of the river was altered to reclaim the land.

In altering or removing the falls, they neglected to gauge the effect of the brackish water on the plants, and after some time the gardens began to wilt, the trees showed signs of becoming stunted, and it was realised that another source of irrigation must be found.

It was found that the water was salt as far as as Dight's Falls, so the water would have to be brought from there. It was not until 1889 that the Public Works undertook this project.

A reservoir was built on the highest part above the river, to hold 1+3/4 Ml. gallons, and it was 200 feet above sea level. This was to allow a gravity feed. A steam pump was installed just below the falls to pump the water the 3/4's of a mile up to the reservoir.

Work was progressing satisfactorily when in 1891 Melbourne experienced its worst flood, and work was delayed for some time. After the water subsided, the damage was repaired and work resumed. Eighteen inch pipes were used to convey the water, and they passed through Studley Park to the river at Walmer Street, where a bridge was built to carry the pipes. Very early there had been a Ferry there, known as the Simpson's Road Ferry, Victoria Street having been named Simpson's Road (prior to 1850). The pipes after leaving Walmer Street Bridge, crossed Victoria Street and went as far as Highett Street, Richmond. From there they went to Muir Street, and along there to Erin Street. From Erin Street to Punt Road and along Punt Road to Swan Street, where they crossed Yarra Park to Anderson Street Bridge. The pipes were carried by the bridge and the water then went to a reservoir in the Gardens.

The scheme took three years to complete, at a cost of £36,250.0.0., and supplied three million gallons per day. The water not only supplied the gardens but Albert Park Lake, the Paper Mills below Princes Bridge, and several Hydraulic lift schemes in the City. The water was turned on for the first time on Dec.12th, 1892.

In 1923, the Drains & Rivers Act was introduced, and under this Act, the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works took over the operation of the scheme. To increase the supply of water, an oil engine was also installed, which pumped an extra million gallons per day.

Owing to deterioration of the pipes, and the cost of maintaining the scheme, operations ceased about twenty years ago, but the installation remained there. In 1961, the Board realised that it would be too costly to ever renew the pipes, so decided to remove the Pumping Station altogether. The house on the Studley Park side has also gone. Mr. Bill Burns ran the station for the Company.

With the present demand for water, all sorts of suggestions are being received, but if it was too costly in 1961, think of what it would cost now. Apart from that, by the time it was in action, there would probably be no need for it.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Historical Society Inc. will be held on Wednesday, 11th October, 1989, at 8 p.m. in No. 3 Hall, Library Complex, Cotham Road, Kew.

The business to be transacted at this meeting will be:-

- (1) Reports of office bearers for year ending 30th June, 1989;
- (2) Election of committee and office bearers for the year 1989/90 -

According to the Rules of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, all positions become vacant and any member wishing to nominate for any position on the committee should obtain a nomination form from the Secretary:

"20(1) Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the society or as ordinary members of the committee -

(a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the society (as proposer and seconder) by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and

(b) shall be delivered to the secretary of the society at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting."

- (3) Subscriptions for the year 1989/90 are now due and payable (\$5 ordinary member, \$8 family, \$50 life membership);
- (4) Any other business, of which prior notice has been given.

* P.S. re cake stall - Clarrie Thompson has very kindly said that members may leave cakes, etc. with her the night before if it is not convenient to attend the stall the next day.

re November meeting - Mr. Natoli has kindly agreed to speak to the members.
