

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

P.O. BOX 175, KEW 3101



President:
Dr. Laszlo Benyei, A.M.,

Hon. Secretary:
Miss Lex Allen

January, 1993

Newsletter No. 51.

Dear Members,

Our year 1992 finished with the Annual Meeting, the Cup Day Outing to Coolart and a well attended Christmas party at the Sartoris' home.

The following members were elected to the Committee for this year:

President:	Dr. Laszlo Benyei
Vice Presidents:	Mrs. Thea Sartori and Mrs. Helen Reeve
Secretary:	Miss Lex Allen, also Public Officer
Treasurer:	Miss Marge McLiesh
Archivist:	Mrs. Dorothy Benyei
Committee:	Miss Mary Macdowell and Miss Marian Blatchly

Mr. Ken Sillcock has kindly offered his assistance with the production of our Newsletter.

Once again, owing to the Kew Rotary Club Art Show, we are unable to hold our March meeting in No.3 Hall. Mr. Frank Moore, Deputy Head of Preshil School, has kindly invited us to see the restoration of KALIMNA and to hear something of the history of Preshil School on Saturday, 6th. March at 2 p.m., at 12 Sackville Street, Kew.

Members are again asked to provide Pickles, Jams, Marmalade or Preserves for our fund raising "Gourmet Pickle Stall" on Saturday, 13th. March, during Kew Festival in the Alexandra Gardens. Empty jars and/or storage of full jars available from Thea Sartori (phone 817 3657). Our Archive Room - (entrance through the Library) - will also be open to receive contributions on Thursday, 11th. March from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, 28th. March, in conjunction with the Kew Festival Committee, a Heritage Bus Tour of Kew will leave the Library at 2 p.m., returning at 5 p.m. Cost, including Mystery Afternoon Tea, \$2.50. Bookings essential; phone Optional extra is an inspection of Villa Alba (\$5, or \$3 concession).

We record with sadness the death of our member, Mrs. Brenda Boothroyd.

Thank you for your co-operation in 1992 and, with the Committee, we hope for another interesting year in 1993.

Laszlo Benyei
President

EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1991-1992 YEAR.

We appreciated the co-operation and support from the Council and the Staff of the Municipal Office and of the Library. Mr. Malcolm Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer, was the Speaker following the Annual Meeting, in the absence of the Mayor. This year again we received a Community Assistance Grant from the City of Kew, and invit-

ations were received to the Reception of Kew Council for Voluntary Organizations and to the celebration of Australia Day.

There were several outings during the year. On Melbourne Cup Day the bus tour went to the Mornington Peninsula and in Sorrento Mr. and Mrs. Sartori extended hospitality. In March, instead of the monthly meeting we accepted the gracious hospitality of Professor Peter and Mrs. Dione McIntyre at their historic home, "Swinton", and the adjoining fascinating garden down to the river bank. In April, during Heritage Week, included in the usual historical bus tour in the City of Kew, we visited Yarra Bend Park, on both banks of the river, and the Deep Rock Swimming Pool.

Our participation in the Kew Festival with a "Gourmet Pickles Stall" was successful and rewarding, socially as well as financially. The inspiration and co-ordination during the year by Mrs. Thea Sartori and Mrs. Rae Brunette with other members was greatly appreciated.

The speakers at our meetings shared with us most interesting aspects of the history and life in Kew and were followed with extensive discussions. Professor and Mrs. McIntyre spoke about their life in Kew. Among the organizations, Mrs. Yvonne Knight recalled the history of Red Cross in Kew. Ms Lisa Gaffney shared her work with us as Public Relations Officer and Editor of "Kewriosity". Mr. A.B. Mellor, C.B.E., spoke of the foundation of Carey Baptist Grammar School. The Kew Traders Group, represented by Mr. Ken Blair, showed plans regarding Kew Junction. For the sporting clubs, Mrs. Margaret Bertouch represented the Kew Croquet Club. From the churches, Reverend Father Peter Knowles presented to us the history of the small Russian Roman Catholic Church in Stevenson Street, which is one of only three centres in the world. The Members' Night gave us the opportunity to hear many personal anecdotes from our members' lives.

Though the Committee had only one formal meeting, when the program for the year was formulated, all members of the Committee were active in the implementation of the arrangements, in close co-operation with each other and with other members of the Society.

Though the record rainfall and colder than average temperatures caused exceptionally small attendance at one meeting, those who could attend have found the addresses of all the speakers most interesting.

The suppers at the end of the meetings, organized by Miss Mary Macdowell, helped to conclude the meetings with friendly conversation.

The Sartori family home was the venue for our Christmas break-up evening in 1991 and will be again this year (1992). We are very grateful for their kindness. The greatly appreciated work of our Honorary Treasurer, Miss Margaret McLiesh, and our Archivist, Mrs. Dorothy Benyei, was noted.

The Kew Historical Society, especially in these times, is part of the history that is being created by us. In this process, all members have important roles, and the participation of all members in the activities of the Society is very much appreciated. We, therefore, ask for comments and suggestions, to ensure a better future that will be more than memories only from the past. Once again, my sincere thanks for everything and to everyone.

Laszlo Benyei
President

REMINISCENCES OF TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 1925-1928By Ken M.Sillcock (written in 1983)

"Forty years on, when afar and asunder
 Parted are those who are singing today,
 When you look back and forgetfully wonder
 What you were like in your work and your play....."

Now I forgetfully wonder what were the rest of the words of that song, which we sang so often from the School Song Book in the years 1925 to 1928. Now, fifty-eight years on (in 1993, 68 years on) from my first year at the school, I am told that my reminiscences could help present students who are looking back to the history of the school as part of their studies. It is a privilege of advanced age to become one of the "primary sources" so valued by historians despite their limitations.

My opportunity to attend a boarding school arose, first, because my parents believed in higher education and, secondly, when I was awarded a Junior Government Scholarship which, for four years, would pay half my tuition fees, 40 pounds (\$80) a year for board away from home and some allowance for books. Learning what they could about secondary schools from articles in the daily papers and from other enquiries, my parents concluded that the choice of school lay between Wesley College under L.A.Adamson and Trinity Grammar School under Frank Shann, whose progressive outlook on education greatly impressed them and won the day. These schools paid the other half of the tuition fees to holders of Junior Government Scholarships.

SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL

The school had a total enrolment of 287 pupils in 1925 and 285 in 1928. This included about 40 boarders in 1928, the largest number up to that time. The day boys came mainly from Kew and nearby areas, many on bicycles, but some travelled by tram and train from places as far away as Box Hill, Moonee Ponds, Essendon and even Diggers Rest. A few were weekly boarders, returning to their homes in outer suburbs each week end, but most of the boarders were from country districts. Many seemed to me to come from prosperous to wealthy homes but others, like myself, were there through scholarships, Legacy Club assistance and special concessions to sons of clergy. Those whose parents could least afford it tended to place more value on secondary and tertiary education, and to work more diligently at it, than students with a wealthier background, though there were noteworthy exceptions. The wealthiest of my contemporaries was most sincere in his pursuit of knowledge for its own sake.

In those days education was given in the State schools up to Year (or Grade) 8, at which level a pass in the Merit Certificate examination entitled the student to leave school even if he had not attained the minimum leaving age of 14 years. For most, that is where formal education ended, as it did for all my contemporaries at Yinnar State School. This is not to say that they were disadvantaged. Many became farmers (or farmers' wives) in their own right, a way of life satisfying to them. Numbers of them had handed the routine work over to sons and lived in semi-retirement long before I retired from full time work. Higher education does not have a constant value to all recipients; its value is relative to the needs and desires of each of us.

(To be continued)

SCHOOL FOUNDERS' DAY

On 13th. November 1992 Ken and another Old Boy, Roy Wood, who is the same age as the school, joined forces with two of the youngest present students to cut a magnificent cake which had been made to honour the 90th. anniversary of the founding of the school. You don't often see four hands wielding the knife that cuts a birthday cake!

1993 PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

- Wednesday 10 February, 8 p.m. Miss Greta Grutzner, Kew City Council Home Care Supervisor
- Saturday 6 March, 2 p.m. Meet at KALIMNA, 12 Sackville Street, Kew, now part of PRESHIL School
- Saturday 13 March, 10 a.m. Kew Festival, "Gourmet Pickle Stall"
- Sunday 28 March, 2-5 p.m. Kew Festival, Heritage Bus Tour of Kew
- Wednesday 14 April, 8 p.m. Kew Business Person, Mr.J.Toscano
- Wednesday 12 May. 8 p.m. Slovenian Religious & Cultural Centre
Venue: 19a A'Beckett Street, Kew
- Wednesday 9 June, 8 p.m. Kew Cricket Club, Mr. Terry Banfield
- Wednesday 14 July, 8 p.m. Travel talk with slides
- Wednesday 11 August, 8 p.m. "My life and time in Kew...."
- Wednesday 8 September, 8 p.m. Artist in Kew
- Wednesday 13 October, 8 p.m. Annual Meeting, The Mayor, City of Kew
- Tuesday 2 November. Melbourne Cup Day Bus Trip
- Saturday 10 November, 8 p.m. Members' Night
- Friday 10 December, 7.30 pm Christmas Party

NEW CHAPEL AT TRINITY

Trinity Grammar School now has a chapel, made possible by a generous legacy of one of its Old Boys and long time resident of Kew, the late Carl Horneman. It was dedicated by the Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Rev. Dr. Keith Rayner, in a service held on 16th. October 1992. The first service for Old Trinity Grammarians' Association members was held on 23rd. October 1992 and was well attended.

A special feature of the chapel is a pipe organ, which the school was fortunate, almost at the last moment, to obtain and instal at an affordable price.

KINKS IN OUR PATH INTO HISTORY

We are all becoming a part of history. But what history?

For instance, think what archaeologists and historians might find when they excavate what is now Glenferrie Shopping Centre.

There's the sign in huge letters that says, BOTTOMS CANED. If the first, smaller word "chair" is obliterated, their report might read, "Clearly, this is the site of a school whose teacher not only caned the pupils by the touch-your-toes method, but boasted openly of his barbarism."

COIN LAUNDRY, they might conjecture, was the place where drug pushers and other thugs came to launder the millions of dollars they had extracted from the people.

REINCARNATION (which refers to clothes) might make them exclaim in disbelief, "But surely such a cruel and vicious society would not believe any of them would get a second chance!"