

# KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY **Inc.**

P.O. BOX 175, KEW 3101

*President:*

**Mrs. Thea Sartori**

*Hon. Secretary:*

**Miss Lex Allen**

January 1995

## **NEWSLETTER No. 55**

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to you all.

I am sure that 1995 will be a very interesting year for our Society.

The amalgamation of the Cities of Camberwell, Hawthorn and Kew to form the new City of Boroondara has seen the formation of the "Boroondara Historical Societies' Association", made up of two representatives from each of the five Historical Societies within the new boundary. Lines of communication have opened up, and this can only be an advantage to us all. We hope to welcome many members of the Association to our first meeting in February.

The Society will conduct one bus tour on Sunday, 19th. March, as its contribution to the Kew Festival.

This year we will mount a large display in the "Phyllis Hore Room" on Saturday, 8th. and Sunday, 9th. April to coincide with Heritage Week. Members will be asked to assist with duty on these days. Security will need to be intensive to protect our memorabilia.

For members to gain an insight into the workings of the Society, and for them to familiarize themselves with the contents of our collection, it has been decided that the Archive Room will be open on the Mondays following our monthly meetings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for all members to come and help to collate files, sew on buttons, study any new acquisitions and share a cup of tea.

The Committee has planned another year of interesting speakers and outings; the program is included within this Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting, when I am sure we will gain further knowledge of our City of Boroondara (Kew District).

**Thea Sartori**  
**President**

### **THE OTHER SOCIETIES**

The four other Historical Societies functioning within the City of Boroondara are at Surrey Hills, Canterbury, Camberwell and Hawthorn.

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**COMMITTEE**

The following members were elected to the Committee for 1994-95:

<b>President:</b>	Mrs. Thea Sartori
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	Rev. Morris Watson and Mr. Raymond Vaughan-Smith
<b>Secretary:</b>	Miss Lex Allen, also Public Officer.
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dr. Laszlo Benyei
<b>Archivist:</b>	Mrs. Dorothy Benyei
<b>Assistant Secretary:</b>	Mr. Ken Sillcock
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Miss Marian Blatchly and Miss Joan Simms

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO AGM., 19th. October 1994**

Thanks to the co-operation of our Committee, and especially our Honorary Secretary and Public Officer, Miss Lex Allen, we can report another successful year.

The speakers at our meetings have told us much about our City. These have included Mr. John Worcester, representing 3MBS, Mrs. Marjorie Milner and her son, a most delightful evening with Miss Esther Rofe the noted musician and composer, Mr. Lindsay Retchford from St. George's Hospital, and the history of the Kew Golf Club.

The Cup Day visit to the Garden of St. Erth was enjoyed by all who made the journey, in spite of some occasional rain.

Our stall at the Kew Festival was well patronised, and we thank those who contributed goods, jams, pickles, cakes etc., and also those who gave their time serving on the stall.

A very pleasant Christmas party was held at the home of Thea and Max Sartori, and we look forward to a similar function on 9th. December this year.

Our thanks also to those who arrange supper, those who do typing and duplicating, and to Ken Sillcock who continues to produce the interesting Newsletter.

We have missed Laszlo and Dorothy Benyei and look forward to their return. Mention must be made of Dorothy's tireless efforts as Archivist.

Our experience over the years, the warm support of members and the work of the Committee, the friendship of members and the interest in our City - should one now say "District" - have been most encouraging. So a good future is assured, and we can confidently welcome our new members.

**Morris Watson**

**IN OUR ARCHIVES**

In our archives is a 22 page booklet, kindly donated by Mr. Harold Story, called "The Pickwick Portfolio" published in 1904 by the Pickwick Club, Kew as a souvenir of the club's first seven years since its founding in 1897. In the Foreword it is said, "It is hoped that Pickwickians at home and abroad will cordially welcome the little volume". This suggests that such clubs might have been common in those times. Does any reader have knowledge of this club at Kew or of similar clubs? The club at Kew was more than just a group getting together

to discuss books. The booklet is described as "a means of stimulating the literary and artistic efforts of members." The standard of the contributions indicates that the authors and artists, who use the names of Pickwick characters, were far more advanced than first time writers and sketchers.

The "Portfolio" contains three complex pen and ink illustrations, including the Frontispiece, eleven prose pieces and five poems. Some are fiction, some describe real experiences, some are philosophical, and one called "A Tragedy" turns out to be humorous anti-climax. All the writers knew what they wanted to say and how to say it effectively.

Here is one of the poems by consent, we hope, of the writer, David Copperfield:

**THE MOSQUITO - a summer idyll.**

With eager soul and thirsty sting,  
 With waving foot and buzzing wing,  
 The 'skeeter is a nasty thing  
 To have inside a room.  
 He settles nowhere very long,  
 As soon as you can hear his song  
 You reckon you won't be far wrong  
 To try to seal his doom.

You slip your hand out of the bed,  
 And strike the blow to kill him dead,  
 And then you hit the wall instead  
 And fill your heart with pain.  
 For like a spirit in a mist  
 He circumvents your frantic fist,  
 And flies wherever he may list,  
 He goes - but comes again.

Until, exhausted with the chase,  
 All knobs and bumps about the face,  
 You "chuck the sponge" and say your grace,  
 And lie out straight and still.  
 Just hear his bugle blow "Advance!"  
 As with preliminary pounce  
 He swoops down on your countenance  
 And starts to work his drill.

But human nature is SO weak!  
 For when you feel his vicious beak  
 Embedded in your victim cheek,  
 The hand of Fate falls crash.

And then you light the gas to trace,  
 By aid of mirror and grimace  
 The 'skeeter's ruins on your face  
 And go and have a wash.

Times have changed. Our stickler for non-sexist language says that "he" and "his" in the above poem should be altered to neutral words. But our scientist, who worked in malaria control, says they should be altered to "she" and "her". Only the female mosquito takes our blood, which she needs to make her eggs. But first she injects saliva to prevent the blood from clotting. It is the saliva that causes the sting.

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**1995 CALENDAR**

**Meetings**

All meetings to be in the Phyllis Hore Room, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

- Wed. 8th. Feb.** Discussion with members of the other Historical Societies in Boroondara.
- Wed. 8th. Mar.** The Vietnamese Baptist Church of Kew.
- Wed. 12th. Apr.** A Kew professional person.
- Wed. 10th. May.** Speaker, Mr. Jack Hackett, who has had long association with the Yarra Valley and the Kew Golf Club.
- Wed. 14th. Jun.** History of Xavier College/Burke Hall.
- Wed. 12th. Jul.** A Kew artist - Betty Minehan
- Wed. 9th. Aug.** Arthritis Self-Help Group
- Wed. 13th. Sep.** Members' Night. Members to tell of their memories of 1945 i.e. 50 years ago.
- Wed. 11th. Oct..** Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker: a Commissioner of the City of Boroondara.
- Wed. 8th. Nov.** Rotary Club

**Other activities**

- Sun. 19th. Mar.** Historic tour of Kew, leaving at 2 p.m. from the Library.
- Sat - Sun, 8th & 9th. April:** Heritage Week display of Kew history in the Phyllis Hore Room.
- Tue. 7th. Nov.** Melbourne Cup Day outing to Healesville and the "Sanctuary" (Sir Colin Mackenzie Fauna Park).
- Fri. 1st. Dec. 7.30 p.m.** End of year party. Venue to be arranged
- Monday following each meeting:** Archives to be open 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**WANTED - DISPLAY CASES and COAT HANGERS**

We need affordable glass-topped display cases in which some of our smaller historic articles could be shown effectively.

We need coat hangers on which to hang historic garments - but NOT JUST ANY COAT HANGERS. Bare metal, and some types of wood, will stain the clothing. Well covered hangers are suitable. Don't bring the Sydney Harbour bridge. Its smaller replica over the River Tyne at Newcastle (England) would be easier to cover. It was built by the contractors as a dress rehearsal before they tackled the big one, we were told.